

Sunday Reflections

“HE COMES IN THREE”

In our everyday culture the number 3 has varied meanings—sometimes good; sometimes bad. For example, here’s a good thing: “The Third Time’s The Charm. This is pretty universally understood as meaning hope or confidence for the future. You may have failed 2 times at something, but if you try the 3rd time, it might well-happen. Conversely: “Three On A Match” means bad luck. Sources say that the phrase began in the trenches in World War I. If one soldier in a foxhole lit his cigarette on a match, it would allow a sniper to spot him; if a second on the same match took the light, the sniper would take aim, and the third soldier lighting his cigarette from that match was a goner. This also could be applied to sailors underway at night during World War II. If three “swabbies” lit up on the one match, it would be long enough for the Captain of a U-Boat to take aim and fire a torpedo. Bye, Bye ship!

God, as we understand Him comes in Three also. There’s the Father from Whom all things flow; the Son Who comes forth from the Father, and the Holy Spirit, the bond of Love between them both. We know from the Old Testament that there is but one God: “Hear O Israel, the Lord is God, the Lord alone”. Yet in the New Testament, there are ample references to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit---a Trinity of Persons in the one God. Therein lies the wondrous mystery. How can there be one God and yet three distinct and co-equal Persons in the one God? Philosophers and Theologians have been grappling with this enigma for thousands of years. We might not understand it but we accept it because it must be true---Jesus told us so, and there is no untruth in Jesus, the Son of God. So instead of trying to figure it all out, why not simply relax in knowing that this Triune God is looking out for each and every one of us---all the time. How lucky are we!!

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