

### Summing up in Jesus – Part 3

Welcome to Summing up in Jesus, Part 3, October 17, 2007. In the Kingdom of God, we began summing up in Jesus; we began with the Trinity; we looked at that for the last two sessions. Today we'll pick it up and go forward and look at the essences of God and how they are all summed up in Jesus. We need to remind ourselves of who Jesus is; because these various revelations in Scripture are scattered and sometimes it's easy to drift from the composite of what all these things say about who Jesus is. Colossians 1:15 – He is the image of the invisible God. Colossians 2:9 – He is the fullness of Deity in bodily form. Hebrews 1:3 – He is the radiance of the glory of God. Also Hebrews 1:3 – He is the exact representation of the nature of God. Matthew 1:23 – His name is Emanuel which means God with us. He is the God man. Matthew 17:5 – He is the Son of God in Whom the Father is well pleased. Hebrews 1:2 – In these last days the Father has spoken to us in His Son. He is the message of God. John 1:14 – and the Word became flesh and dwelled among us. He is the incarnate Word of God. John 14:9 – He who has seen Me has seen the Father. So He is the very likeness of God; so if you see Jesus in His entirety, there is nothing about God that you can see beyond that. John 10:30 (the summary statement) – My Father and I are one. He is the one God. So God Himself has summed up all things in Jesus for our purposes. So if you do not believe that statement, then you will not personally sum up all things in Jesus. You'll keep thinking that there is something of God that you need beyond what He has summed up in Jesus for you.

Just to review: One poster from the Trinity, we looked at the horizontal axis and the vertical axis. We looked at how the Father, Son, and Spirit are one in essence and value and purpose on the horizontal axis—Father equals Son equals Spirit. Then we looked at how the Son and Spirit humble Themselves to take subservient positions in the Trinity in order to express various functions of God and to serve as a model for man. So the Father wills and decrees. The Son creates and achieves. And the Spirit implements by revealing and empowering. Well what does He reveal? He reveals Jesus; the Spirit will bear witness of Me. Who does He give glory to? The Spirit will give glory to Me, to Jesus. What are we to be transformed into? Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the image of Jesus, what we call Christlikeness. So the Trinity is all summed up in Jesus.

Today we're going to begin to look at the three essential characteristics of God, what I call the essences of God...the sovereign King, the passionate lover, and the fierce but righteous judge and we're going to see how all three of these essential characteristics of God are also all summed up in Jesus. In regard to the sovereign King, the phraseology I use in an expanded version for my purpose is the sovereign majestic creator King. Well how about the creator aspect of this King? Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. But now we're told in John 1:3 in the New Testament speaking of Jesus – All things came into being by Him and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. So we're told that this creator God of Genesis 1:1 is all summed up in Jesus. We're reminded of that in Colossians 1:16 again speaking of Jesus – For by Him all things were created both in the Heavens and on Earth, visible and invisible, all things have been created by Him and for Him. So the creator is all summed up in Jesus. The King in Revelation 19:16 speaking of Jesus – And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords. Well that tells us there's no king above this King. There's no lord above this Lord. He is the King of kings. How about

sovereignty? Philippians 3:21 simply says – By the exertion of the power that He (Jesus) has even to subject all things to Himself. That’s about as succinct a definition of sovereignty as you can get; the power to subject all things to Himself. This is sovereignty. So when you take the sovereignty, it’s all summed up in Jesus. You take the creator; it’s all summed up in Jesus. You take the kingship; it’s all summed up in Jesus. And when you lump all these aspects together, you are left with majesty; what I call the transcendent majesty of God. So it should be clear that the sovereign King is all summed up in Jesus. Could God make it any simpler for us?

Well how about the essence of God as the fierce but righteous judge? In regard to the judging, II Timothy 4:1 – Christ Jesus Who is to judge the living and the dead. John 5:22 – For not even the Father judges anyone; He has given all judgment to the Son. Matthew 28:18 which includes judging but goes beyond that – All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth. So it is clear that the judging is all summed up in Jesus. Well how about the righteous judge? II Peter 1:1, Simon Peter, a bondservant and an apostle of Jesus Christ – to those who have received the faith of the same kind as ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. So Peter tells us that the righteousness of Christ is the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:21 – He made Him Who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. So there is no gap between the righteousness of Jesus and the righteousness of God. The righteousness of God is all summed up in Jesus. Revelation 19:11 speaking of Jesus – And in righteousness He judges and wages war. So righteousness will always judge and make war against unrighteousness. Well how about the fierceness? Revelation 19:15 speaking of Jesus – And from His mouth comes a sharp sword so that with it He may smite the nations and He will rule them with a rod of iron and He treads the winepress of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. All of those Scriptures refer to Jesus. He is fierce, He is righteous, that righteousness wages war against unrighteousness, He does judge, He has all authority, and He will implement the wrath of God. So the essence of God as the fierce but righteous judge is all summed up in Jesus.

Well how about the essence of God as the passionate lover? John 3:16 – for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him (the Son) shall not perish but have everlasting life. I John 3:16 – We know love by this; that He laid down His life for us. So the revelation of the love of God for us is given by Jesus and all the events that transpired on the cross. John 15:13 – Greater love has no man than this that one lay down his life for his friends. It is true that no man has greater love than that; but God has greater love than that. You need to recall our status when Jesus laid down His life for us. We were not His friends. Ephesians 2:1-5 basically tells us that we were children of wrath. We were hostile to God, enemies of God. But Jesus laid down His life for us when we were the enemies of God. And that is how we know the grace of God. So the essence of God as the passionate lover is all summed up in Jesus.

But one of the greatest revelations of these essences I’ve not yet mentioned. And that’s the one people are prone not to mention. Hell. Recall we talked about the horror and the beauty of Hell. The horror of Hell is easily explained. That means the outer darkness of no communion with God while simultaneously receiving the wrath of God and doing so constantly for all of eternity without hope of relief in the lake of fire for eternity future. So what could possibly merit such an outcome? Well the answer constantly stuns us in our depravity. One sin; one single departure

from the will, the purposes, the plan, and the character of God merits Hell. Now the mind of man cannot embrace that and recoils from that. And man phrases questions like how could God do such a thing? In particular, how could a God Who is love ever do such a thing? But that attitude continues to position man to judge God. And you will never be able to understand God nor judge God when you look only from the perspective of man. We always need to let God explain Himself. II Corinthians 6:14 (in the King James Version) Paul asks the rhetorical question – For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness? Now he is writing the epistle to human beings. And we rightly relate that verse to human beings. But that verse is only true for believers because it is true of God. If it were not true of God, Paul would not have that in His epistle to be true for believers in God, you see. So, I'll read the verse again and think of it in the context of God. For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness? Well the rhetorical answer is, of course, none. Habakkuk 1:13 tells us even in the Old Testament, the prophet speaking of God – Thine eyes are too pure to approve evil and Thou cannot look on wickedness with favor.

So it is true God is love. It is true that God loves you. It is true that love is a passion for oneness. God has an absolute passion to be one with you in every aspect. But, God is not only love and God does not only love you. God is righteous. God loves righteousness. God has a passion to remain one with righteousness. So how can a God Who is righteous become one with unrighteousness; a God Who is light become one with darkness? So how do we know that God has a passion to remain one with righteousness? Look at Hell. The horror of Hell deserved by one sin is the revelation of how much God hates unrighteousness. It's how much He hates any departure from what He is. The revelation of how much God hates unrighteousness at that extreme given through the revelation of Hell is simultaneously the revelation of how much God loves righteousness at the other extreme. Because except you hate the opposite of that which you love, you're not going to be true to your character. So the revelation of Hell to us is the revelation of the hatred of God for unrighteousness which is the revelation of His passion to remain one with righteousness which is the revelation of how faithful and true our God is; and that's why we can trust God. Because a god who did not hate unrighteousness that much could not be counted upon to remain true to his righteousness. And a god who would not be true to his righteousness could not be counted upon to be faithful and true. And a god who cannot be counted upon to be faithful and true is a god that we cannot have faith in. So paradoxically the horror of Hell that people refuse to look at is the single greatest revelation of the faithfulness of God.

So viewed properly, Hell becomes one of the three greatest revelations of the three essences of God. These three major revelations are creation, the cross, and Hell. Well why go through all this exercise? Because it's all summed up in Jesus. And every single spiritual need that we have is because there's some aspect of our lives that we are not summing up in Jesus. What is the greatest revelation of God in His essence as the fierce but righteous judge? It's Hell itself. The horror of Hell for one sin is the revelation of the righteousness of God and how fiercely He will protect that righteousness. What fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? Hell itself gives us the evident answer. But coupled with this is the cross. The cross of Christ coupled with Hell gives us the clearest revelation of the righteousness of God. We can't understand everything about God with our finite brains; but we should seek to understand that which we can

understand. Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. This includes every human who has ever lived except the Son of Man, Jesus Christ Himself. The glory of God is His intrinsic eternal perfections. So anytime a man sins, it is a deviation, a departure from the intrinsic eternal perfections of God. That is a departure from the glory of God. You can even define sin in those terms. That's why Romans 6:23 tells us the wages of sin is death; because that God in His glory, in His infinite intrinsic perfections cannot fellowship with unrighteousness, not even one single act. And that's why the just pronouncement upon any departure from the glory of this God is Hell itself. Because that's how intensely God hates any departure from Himself. Now we know from the sum of God's Word that the word death in that verse includes Hell; the outer darkness of no communion with God while simultaneously receiving the wrath of God for eternity future in the lake of fire.

Now knowing that, let's remind ourselves of what Jesus did. Colossians 2:13-14 – And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him having forgiven us all our transgressions. Note the word forgiven, not excused, because the only way we can come into oneness with our God for eternity future is to have that unrighteousness taken care of and it's taken care of either by ourselves for eternity future in the lake of fire or taken care of by the substitutionary payment that Jesus Christ gave on His cross. And that's why we can be forgiven by a holy God because it has been paid for. Verse 14 – Having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us and He has taken it out of the way having nailed it to the cross. Now that's a mystery that goes beyond our understanding. We have all sinned; sin merits Hell. Jesus paid that debt. If it were not so we could not have the guarantee of eternity future in Heaven with our God. Somehow Jesus paid the eternal debt of Hell itself for every single sin committed by every single one of us and He literally endured our Hell if you will on His cross. He endured the outer darkness of no communion with the Father, while forsaken by the Father, while receiving the fullness of wrath of the Father to pay the price for all men for all sins for all time. There is no Hell that approaches that Hell. Yet never once did this Jesus say stop, no more of this. He never deviated from the will of the Father, the character of the Father, the purposes of the Father, the plan of the Father. And in summation, He never deviated from the glory of God. He never deviated from the intrinsic eternal perfections of this Holy God. He never deviated from walking by faith in the Father. He never walked by sight rather than by faith in the Father. When you add all that together He is sinless and He's sinless because He never deviated in any tiny degree from the glory of God Himself.

But we have to look at the horror of Hell to understand the righteousness of God. We must look at Jesus on the cross to see clearly righteousness exhibited by the Son of Man. Because there is no test beyond the test of the cross. So if any unrighteousness were in Jesus, it would have been revealed by the fullness of wrath of the Father while forsaken by the Father while paying the eternal Hell price for all sins for all people for all time. There is no test that can approximate that test. So if He never did a single unrighteous thing, never deviated one whit from the glory of God, the eternal intrinsic perfections of God Himself, then He never would. That is the righteousness of God displayed for us. And so we have to look at the horror of Hell to understand the horror of the cross. We have to look at the horror of the cross to understand the righteousness of Christ; and we have to look at the righteousness of Christ to see the righteousness of God manifest to us. And that is all summed up in Jesus.

Now look at the essence of God as the passionate lover. What's our greatest revelation of this? Well paradoxically; it begins with Hell itself. If we don't understand Hell, we will not understand the love of God. Because Hell itself is part of the greatest revelation of the love of God. We're simply told, remember, that we know love by this that He laid down His life for us. Oh, but that doesn't capture the fullness of what took place here. You've heard my earlier analogy that if Susan and I were kidnapped by terrorists and they began to torture Susan, what would I do if I loved Susan? Love would intervene, not just observe. And suppose that I said stop, torture me instead of her. Then what would be the revelation to Susan of the depth of my love for her? It would be the torture that I voluntarily took on her behalf to spare her having to endure it. But she can only receive that revelation by watching me receive the torture. If she turns her head in abhorrence to the torture, she will have some revelation of my love; but she will never have the fullness and depth of the revelation of my love because she refused to look at the torture which I endured on her behalf, even to the point of death. It's likewise with Jesus. Jesus endured Hell for us voluntarily and undeservedly on our behalf until the Father declared stop, no more of this, the debt is paid. Well, why did He do that? Well out of two loves. Jesus loved the Father so much, he maintained such a passion to remain one with the Father so much that he would endure the absence of communion with the Father, while forsaken by the Father, while receiving the fullness of wrath of the Father rather than to do any one single thing contrary to the Father. That is a passion for oneness; that is love. And there is no example of love that can approximate that love. So, yes, it's true we know love by this that He delivered Himself up for us. But that's such a simple statement to roll off the tongue. If you're not willing to explore the depths of Hell, you're not willing to explore the price He paid; so you're not willing to observe what He endured for you, and therefore, you'll have a limited revelation of His love. So paradoxically, Hell itself is the greatest revelation of the love of God revealed through Jesus Christ. And that's how much He loved us. He was willing, out of love for the Father and out of love for us, to endure this, to become our redeemer. He had such a passion for oneness with us that He would undergo that so that He could be one with us for all eternity future rather than to have to us go to Hell, and spare Him the suffering.

So to display the righteousness of God, it's all summed up in Jesus. To display the love of God, it's all summed up in Jesus. Remember one of the purposes of Jesus. Luke 19:10 – the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. That was us. He loved us that much. He loved the Father that much. But we have to see the horror of Hell, to see the horror of the cross, to understand the love of Christ to know the love of God. That's the revelation of the passion for oneness that God has with us. And it is all summed up in Jesus.

How about the essence of God as the sovereign King? Well, what are the greatest revelations of that? Certainly creation is one of them. Jesus spoke and by His sovereign power the universe came into being. But we also have to look at Hell to understand the sovereignty of God. Look at the horror of Hell and look at man, whose original purpose, he was created to be the image bearer of his God. He was given will, one simple negative prohibition, given dominion over the Earth; but then look at Satan. Lucifer, an archangel, positioned just beneath God if you will. By believing the lies of Satan, man joined the rebellion of Satan and gave Satan power over man through the power of deception. Both man and Satan have power and have will. So here's the revelation of the sovereignty of God. Look at what happens when Jesus as the judge says to

unbelieving men and to Satan that it is time to go to Hell. Can you imagine the resistance that would be put up before entering the gates of Hell? We would fight to the extreme here to avoid coming within one inch of a hot match. Can you imagine what we would do to resist going into a lake of fire? What would Lucifer do? And remember Lucifer, himself, has supernatural powers. All we have to do, remember, when the children of Israel were preparing to leave Egypt and all the miraculous things that the sorcerers of Pharaoh would accomplish, supernatural things all done through the power of Lucifer himself. Yet when Jesus says go, every creature that has will, will go. That is sovereignty. Every creature that has will, will have that will submitted to the will of God because God is sovereign. So creation and Hell itself become in my mind the two greatest revelations of the sovereignty of God. Who will pronounce that judgment? The judge. Who is that? Jesus. Who will enforce it? Jesus. Who spoke all that exists into existence? Jesus. Hell exists. Thus, who spoke Hell into existence? Jesus. Thus, God in His essence as the sovereign King is all summed up in Jesus through creation and the fact that every knee will bow before Jesus.

Another aspect of the power of God we've hinted at as the sovereign King is the fact that Jesus came as a man and yet never sinned. Hebrews 4:15 – For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one Who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. When we contemplate all of the potential sins that a man can commit here in this fallen world, with all the temptations, and so on, we are awestruck that any man could live without even one sin. What more powerful testimony can there be of the power of God as the sovereign King to resist sin? That's not only the testimony that we have a sinless Savior; it's our hope to progressively overcome sin in our lives as we sum up all things in this Savior. Because the power of sin is less powerful than the sovereign power of God, and the sovereign power of God is willing and working within us to transform us into the image of the Son. So the essence of God as the sovereign King is all summed up in Jesus through creation, through the cross, through Hell itself.

Now we'll move beyond the essences to spend a couple of minutes on what I call some expressions that flow out of the essences. Today we'll only hit a couple but I'll run through many of these in the next session and they're all familiar. But the familiarity precludes full revelation because we tend to look at them in isolation rather than lumping them together in rapid fire fashion to receive the impact of the fullness of it. Similar to the fact that 20 or 30 thousand traffic deaths can occur in the USA annually and we're not even mindful of it. But 3,000 deaths can occur in one hour on 9/11/01 and we're just devastated by the impact of it. So let's look at some of these. God has made us many promises; so what is our assurance of the promises of God? II Corinthians 1:20 – For as many as may be the promises of God in Him (Jesus) they are yes. The fulfillment of all the promises of God for us is all summed up in Jesus. God is Spirit. We are spirit creatures and there are blessings of God for us in this spirit realm. So how do we get them? Well, the answer is we don't have to. We have them. Ephesians 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly places in Christ. So we have these blessings all summed up in Jesus, already purchased for us by what Jesus has done on the cross for us. But we tend not to access them. Well, why do we not access them? Because we don't go where they are. Well, where are they? The blessings, remember, are in Him. John 15:5 – Abide in Me. To abide means to constantly dwell. So how do I constantly dwell in Jesus? Well, you primarily need to know

where He is, go there, and stay there. He is in the spirit realm, not in the flesh realm. There is nothing good in me that is in my flesh. So if Jesus were in my flesh, He is good, so there would be something good in my flesh. He is in the spirit realm. Every spiritual blessing is summed up in Jesus. So the spirit realm is summed up in Jesus and every spiritual blessing in the spirit realm is all summed up in Jesus.

Jesus is our source. Again John 15:5 – I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. So everything apart from Jesus is nothing. Everything even done for Jesus, but done to the glory of man in the flesh is nothing. So when Jesus says abide in Me, to me it has the same spiritual meaning as the summing up of all things in Jesus. So when we are summing up all things in Jesus, we are abiding in Him and we produce much fruit. So when we don't have the fruit of the Spirit, we don't have the abundant life; we don't see spiritual fruit flowing freely, it is because we're not summing up all things in Jesus; therefore, we're not abiding in Him. Because abiding in Him means when you are constantly dwelling in full faith mindfulness of Who Jesus is, what He is, what He has done, what He is doing and what He will do. When you are doing that, you are abiding in Him and simultaneously summing up all things in Jesus, capturing every thought that is in contrast to Jesus, tearing down every stronghold of thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of God as revealed through Jesus. Jesus is the only thing of value, the only true treasure. Matthew 13:44-46 – The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field which a man found and hid and from joy over it, joy over finding this treasure, he goes and sells all that he has and buys the field so that he can have this treasure. That's the comparative value of the Kingdom of God compared to anything else in existence. Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls; because all men are looking for that which is of value. But upon finding this one pearl of great value he went and sold all that he had so he could buy this one pearl of great value. But remember the Kingdom only has value based on the King. And Jesus is the King of kings; He's the King of this kingdom, and that's why the kingdom has value; because God Himself is the only thing of intrinsic value in all of existence and God has summed up all things for us in Jesus. He is the King; thus His Kingdom has infinite value; everything else is worth less than the kingdom to the point of being worthless when compared to the kingdom. Our King has infinite value. The kingdom has infinite value. The King and His kingdom are the only one true treasure. And everything else is worthless by comparison and it is all summed up in Jesus.

So my time is up for today and we'll pick it up at that point next time.