

## TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

PSALM 2 : 7

## THE GLORIOUS BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD!

*The LORD hath said unto Me, "Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee." (KJV)*

On Transfiguration Sunday, we see the glorious transfigured Son-of-God-and-Son-of-Man, Jesus, shining out in all splendor! His glory is more than just physical. His entire being is glorious beyond our human understanding.

God is a spirit, which in itself is a mystery. Jesus is the Second Person of that Spirit God—the Triune God. The Bible does not use the words “triune” or “trinity,” but it teaches the triune-and- trinity-truth: There is one God, yet three distinct Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One” (Deuteronomy 6:4). ONE. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). THREE. The three “Persons” are distinct. When God the Son died for our sins, did God the Father die? No. Did God the Holy Spirit die? No. Each is distinct, yet they are One. There is one essence, one Being—“God.” A glorious mystery. Whether it makes sense, or not, doesn’t matter, but whether it is taught in God’s Word. We trust God’s Word.

And just as much as the Trinity is beyond our thinking and reasoning so also is this: God the Son took human flesh and blood to become the God-man. He assumed manhood into His divinity, into His “God-ness.” The “limit-less” God and “limit-ed” man are united in one. How can it be? The Bible says both! Peter said, “Lord, You know all things” (John 21: 17). Yet Christ Himself said, “Of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mark 13:32). Jesus fed 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21). Yet at another time the “disciples urged Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, eat.’” (John 4:31). A glorious mystery. Whether these teachings make sense, or not, doesn’t matter; but whether they are in the Bible.

Our text speaks of yet another glorious truth and mystery regarding the Second Person of the Trinity. In this Psalm God the Father says, “You are My Son; today have I begotten You--*Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee.*” What does “begotten” mean? In human terms, “begotten” means, “brought forth, produced, fathered.” Here, however, we are not speaking of things in the human realm, but of God and His spiritual realm. The Second Person of the Trinity was begotten, not produced nor made. He is just as eternal, as God the Father. He Himself said, “Before Abraham was—“I am” (John 8:58). The Father also said to the Son, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever” (Hebrews 1:8). “Begotten” describes His relationship with the Father, not His origin.

That relationship between them is this: The Second Person of the Trinity is “the One chosen and the One willing to be” Savior of sinful man—from eternity. When the Bible speaks of the eternal life which we are given in Christ, it says “which God . . . promised before time began!” (Titus 1:2) In another place speaking of our salvation, it says that we are “redeemed with the precious blood of Christ . . . foreordained before the foundation of the world!” (I Peter 1:19-20). The Second Person has been the begotten Son / promised Savior, from eternity—before the world and time were here.

The words, *This day have I begotten You*, cannot be talking about a “day” on the calendar of time. God is timeless. With Him there is no yesterday or tomorrow. In fact, the very name Jehovah translates “He is.” “This day” is talking about His “eternal day,” His “eternal present.”

In created time, however, the status of being the begotten Son and Savior was declared upon Him at a certain “times.” On the day of His’ baptism “a voice came from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). Was this “the day” He was first declared to be the Son of God? On the day of His transfiguration “a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” (Matthew 17:5). Was this the first day He was declared God’s Son? Concerning Jesus’ resurrection day, Scripture says, “[God] has raised up Jesus—as it is also written in the second Psalm: You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” (Acts 13:33). Was His resurrection the day when He was first labeled the begotten Son of God? In regard to the day of Jesus’ ascension, the Scripture says “When He [Jesus] had by Himself purged our sins, [He] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels. . . . [for] to which of the angels did He [God] ever say, You are My Son; today I have begotten You” (Hebrew 1:1-5). At His return to heaven, was that the day He was made the Father’s begotten Son? In the letter to the Hebrews, the Bible says, Jesus has been the true High Priest—offering sacrifice to God for us—from forever. “For every high priest taken from among men is appointed. . . . No man takes this honor to himself but is called by God . . . . So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He [God] who said to Him: “You are My Son. Today I have begotten You” (Hebrews 5:1-5). The day spoken of in Psalm 2 is not an earthly day in the life of Jesus, or in the history of the world, but the eternal day of God. Part of the glory and mystery of the transfigured Jesus!

The point? Through Jesus, the eternally begotten Son of God, you, the sinner, are safe and are saved! By faith you are a brother and a sister of the Savior. Imagine, the Son of God is your brother! *“Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother” (Matthew 12:48-50)* And what is the will of the Father? *This is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:40).* Through faith in the Savior, Jesus is your brother. He is your big brother, fully devoted to you, who has already stepped in for you, for your aid, regardless of cost.

All of which further means that God in heaven is your Father! You are a child of God not just in physical origin. “You were bought at a price” (I Corinthians 6:20). You belong to Him. “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus!” (Galatians 3:26). Your sins are washed away and forgiven. Gone! You are adopted into the Father’s family and kingdom. You are dearly loved and will safely travel through each day of life to heaven. The glorious, transfigured Jesus, the Father’s eternally begotten Son, is your Savior—since eternity! What is better than that?!

What harm can sin and death then do?  
The true God now abides with you!  
Let hell and Satan rage and chafe;  
Christ is your Brother, ye are safe!” TLH 103 v.4

So be it! Amen!

Pastor Kanzenbach---