

### Drama

Paul wasn't much for small talk. By the second half of the first sentence in his letter to the Romans, he was already digging into two of the great truths of our faith. Some think of ideas like the Trinity or the human/divine nature of Christ as too abstract to be useful, but not Paul. He fits these great themes into his greeting. The Jesus who Paul knew was complex, profound, and teeming with divine mystery. In a phrase, he was worthy of worship. Nothing could be more practical than looking deep into the mystery of Christ's identity and responding in worship. I think Paul would have liked what Dorothy Sayers said about the quest to know Jesus:

*"Let us in heaven's name, drag the divine drama from under the dreadful accumulation of slipshod thinking and trashy sentiment heaped upon it, and set it on an open stage to startle the world into some sort of vigorous reaction...It is the (doctrine) that is the drama."*

#### Monday – Two Natures and Three Persons

*"The central dogma of the Incarnation is that by which relevance stands or falls. If Christ were only man, then he is entirely irrelevant to any thought about God; if he is only God, then he is entirely irrelevant to any experience of human life. It is in the strictest sense necessary to the salvation of relevance that a man should believe rightly in...our Lord Jesus Christ."*

1. Please read Romans 1:1-5 (focus on 3-4). Paul talks about two aspects of Christ's identity. What are they? Which do you identify with more strongly?
2. Who are the "three persons" of the Trinity? Can you find them in verses 3-4?

**Digging Deeper** - How might these seemingly abstract ideas be relevant and practical to your daily grind?

#### Tuesday – Who is Christ?

*"What are we to make of Christ? There is no question of what we can make of him, it is entirely a question of what he intends to make of us."* C.S. Lewis

1. Please read Romans 1:3-4, Philippians: 2:1-11, and Hebrews 4:14-16. According to Paul, what did Jesus do when he came to earth (see Philippians 2:7-8)? How is "this" a model for us?
2. Why does the author of Hebrews say that we should have confidence as we "approach the throne?"

**Making it Personal** – Based upon your reading of Hebrews 4:14-16, take some time to approach the throne of grace with confidence.

#### Wednesday – Who is Christ?

1. Please read Romans 1:3-4, Colossians 2:9, John 1:1-18, and John 10:30. Who is "the Word" in the John 1 passage (v 14)? Is he God?
2. What qualities does John ascribe to Jesus in 1:14? Where else are they reprised later in the passage? Consider what it means to you that Jesus possesses these qualities.
3. What does John 10:30 say about Jesus? Why is this important?

#### Thursday – With Power

*"We must think of the Son always, so to speak, streaming forth from the Father, like light from a lamp, or heat from a fire, or thoughts from a mind. He is the self expression of the Father – what the Father has to say. And there never was a time when he was not saying it."* C.S. Lewis

1. Please read Romans 1:3-4 and Colossians 2:13-15. We often view Jesus as humble and meek, but Romans talks about him as an instrument of power. How does that make you feel?
2. How is Christ's power illustrated in the Colossians passage? Is there a "power or authority" that you need Jesus to disarm?

#### Friday – Resurrection – The Other Event of Salvation

*"His resurrection, which Paul sees not as a strange freak or bizarre miracle but as the beginning of the resurrection of the dead...the sign of power which trumps tyrants or bullies...Death is their final weapon and he has broken it."* NT Wright

1. Please read Romans 1:3-4 and 1 Corinthians 15:12-34. We often talk about the cross as the means of our salvation. What significance does the resurrection have for our salvation?
2. How does the resurrection motivate Paul (also the author of 1 Corinthians)? What sort of things does Paul think the resurrection should motivate us to?

**Digging Deeper** - What events in your life require God's power and triumph?