

From the September 4, 2010 Issue

## **I Do Not Even Judge Myself**

*Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God. ~ 1 Cor 4: 1-5 NRSV*

It is not only tempting to judge others negatively, it is also easy to judge ourselves negatively! I've just gone through a set of trials with my family that literally turned our world upside down.

The trials resulted in our having to pack, place in storage, move and unpack all of our stuff TWICE in two months! They resulted in our two main cars breaking down and our needing two new ones. Our expenses increased by over \$1400 per month virtually OVERNIGHT while our income remained the same.

Our challenges led to us running all around the 7 cities in our region for months with our realtor. Every single house that "fit" fell through, sometimes just as we were on our way to visit the home. This happened more than once! We were finally forced to move our family of 4 into a small home with 2 other members of our local church (Praise the Trinity for His Love in His people!).

Meanwhile, "back at the farm" (literally in more rural Ohio where the only house we truly own is), the renter there left us "high and dry," not having paid her rent, and leaving the house tore up. When I say "tore up," I mean "Tore up from the floor up!" as they say, and with an infestation of fleas in every floor...*gratis!*

Yes, I not only screamed a couple of times, but one day I got so frustrated and mad that I screamed at the Trinity, yelling "I KNOW you hear me! Now, why aren't you answering me (the way I want you to)? You could fix all of this so simply! Good Grief!!"

Within minutes after that outburst, in the grace of the Spirit, I did have a good laugh with the Trinity, told Him I was sorry and that I knew He could be trusted. Not only did I go there, but along with other people (and the adversary), I was very tempted to think of all my sins (at least the many I was aware of) and wondering which one/s I was finally being punished for!

Sound familiar? That fallen mind sure has a way of rearing its ugly head at the most (in)opportune times, huh? I can imagine that some of you reading this have also been tempted in your trials and challenges to try and guess what sins the Father was punishing you for, too! And if you weren't, I am sure others of your friends were and perhaps shared those thoughts with you, as they did us! Ha-Ha! Not so funny at the time...really!

BUT then, while going through those difficult circumstances and pressing into more intimacy and relationship with the Father through Jesus in the Holy Spirit of Adoption, I happened to remember the set of scriptures at the top of this article. While reading those scriptures I was encountered by the Trinity in a very personal way. I was relieved, once again, of the load of trying to judge exactly why the trials had come. I was relieved of puzzling over what I or a family member

had done to provoke the reactive, vengeful god of the fallen, sinful mind. I was prevented from some of the unfruitful guesswork about the exact nature of why God had allowed these particular trials.

So in one sense, even though I don't have a clear answer to the question, "Why do you think God allowed you to go through all that, Pastor Tim?" as some have asked, I DO have a very clear answer in another sense. That answer is:

*Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy ~ 1 Cor 4:2.*

Or in my way of putting it, the Trinity is clearly saying "You can trust Me, my sons and daughters!"

That, to me, is more of the real point of the matter behind any and every trial and challenge that the Trinity allows in our life, especially when we grasp more clearly the Revelation of the Son of God as Man. That Revelation began in Eternity with the Trinity deciding that, in order to have us in Their family, One of the Persons of the Three-in-One God would have to share Themselves with us in a unique once-for-all-way.

This would involve, in part, a crucifixory experience because of our sin. Having never been Incarnate (begotten as dirt!) before, but at the same time having always existed in a Relationship of trust with his Father in the Holy Spirit, we could say that one fundamental reason for Jesus' victory through His crucifixory experiences in our fallen flesh was His Unrelenting Trust in His Father, in the anointing of the Holy Spirit!

And if that is the way the Son was extremely victorious in our fallen flesh, and if He shares His exact trust in the Holy Spirit with us in our fallen flesh (Acts 2:17), then it stands to Trinitarian reason that the Son's trust in His Father is the most important lesson we can receive, participate in, and experience with regard to any trial.

Though I cannot say much more about the "WHY?" of our recent trials, I CAN say that not only am I glad that we went through everything we did (who would have thunk it?!), but if this renewed sense of trust in the Trinity was the only reason for the trials, it was worth it!

By the way, not only did our world get "rocked," but in a very incarnational way—and I especially mean the actions of the Father through fellow like-minded believers in the Spirit of Adoption—the Lord has become even more "our Rock and our Salvation, whom shall we fear!"

So if you are going through "rocky" times right now, please receive the encouragement of the Spirit through the Apostle Paul:

*Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.*  
~ 1 Cor. 4:5

And please notice that the word in the last sentence is "Commendation"—Praise!—from God, NOT "condemnation" from God. Ha-Ha!!

~ Tim Brassell