


A STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY

Lesson 14
Chapter 4.5 | Chapter 4.6



PEACE THRU CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

LESSON 13 CHAPTER SUMMARIES

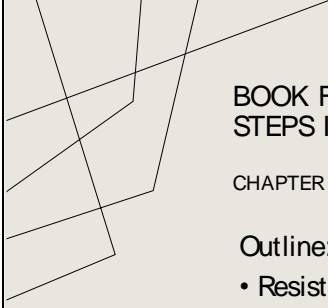
4.3

God's eternity is essential to who He is, and thereby essential to who we are, yet it is beyond our understanding.

4.4

Faith is sharing life with God; a life which is His and is manifested in His nature.

Slide 3



**BOOK FOUR: BEYOND PERSONALITY: OR FIRST
STEPS IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY**

CHAPTER FIVE: OBSTINATE TOY SOLDIERS

Outline:

- Resisting Change
- Incarnation and Beyond

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RESISTING CHANGE

And the present state of things is this. The two kinds of life are now not only different (they would always have been that) but actually opposed. The natural life in each of us is something self-centred, something that wants to be petted and admired, to take advantage of other lives, to exploit the whole universe. And especially it wants to be left to itself: to keep well away from anything better or stronger or higher than it, anything that might make it feel small.

RESISTING CHANGE

1 Corinthians 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Job 14:4 Who can produce something pure from something that is impure? No one.

Psalms 14:2-3 The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. 3 They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

INCARNATION AND BEYOND

What you would have done about that tin soldier I do not know. But what God did about us was this. The Second Person in God, the Son, became human Himself: was born into the world as an actual man—a real man of a particular height, with hair of a particular colour, speaking a particular language, weighing so many stone. The Eternal Being, who knows everything and who created the whole universe, became not only a man but (before that) a baby, and before that a *foetus* inside a Woman's body. If you want to get the hang of it, think how you would like to become a slug or a crab.

INCARNATION AND BEYOND

“The natural human creature in Him was taken up fully into the divine Son (p. 179).”

“And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary..”

“And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made..”

“Furthermore it is necessary for everlasting salvation that one also believe faithfully the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and Man of the substance of His mother, born in the world; perfect God and perfect Man, of a rational soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father with respect to His Godhead and inferior to the Father with respect to His manhood. Who, although He is God and Man, yet He is not two but one Christ; One not by changing of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking the manhood into God..”

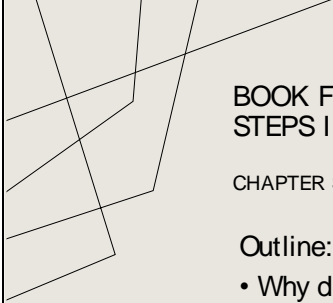
INCARNATION AND BEYOND

From that point the effect spreads through all mankind. It makes a difference to people who lived before Christ as well as to people who lived after Him. It makes a difference to people who have never heard of Him. It is like dropping into a glass of water one drop of something which gives a new taste or a new colour to the whole lot. But, of course, none of these illustrations really works perfectly. In the long run God is no one but Himself and what He does is like nothing else. You could hardly expect it to be otherwise.

INCARNATION AND BEYOND

- Making vs. Begetting
- *Zoe* vs. *Bios* Life
- Good Infection
- Son of God -> sons of God

"Of course, you can express this in all sorts of different ways ...
And, whatever you do, do not start quarrelling with other people
because they use a different formula from yours (pp.181-182)."



**BOOK FOUR: BEYOND PERSONALITY: OR FIRST
STEPS IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY**

CHAPTER SIX: TWO NOTES

Outline:

- Why did God do it this way?
- Totalitarian and Individualistic

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WHY DID GOD DO IT THIS WAY?

(1) One sensible critic wrote asking me why, if God wanted sons instead of ‘toy soldiers’, He did not *beget* many sons at the outset instead of first *making* toy soldiers and then bringing them to life by such a difficult and painful process.

Hebrews 2:9-10 But we look to Jesus (the one who was made lower than the angels for a little while, so that by God's grace he might taste death for everyone), now crowned with glory and honor, because he suffered death. 10 Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings.

WHY DID GOD DO IT THIS WAY?

But when you are talking about God—i.e. about the rock bottom, irreducible Fact on which all other facts depend—it is nonsensical to ask if it could have been otherwise. It is what it is, and there is an end of the matter.

In other words, though I pretended to be thinking about something that exists before any universe was made, I was really smuggling in the picture of a universe and putting that something *inside* it.

TOTALITARIAN AND INDIVIDUALISTIC

(2) The idea that the whole human race is, in a sense, one thing—one huge organism, like a tree—must not be confused with the idea that individual differences do not matter or that real people, Tom and Nobby and Kate, are somehow less important than collective things like classes, races, and so forth. Indeed the two ideas are opposites.

1 Corinthians 12:12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so also is Christ.



TOTALITARIAN AND INDIVIDUALISTIC

I feel a strong desire to tell you—and I expect you feel a strong desire to tell me—which of these two errors is the worse. That is the devil getting at us. He always sends errors into the world in pairs—pairs of opposites. And he always encourages us to spend a lot of time thinking which is the worse. You see why, of course? He relies on your extra dislike of the one error to draw you gradually into the opposite one. But do not let us be fooled. We have to keep our eyes on the goal and go straight through between both errors. We have no other concern than that with either of them.

MEMORABLE THOUGHTS

“You and I are concerned with the way things work now.” (p. 178)

“We have not got to try to climb up into spiritual life by our own efforts; it has already come down into the human race.” (p. 181)

“But when you are talking about God – i.e. about the rock bottom, irreducible Fact on which all other facts depend – it is nonsensical to ask if it could have been otherwise.” (p. 184)

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LESSON 14 CHAPTER SUMMARIES

<p style="text-align: center;">4.5</p> <p>Christ was begotten of the Father in order to change us.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4.6</p> <p>God could not have done things any other way because His way is perfect. Faith is for both the individual and the community.</p>
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