



**CAPITOL
ministries®**

MARCH 11, 2024

ENDORSEMENT 2

*Dr. Ben Carson, Founder
& Chairman of American
Cornerstone Institute,
Former Secretary of the U.S.
Department of Housing and
Urban Development*

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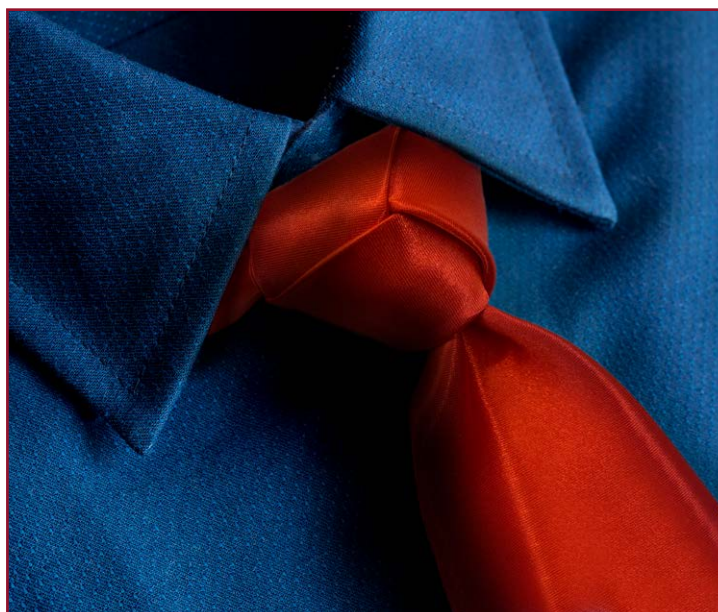


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FOCUSED ON THE WORD

Great Doctrines of the Bible: The Trinitarian Covenant of Redemption



My wife, Danielle commented that this is not a very fun title. I suppose she is right. But we all know that followers of Christ do not grow spiritual muscle consuming high-carb diets. Unfortunately, sermons abundant with carbs but little red meat is what most Evangelical pastors serve up for meals these days. In-depth lessons in biblical doctrine that require thinking and application are the equivalent of a high-protein diet—and they certainly do increase one’s musculature.

Accordingly, this week I would like to explore an interesting element of the doctrine of Salvation. Don’t think for a minute that what follows is dry stuff! For instance, by way of pertinent

Continued next page

**CURRENT AND
FORMER GOVERNORS**

- Phil Bryant* MS
- Mike Dunleavy* AK
- Greg Gianforte* MT
- Sarah Huckabee Sanders* AR
- Sonny Perdue* GA
- Rick Perry* TX
- Jim Pillen* NE
- Tate Reeves* MS
- Kim Reynolds* IA
- Kevin Stitt* OK
- Scott Walker* WI
- Glenn Youngkin* VA

SENATORS

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- Mike Braun* IN
- Katie Britt* AL
- Ted Budd* NC
- Bill Cassidy* LA
- Kevin Cramer* ND
- Steven Daines* MT
- Joni Ernst* IA
- William Hagerty* TN
- Cindy Hyde-Smith* MS
- James Lankford* OK
- Markwayne Mullin* OK
- Mike Rounds* SD
- Tim Scott* SC
- John Thune* SD

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- Rick Allen* GA
- Brian Babin* TX
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- August Pfluger* TX
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- Cathy McMorris Rodgers* WA
- David Rouzer* NC
- John Rutherford* PA
- Glenn Thompson* PA
- Tim Walberg* MI
- Randy Weber* TX
- Daniel Webster* FL
- Bruce Westerman* AR
- Brandon Williams* NY
- Roger Williams* TX
- Joe Wilson* SC
- Rob Wittman* VA
- Steve Womack* AR
- Rudy Yakym* IN
- Ted Yoho* FL

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

- Governors:** Fridays 9am (EST), Zoom
- Former Cabinet Members / White House Senior Staff:** Fridays 9am (EST), Zoom
- Senate Members:** Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served
- House Members:** Thursdays 8am, AG Hearing Rm., Longworth 1302, hot breakfast served

The views expressed in each Bible Study are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study sponsor.



ENDORSEMENT

Dr. Ben Carson

*Founder & Chairman of
American Cornerstone Institute*

*Former Secretary of the U.S.
Department of Housing and
Urban Development*



Dr. Benjamin Carson spoke at the recent 50th annual ALEC Conference of legislators about his ongoing participation in the CapMin White House Cabinet Bible study and challenged Christian public servants to be courageous in their faith to save our nation from collapse. “We are in a difficult time in our nation right now. We are as close to losing that city on the Hill, being the beacon, as we have ever been,” he said. “We have to have the courage to stand up for what we believe in because we cannot be the land of the free if we are not the home of the brave.”

Dr. Carson has participated in the former White House Cabinet and Senior Staff Bible study since it was formed by CapMin in 2020. The senior national leaders, now out of office, continue to

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application, these immutable, biblical, truths must inform our nation’s international quest for the democratization of other nations. How, you say? I’ll be making that application in this study, so read on. All the great doctrines of the Bible have wonderful applications!

On a more personal note, studying this topic will help you to further grasp in a theological sense *so great a salvation* the believer possesses!

Read on, my friend!

Ralph Drollinger

I. INTRODUCTION

I have used three words in the title of this study that need to be defined; it is one of my objectives as a Bible teacher is to continually increase your working theological vocabulary. Understanding their meaning is necessary to what follows.

A. TRINITY, TRINITARIAN

Trinity. The Christian understanding of God as triune. Trinity means that the one divine nature is a unity of three persons and that God is revealed as three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The ultimate basis for the Christian doctrine of the Trinity lies in the divine self-disclosure in Jesus, who as the Son revealed the Father and poured out the Holy Spirit.¹

The classic, tightest working definition of the Trinity is this: three different personages of the same numerical essence.

B. COVENANT

“An unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man (or as

used here between Himself and man) that stipulates the conditions of Their relationship.”²

C. REDEMPTION

Redemption. The process by which sinful humans are ‘brought back’ from the bondage of sin into a relationship with God through grace by the ‘payment’ of Jesus’ death. Redemption is one of the pictures or metaphors that the NT [New Testament] uses to give insight into God’s gracious saving work in Jesus.³

With these understandings, we will clearly see from the following passages that

There exists a Covenant of Redemption amongst the three Members of the Trinity.

The following passages illustrate the agreement among the three Members of the Trinity regarding how to save mankind. Notice the specific plan and purpose each One has assumed in order to achieve man’s redemption.



II. THE PART OF THE FATHER

In the Trinity's covenant of redemption, the Father agreed to the following five aspects of salvation:

A. TO GIVE THE SON ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND EARTH

In the Great Commission passage of Matthew 28:18–19, Jesus is speaking to His disciples near the end of His earthly ministry. He states the following:

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations."

The *authority Jesus* is referring to that *has been given to Him* stems from God the Father, indicating a previous allocation of responsibilities from the economic Trinity. (The economic Trinity is a theological term more closely depicting the subject matter at hand: "the manifestations of the three persons of the Trinity ... in regard to the outworking of God's plan [economy] of salvation."⁴)

B. TO SEND THE SON TO BE THEIR REPRESENTATIVE

In Romans 5:18–19 we read how sin enters the world through man's representative, Adam (God views Adam as prototypical of man). God thus imputes Adam's sin to all of creation. But subsequently, according to the Trinitarian plan of salvation, God's representative, Jesus, offers counteracting imputed righteousness:

So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's dis-

obedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

This passage serves to evidence that the Trinity agreed to send the second Member of the Trinity to be Their representative. A further observation and explanation of and from this passage is in order:

Skeptics often comment that inheritance of sin through Adam seems unfair. But none of those pundits are lacking in the guilt of personal sin themselves.

Additionally, to deny God's economy of imputed sin through Adam is to reciprocally deny God's economy of imputed righteousness through Christ! Notice the representative aspect of Jesus for God the Father in John 3:16.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

C. TO PREPARE A BODY FOR THE SON TO DWELL IN AS A MAN

In Hebrews 10:5 we see that the second Member of the Trinity is given a body by God the Father in order to dwell as a man and relate personally to mankind, (and I should add, to be able to provide a final sacrifice as well for sin, cf. Hebrews 10:10).

Therefore when He [Jesus] comes into the world, He [Jesus] says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU [Father God] HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU [Father God] HAVE PREPARED FOR ME."

Colossians 2:9 further underscores this idea:

VERSE OF THE WEEK



Acts 2:32–33

This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He [the Father] has poured forth this, which you both see and hear.



The Trinitarian aspects of salvation are basic, foundational biblical truths that need be learned by those who understand that *My people are destroyed by a lack of knowledge* (Hosea 4:6).



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meet weekly via Zoom with Ralph Drollinger, president and founder of CapMin, who leads the study. Dr. Carson said he very much enjoyed participating in the study and poked fun at the “10-gallon words” used by Ralph who is known for his extensive vocabulary. The world-renowned neurosurgeon who is also chairman and founder of the American Cornerstone Institute, was among several speakers who addressed political leaders from around the nation at the 50th annual American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) conference held in Orlando. Capitol Ministries has hosted a booth at ALEC conferences for many years where our teams explain our mission to legislators to expand the ministry and distribute books, brochures, and Bible studies that are written specifically for political leaders. ALEC is America’s largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators who are dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets, and federalism.

For in Him all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form.

Fully God, Jesus is given a human body by the first Member of the Trinity to best relate all three Members’ love for and identity with man. (This is known as the hypostatic union, a term first used by the Church council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451. “The doctrine is an attempt to describe the miraculous bringing together of humanity and divinity in the same person, Jesus Christ, such that He is both fully divine and fully human.”⁵)

D. TO ACCEPT HIM AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF HUMANS WHOM HE HAS REDEEMED

Hebrews 9:24 states what Christ did after His resurrection:

For Christ ... enter[ed] ... into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

Christ represented the Godhead to mankind (point B) and after completing His propitiatory⁶ work on the Cross, returned to God the Father satisfactorily representing the payment for man’s sin and fulfilling God’s requisite holiness. Lastly, the Father agreed to this additional aspect of redemption.

E. TO POUR OUT THE HOLY SPIRIT TO EMPOWER THE REDEEMED

Acts 1:4 records a post-resurrection encounter of Jesus with His disciples. Note the insight from this passage related to what the Father had promised.

Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me.”

Acts 2:32–33 provides further insight into God’s previous agreement and promise to pour forth the Holy Spirit into the lives of believers.

This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He [the Father] has poured forth this, which you both see and hear.

The practical and doxological application of this theological truth is profound!

Jesus states directly to His disciples in Acts 1:8 what I am getting at here.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Part of the agreement of the Father with the Son and the Holy Spirit is to *empower*, ie., empowerment is the Greek word *dunamis* (“explosive power;” cf. Ephesians 3:16; 20) believers after Christ’s redemption! It is therefore normative for God the Holy Spirit to give His followers extra strength, spiritual abilities, and character in the advancement of the Gospel! One can count on it: I am sure that as a follower of Christ who is called to lead in His institution of the State, that you likewise experience His empowerment. Danielle and I do—and we can personally attest to the truth of God’s *empowerment* promise herein.

In the Trinity’s covenant of redemption, Scriptures reveals the Father to be the originator of human salvation as He authorizes, sends, prepares, and accepts the Son and pours out the Holy Spirit. Before



we examine what the Son agreed to in the plan of salvation, let's consider a very important, broader, application of this aforementioned theological truth for all members of Congress.

**Applied Theology:
The Covenant of
Redemption and American
Military Actions**

It follows that countries dominated by non-Christian, false religions do not have the benefit of the Holy Spirit's indwelling of very many citizens; the aforementioned theological truth is not manifested in their culture. Those of us who possess a Western, Christianized mindset must take this into consideration. Whereas the fruit of the Spirit (i.e., personal, internalized-by-the-Holy-Spirit character qualities such as *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*) (Galatians 5:22–23), indwell many redeemed citizens in historically-based Christian cultures—enough at least to flavor the culture; nations that have continually rejected the Trinity and God's Covenant of Redemption have far fewer self-governed individuals, insufficient numbers to in any way flavor the culture. In biblical language and understanding, there are very few agents of *salt and light* (Matthew 5).

It follows that cultures which are largely void of self-governed individuals possess little bases for self-governing forms of civil government.

What I precisely mean is this: It is a sign of theological naïveté for American leaders to think they can “export” democracy to the Middle East through military force! Applied theology says that at the end of the day it won't work.

It follows throughout history that countries void of self-governed individuals end up getting what they personally lack—autocratic rulers who use force to govern the personally ungovernable.

Without the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit in the lives of individuals and the absence of His influence over the historical whole of a nation, these outcomes are largely predetermined. The advancement and success of Christianity through missionaries is a prerequisite for true democracy as illustrated by the nation of South Korea wherein a post war honoring and acceptance of American Christian missionaries led to their ongoing, successful national democratization today.

III. THE PART OF THE SON

Added to the five essential roles of the Father in the Covenant of Redemption are five aspects that the Son agreed to.

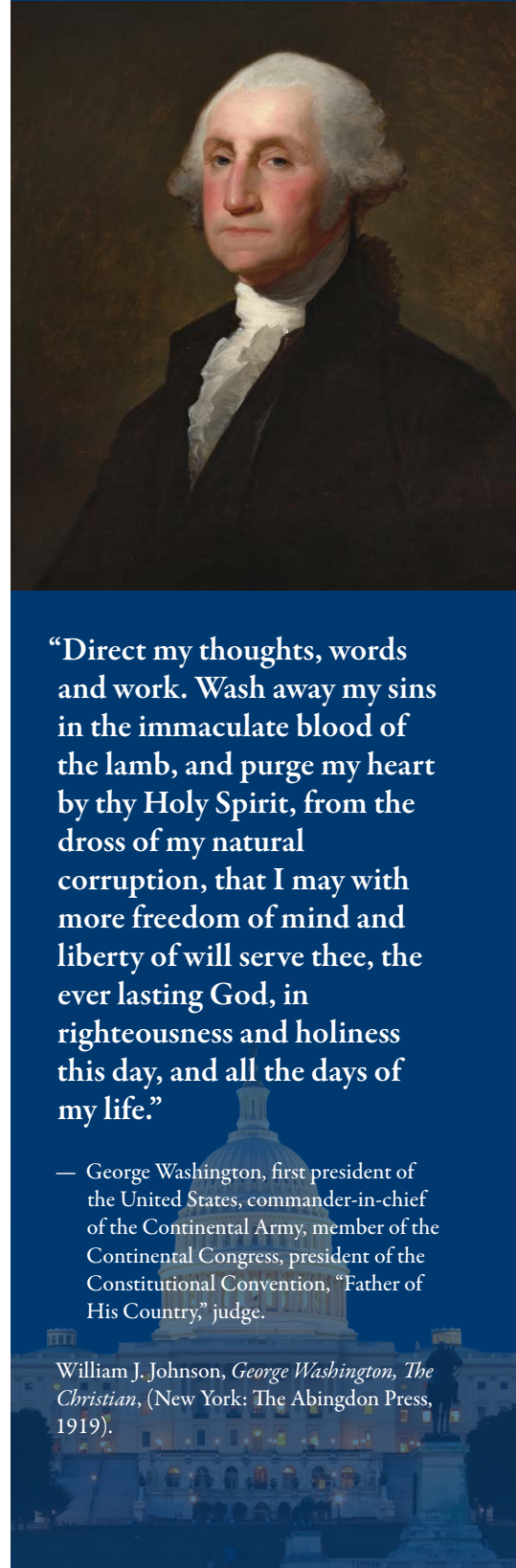
A. HE WOULD COME INTO THE WORLD AS A MAN

Galatians 4:4 and Hebrews 2:14–17 read respectively,

But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman.

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same. ... Therefore He had

George Washington



“Direct my thoughts, words and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the lamb, and purge my heart by thy Holy Spirit, from the dross of my natural corruption, that I may with more freedom of mind and liberty of will serve thee, the ever lasting God, in righteousness and holiness this day, and all the days of my life.”

— George Washington, first president of the United States, commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, member of the Continental Congress, president of the Constitutional Convention, “Father of His Country,” judge.

William J. Johnson, *George Washington, The Christian*, (New York: The Abingdon Press, 1919).



Roger Sherman



“I believe that there is one only living and true God, existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. That the ‘Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are a revelation from God, and a complete rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.’”

— Roger Sherman, signer of the Declaration of Independence, signer of the U.S. Constitution, “Master Builder of the Constitution,” judge, framer of the Bill of Rights, U.S. senator.

Lewis Henry Boutell, *The Life of Roger Sherman* (Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Company, 1896), 271–273.

to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might ... make propitiation for the sins of the people.

The second member of the Trinity was not by nature flesh and blood (cf. Philip-
pians 2:7–8), but took this form upon Himself in order to achieve man’s redemption.

B. HE WOULD LIVE UNDER THE MOSAIC LAW

Galatians 4:4–5 states how Jesus would live under and fulfill the Old Covenant of Works,

... born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

In His covenant with the other Members of the Trinity, Jesus agreed to live perfectly under God’s law and fulfill God’s earlier Covenant of Works (cf. Galatians 2:16–17): His fulfillment of God’s Covenant of Works, that is, His sinlessness, made Him the unblemished sacrifice for sin.

C. HE WOULD BE PERFECTLY OBEDIENT TO THE FATHER

In addition to His perfect fulfillment of the Mosaic Law, Jesus agreed to be obedient to the additional commands of the Father in all things. Hebrews 10:9 and Matthew 26:39 underscore this point:

Then He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.”

“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

D. HE WOULD BE OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH

In Philippians 2:8–11 Paul states about Jesus,

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW ... and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Again, note the inner relationship between the Members of the Trinity. God the Father rewards God the Son for His willingness to take on a humiliating death—crucifixion—the most cruel, degrading, and excruciating form of death ever invented by sinful man. Further to the point, the marriage supper of the Lamb in the book of Revelation is all about God’s rewarding the Son for willingly paying the penalty for man’s sin. How? By giving Him a spotless bride, the Church (cf. Revelation 19:7–9).

E. HE WOULD GATHER TO HIMSELF AND NOT LOSE THOSE WHOM THE FATHER HAD GIVEN HIM

In his Gospel (17:12) John records Jesus’ words with the Father:

While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished ... so that the Scriptures would be fulfilled.

What an exclamation of the believer’s eternal security in salvation! Note that the security of the believer is herein specifically rooted in the work of Jesus in the Covenant of Redemption.

A close study of the Word reveals that Son agreed to come into the world as human, live under the Law, perfectly obey the Father—even to death—and gather and



keep those whom the Father gave to Him. Now let's look at what the Holy Spirit agreed to.

IV. THE PART OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We have seen the five aspects of both the Father and the Son in the Trinity's Covenant of Redemption. What follows are the three aspects that the Holy Spirit agreed to accomplish.

A. HE WOULD DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER

Matthew 3:16 records,

After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him.

In this one passage all three Members of the Trinity are mentioned. *The Holy Spirit of God* descends upon *Jesus* to empower *Him* in His ministry.

B. HE WOULD FILL AND EMPOWER JESUS TO DO HIS MISSION

Many passages serve to make this point. Luke 4:1, 14 and 18 follow.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness.

And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.

“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.”

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit in order to achieve the redemption of man.

C. HE WOULD EMPOWER THOSE WHOM CHRIST REDEEMED AFTER CHRIST RETURNED TO HEAVEN

This is similar to point II E in the outline. But notice the following additional passages respectively: John 14:16–17; John 14:26 and Acts 2:17. It is important that I list all of these due to their wonderful reality and application in the life of the believer.

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

“AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,” God says, “THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND.”

In and during the Church Age, every true believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit on his individual day of redemption—when an individual comes to Christ, the Holy Spirit fills him with His power! This is a wonderful, profound truth that provides every believer with the confidence and assurance to fulfill his calling and live a righteous life!

Relative to the Trinity's covenant of redemption, the Holy Spirit agreed to do the will of the Father, fill and empower Jesus to be the Savior, and empower those whom Christ redeemed.



NOW AVAILABLE

The book of Acts records how a small band of men—the apostles—in very short order *turned the world upside down* (Acts 17:6, KJV) during the first century in which they lived. This small team of uneducated, common men were not elite leaders, so how were they able to saturate the world with the gospel—changing lives, changing culture, and eventually changing the Roman Empire?

Scripture provides the answer: not only did they fulfill the Great Commission one soul at a time through a ministry of geometric evangelism and discipleship, but they succeeded *by concentrating on and impacting a particular element of society, specifically kings and all who are in authority* (1 Timothy 2:1–4).

All in Authority: Reigniting the Bible's Top-Down Missions Strategy provides the biblical exegesis for this missional strategy that is found in both the Old and New Testaments. The book provides a clarion call for the Church to make political public servants a priority mission field in our nation today. Request your complimentary copy at capmin.org.



Relative to the Trinity's covenant of redemption, the Holy Spirit agreed to do the will of the Father, fill and empower Jesus to be the Savior, and empower those whom Christ redeemed.

V. APPLICATION

Theology is important (and as we have seen, very informative, applicable, and helpful!) to the result of building strong, Spirit-filled men and women of God in public office! The Trinitarian aspects of

salvation are basic, foundational biblical truths that need be learned by those who understand that *My people are destroyed by a lack of knowledge* (Hosea 4:6). Theology builds strong spiritual muscles that are necessary for statesmen who are under so many kinds of continual, intense pressure to compromise. God's New Covenant of Grace, as preached by Jesus, is the Trinity's amazing plan of redemption through faith in Christ. How great a salvation!

1. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*, Stanley J. Grenz, David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling, 1999, InterVarsity Press, 116.
2. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Interlocution to Biblical Doctrine*, 1994, Zondervan Academic, InterVarsity and Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 515.
3. *Pocket Dictionary*, 100.
4. *Pocket Dictionary*, 42.
5. *Pocket Dictionary*, 62.
6. Propitiation: The satisfaction of violated justice.



Making Disciples
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Capitol Ministries provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, Capitol Ministries has started ongoing ministries in more than forty U.S. state Capitols and dozens of foreign federal Capitols.

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