



*A
Trinitarian
Theology
of
Adoption*

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*So
Great
Salvation*

So Great Salvation



We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift from it.

If the message spoken by angels proved to be valid and binding... how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? (KJV)

It was first spoken through the Lord, and it was attested by the hearers to us; and God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Hebrews 2:3-4

So Great Salvation

How do you *neglect* a salvation?

- *Undervalue it
- *Fail to esteem it properly
- *Misunderstand it

A BIG thought about salvation:

It is being brought into the family of God: Under his Fatherhood, in Sonship, by the Spirit of adoption.



Trinitarian Adoption



Saved
going to heaven
Born Again
Believer
Christian



Law Court _____ We are...
Marketplace _____ justified by his grace
Temple _____ redemption that is in
_____ Christ Jesus, whom
_____ God put forward as a
_____ propitiation by his
_____ blood, to be received
_____ by faith.

(Rom 3:24-5)



The gospel of God concerning His Son... (Rom 1:2-3)

We are...
Law Court _____ justified by his grace
Marketplace _____ redemption that is in
Temple _____ propitiation by his
God sent his own Son (Rom 8:3) (Rom 3:24-5)
You received the Spirit of adoption (Rom 8:15)

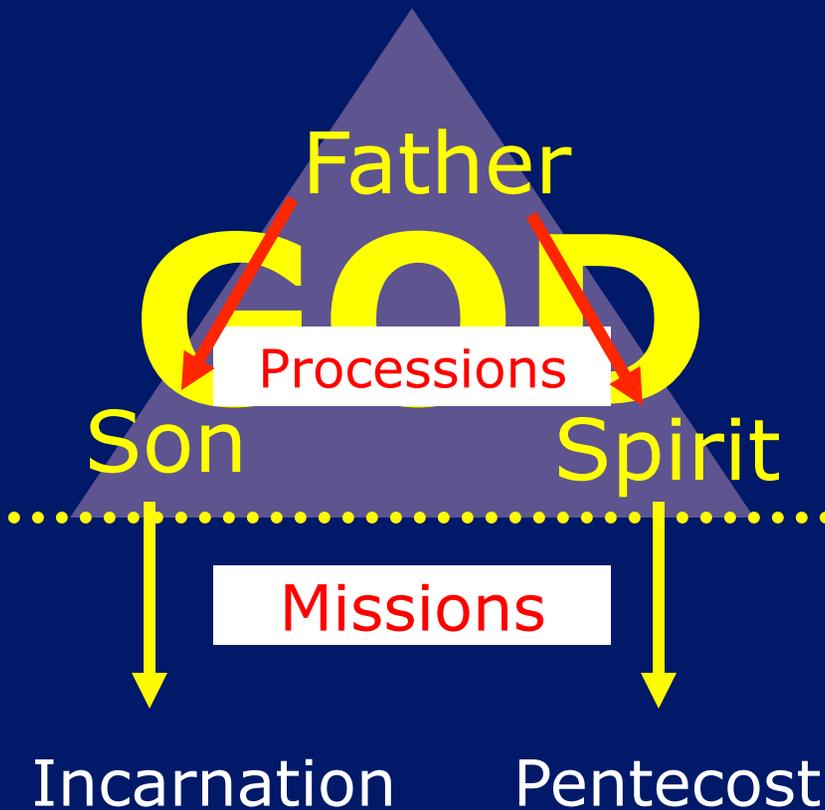


The gospel of God concerning His Son

(Rom 1:2-3)

Salvation is at the cross, but it is biblical to ask who that is on the cross, and what is behind the cross.

Behind our prophet, priest, and king is God's Son.

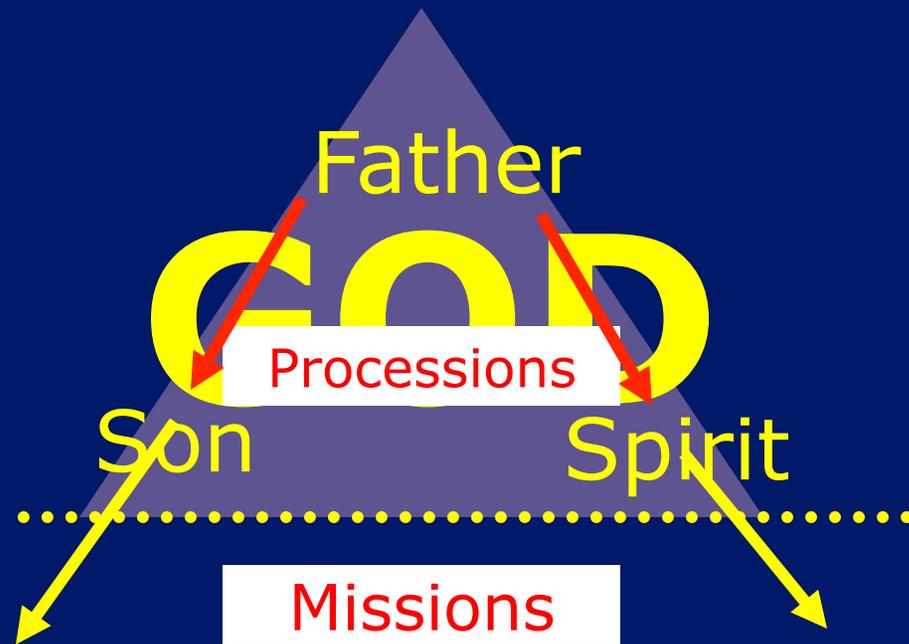


Eternal Trinity

Eternal relations of
God *in himself*.

Gospel Trinity

Interactions with
the world, missions
into economy of
salvation



Incarnate son

Poured-out Spirit

The missions show the processions.

God is for us.

Trinitarian Adoption

“God gave himself”

**God so loved the world
He gave his one and only Son...**

**In the fullness of time,
God sent his Son, born of a woman...
God sent the Spirit of his Son
Into our hearts, crying ‘Abba!’**



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Austin Farrer on the incarnation:

We cannot understand Jesus as simply the God-who-was-man. We have left out an essential factor, the sonship.

Jesus is not simply God manifest as man; he is the divine Son coming in manhood. What was expressed in human terms here below was not bare deity; it was divine sonship.

God cannot live an identically godlike life in eternity and in a human story. But the divine Son can make an identical response to his Father, whether in the love of the blessed Trinity or in the fulfilment of an earthly ministry.

All the conditions of action are different on the two levels; the filial response is one.



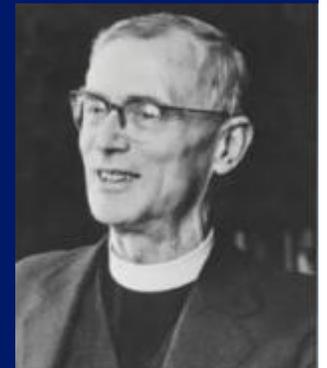
Trinitarian Adoption

Above, the appropriate response is a co-operation in sovereignty and an interchange of eternal joys. Then the Son gives back to the Father all that the Father is.

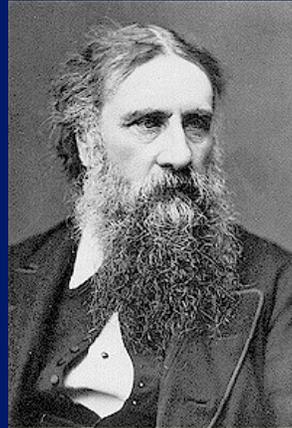
Below, in the incarnate life, the appropriate response is an obedience to inspiration, a waiting for direction, an acceptance of suffering, a rectitude of choice, a resistance to temptation, a willingness to die.

For such things are the stuff of our existence; and it was in this very stuff that Christ worked out the theme of heavenly sonship, proving himself on earth the very thing he was in heaven; that is, a continuous perfect act of filial love.

-- Austin Farrer



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When he died on the cross,
He did that,
in the wild weather
of his outlying provinces,
in the torture
of the body of His revelation,
which he had done
at home
in glory
and gladness.

--George MacDonald

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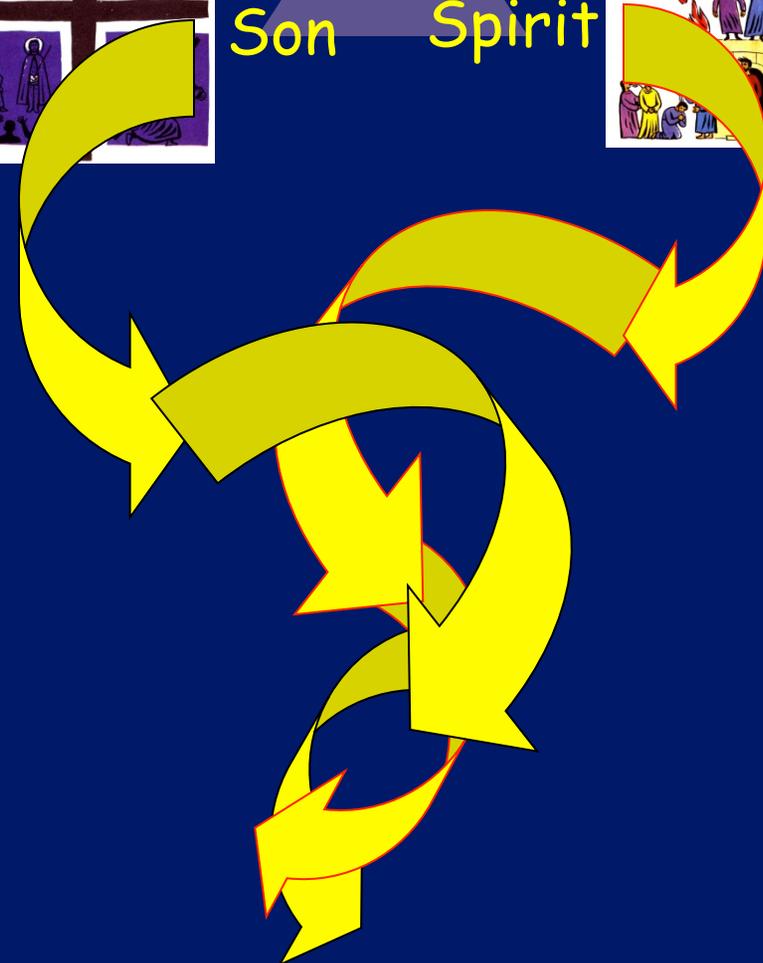
Two-handed salvation



Father

Son

Spirit



2 missions,
or
1 twofold
mission

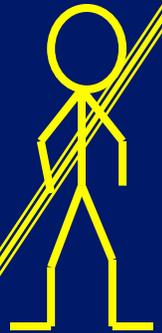
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Father
GOD

Eternal Son Spirit

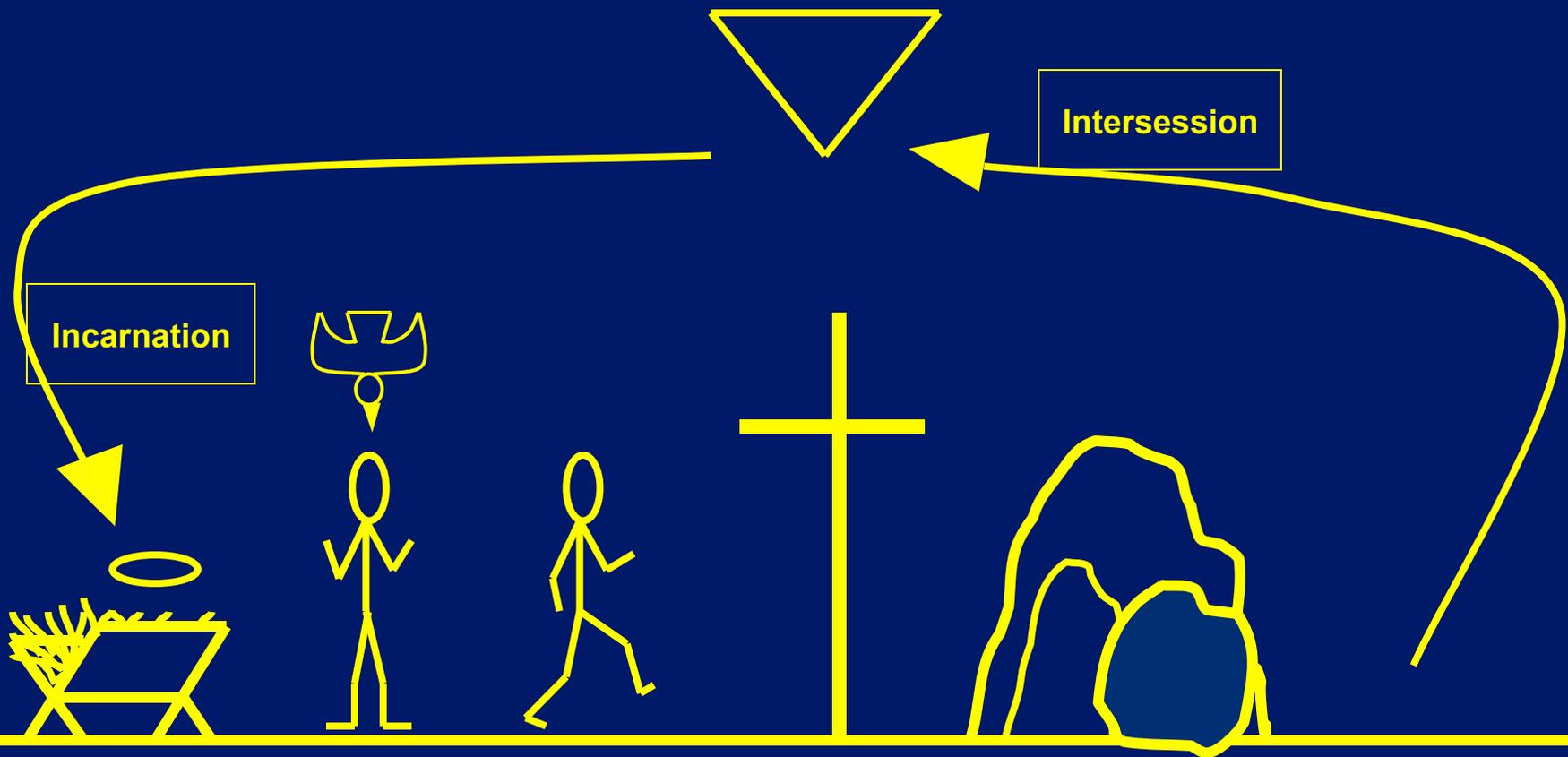
Spirit



Incarnate son



The Saving Life of Jesus



Incarnation

Intercession

Birth

Baptism

Life

Death

Resurrection

Ascension

We see that our whole salvation and all
Its parts are comprehended **in Christ**.

If we seek any gifts of the Spirit,
they will be found in **his anointing**.

If we seek strength, it lies in **his dominion**.

If purity, in **his conception**.

If gentleness, it appears in **his birth**.

If we seek redemption, it lies in **his passion**.

If acquittal, in **his condemnation**.

If remission of the curse, in **his cross**.

If satisfaction, in **his sacrifice**.

If purification, in **his blood**.

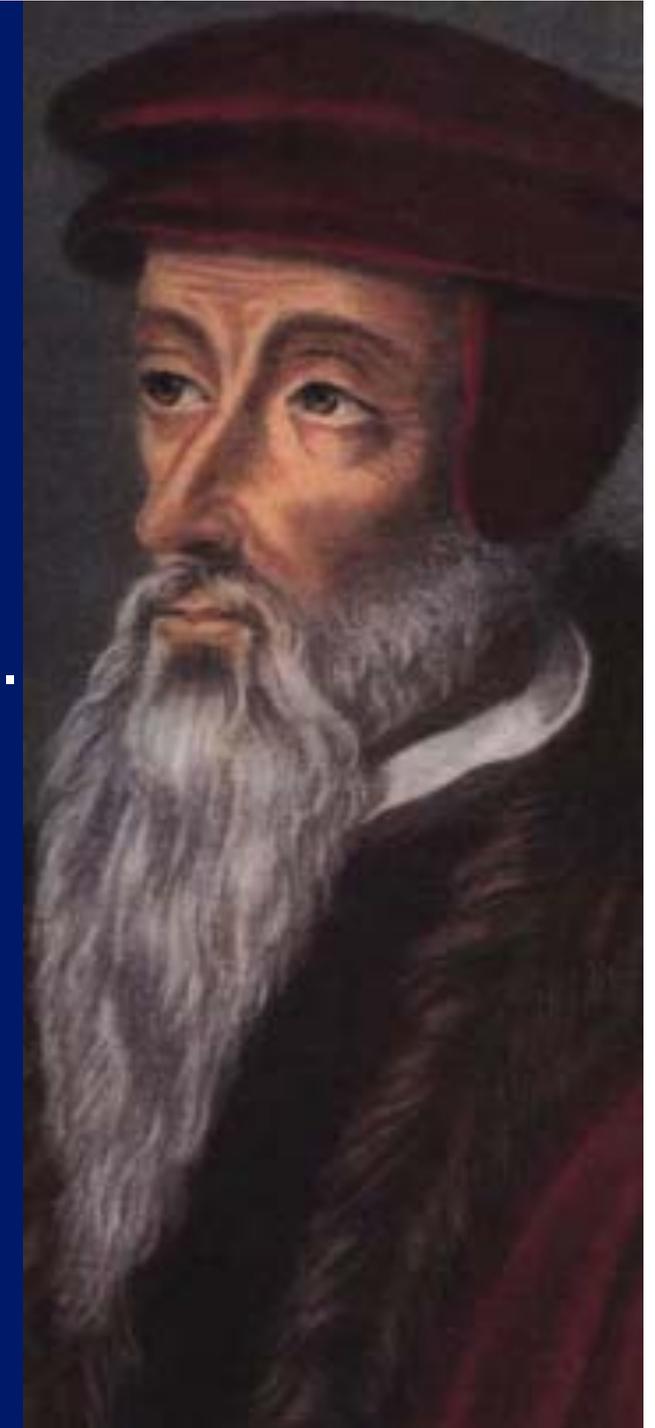
If reconciliation, in **his descent into hell**.

If mortification of the flesh, in **his tomb**.

If newness of life, in **his resurrection**.

If immortality, in **the same**.

--John Calvin, *Institutes* II:16



Run to the Saving Life of Jesus

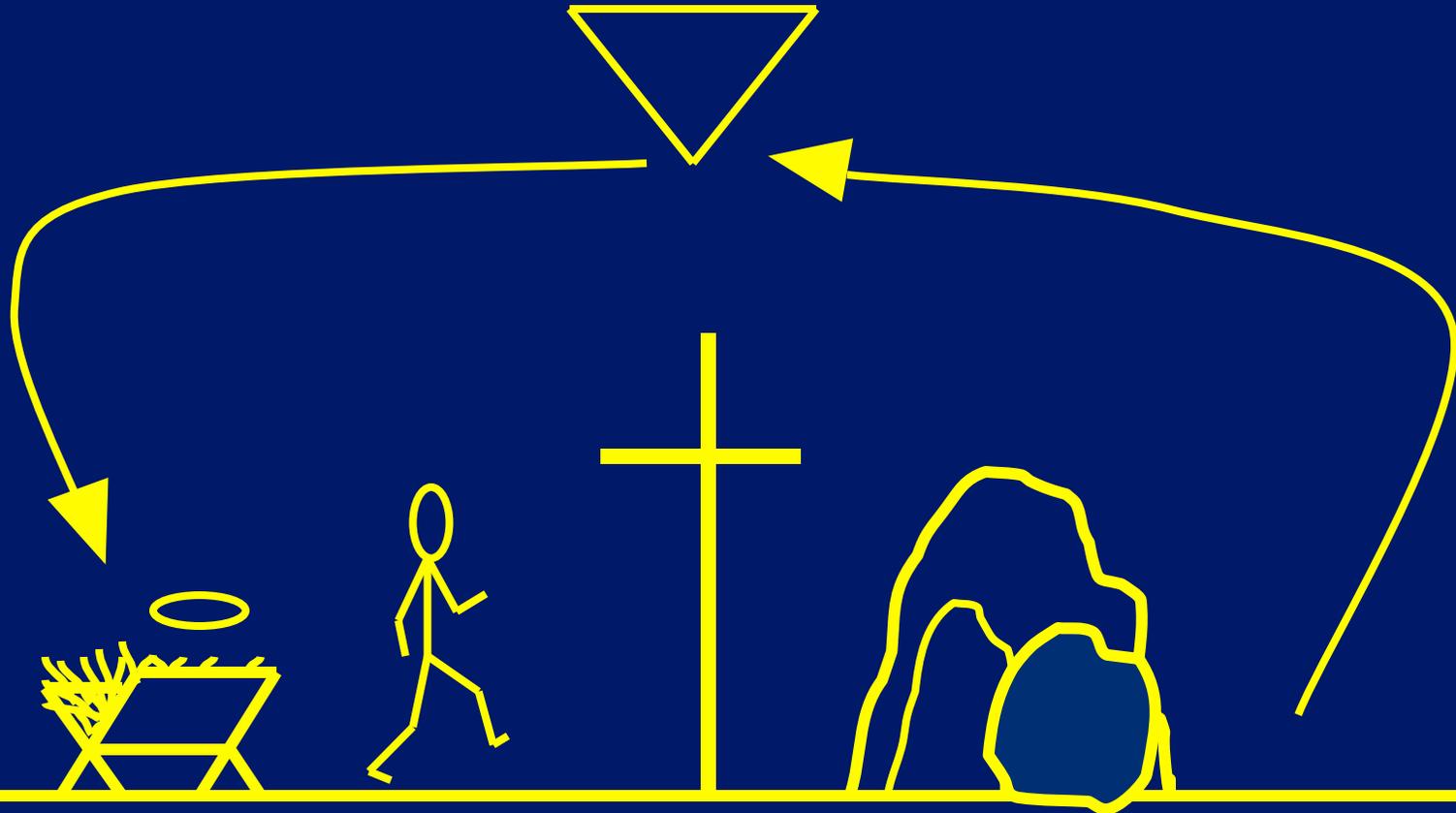


By God's doing
you are in Christ,
who became for us
wisdom from God,
and righteousness
and sanctification
and redemption...

I Cor

1:30

The Saving Life of Jesus



Birth

Life

Death

Resurrection

Ascension

Father

Son

Holy Spirit



You in Christ
Christ in you



Trinitarian Adoption

God the Son became man so men could become sons of God.



Some Benefits of Retrieving A Trinitarian Theology of Adoption:

1. A thicker doctrine of salvation
2. New light on pervasive biblical ways of talking
3. Natural outflow into mission
4. Panoramic view of the entire economy of salvation
5. Renewed theology of the Trinity