

## Matthew 3:13-17 – “The Triune Gospel”

Introduction: **Because we have a Triune God, we give thanks that the Father sent the Son empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill all righteousness.**

### 1) John’s Hesitation

- John has been going around the land of Israel preaching repentance in preparation for the coming Messiah. As a part of this, he has been baptizing as a symbol of the repentance that people are embracing. This is not a new sacrament, but is a call to recommit themselves to the fact that they are God’s circumcised covenant people.
- As the last Old Testament prophet, John was blessed to be the only one who was able to physically see the promised Messiah. In a surprising twist, the Messiah wants to be baptized by the prophet! John is hesitant to agree to this.

### 2) Jesus’ Insistence

- Jesus insists so that they might “fulfill all righteousness.”
- This means **first** that, because this baptism was commanded by the Father, he needed to submit to it.
- **Second**, it is Jesus’ identification that he is the one who would make sinners who repent pass through the coming judgement, and that he would cleanse them from their sins.
- Thus, the baptism of Jesus is a declaration of the gospel.

### 3) The Triune Amen

- After the baptism, we see that the three persons of the Trinity, take on their clearly defined roles for the first time in scripture. That should point out to us how important this event is. The Triune God is directing us to pay attention to it!
- We need to pay attention because this is the anointing, the coronation of Christ! This is a triune coronation, the Father declaring him to be the chosen one, the Son taking the role on himself, and the Spirit being given to empower the mission.
- In the same way as the Trinity functions in Christ’s coronation, they function for us as well. The Father chooses for himself a holy people, the Son lives the perfect life and dies for them, and the Spirit creates faith and seals the people for the father.

Article 9’s List of Heretics:

- Marcion – There are 2 Gods, one evil Old Testament God and one good New Testament God. Jesus just appeared to be human, and so did not save you from your sins, but leads you to embrace God within.

- Manes – There are dueling principles of light and darkness, and Christ was a semi-divine teacher who leads one to the light through his teaching.
- Praxeas and Sabellius – Similar to the Oneness Pentecostals of today, believed that God was only one person changing form, so that it was the Father on the cross in another form, and now he is in the form of the Holy Spirit, making spiritual gifts very important.
- Samosatenus – Christ becomes divine at his baptism, when he became indwelt by the Logos.
- Arius – The Son of God is not divine, but a created being.