

On The Pre-Tribulational Inference of *Imminency*: A Consideration of Sufficient Warrant

The Word of God encourages us – teachers – to teach correctly. James 3:1
This handout simply makes one specific appeal toward that end.

Allow me to begin with a portion of a blog we posted in 2016 – [B31:16 \(scroll down to B31:16\)](#) :

There are those who say the doctrine of the tri-unity of God is inferential and is not found in Scripture. Here's **explicit** Bible evidence to the contrary:

1. There are clear passages in the Bible teaching the eternal Word, the Son, Jesus Christ, is God. (Ps. 45; John 1; Col. 2; Heb. 1 and other passages)
2. There are clear passages teaching the Holy Spirit is God's Spirit. (Gen. 1; Mt. 28; Rom. 8; Gal. 3, 4, I Pet. 1; I John 4 and other passages)
3. There are clear passages teaching יהוה Father is God. (Ps. 89; Mt. 6; John 10; Eph. 1; I Pet. 1; 2 John and other passages)

In light of the clear evidence in Scripture (in support of the tri-unity of God) ...

There is an end-time view teaching,

- 1) the word “trinity” is not found in the Bible (yet this same viewpoint affirms the doctrine of the trinity due to explicit Bible evidence). This view goes on to make appeal for a false analogy, teaching
- 2) the trinity appeal – above – can be used to make an analogy in support of the imminency of Christ's return. (more below) This view, we believe, needs to be exposed, for God-exalting, Bible-affirming and protection-of-the-Saints reasons.

Please consider further clarification.

Some Pre-Trib authors, on occasion, commit *the fallacy of false analogy* when it comes to this topic of the word “trinity,” the doctrine of the triune God and one end-time appeal, which they claim, in part, to be true on the basis of analogy.

One accurate way – in fairness to them – to summarize their misleading appeal is seen below:

- P1 Although the word “trinity” is not explicitly stated in Scripture, the doctrine of the tri-unity of God is true; [we agree with this first premise on the *grounds* above]
- P2 While the imminent Pre-Trib Rapture of the Church is not explicitly stated in Scripture (similar to [aka. – analogy] the issue of the trinity appeal in P1), the *at-any-time* Pre-Trib event (again: though not explicitly stated in Scripture) is also true; [we disagree with this premise – P2]
- C Therefore, the imminent *Pre-Trib Rapture of the Church* viewpoint should be considered to be one viable eschatological (end-time) option. [The *imminency* doctrine is incorrect.]

But the above P1, P2, C appeal is a false analogy because the doctrine of the tri-unity of God IS explicitly stated in Scripture whereas the Pre-Trib Rapture event and its related inferences (of which *imminency* is included) are not found (in Scripture).

In light of the above blog information, please consider the following Bible-affirming appeal:

Because there are **key** differences between the trinity doctrine (and its biblical support) and the doctrine of imminency (and its lack of Bible support), the use of *an appeal for analogy* is flawed.

As a result, Pre-Tribulational Rapture advocates who use the above *analogy appeal* commit the *fallacy of analogy* because the two arguments are NOT the same. Similar, yes; the same, no.

Some might respond: “**On what basis** do you claim our appeal of analogy is a fallacy?”
This is a great question. Here’s how ...

The *trinity inference appeal* is different than the *imminence inference appeal* in this way:

While the theological word “trinity” is NOT found in the Bible, the three tenets (of the divinity of the three members of the Godhead) ARE explicitly evidenced in Scripture. In fact, it’s as a result of the clear Bible data that we claim the Truth of the *tri-unity of God* doctrine (not on the basis of the opinion of theologians, scholars, pastors, etc.).

This is NOT the case for imminency. Explicit evidence (for the Pre-Trib doctrine of imminency) is NOT found in Scripture.

- YES**, 1) Christ’s coming is soon/at hand (Mk. 13:29; Jms. 5:7-9; I Pet. 4:7; I Jn. 2:18; Rev. 1:3)
2) Christ’s coming is sudden (Luke 12:35-40; Luke 17:24; I Thes. 5:2; II Peter 3:10)
3) Christ’s coming will take place at an undisclosed time, no one knowing the day nor the hour (Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32),

BUT this is not the same as saying His return is imminent – a return which could happen any time, even today. The above Bible passages do not teach imminency as defined by Pre-Tribulationists.

I tell you what (this is a simple and fair request):

Pre-Tribulationists, please provide one explicit Bible passage which teaches Christ could come today. Please provide one clear passage in Scripture teaching He could come at any time. Please give us *black-and-white* (stated) Bible evidence the next prophetic event (in biblical eschatology) is the Pre-Tribulational Rapture of the Church. (This older tenet of Pre-Trib Rapture advocates is still used by some today, thus we include it here.)

If this doctrine of *imminency* is a plausible Bible doctrine, clear Bible support should be available. It’s not.

As a result, we make the closing appeal – because we genuinely care that you are *correctly* watching:

Let’s build our understanding of the *end of days* on what the Bible actually says!

One additional appeal relating to this topic, one which is NOT insignificant at this juncture:

Scripture states certain things will take place BEFORE our being gathered together to our Lord Jesus (see Mt. 24:31 and II Thes. 2 as example passages). In other words, the Bible teaches sign events take place before our Lord’s return. This is in direct opposition to the Pre-Trib teaching of imminence which states Christ could come at any time, including today. Biblically speaking, He cannot.