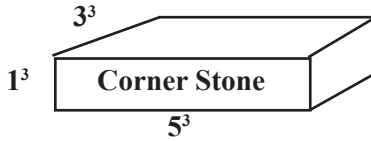


Intrigued by these references to the Trinity, I got out my iPad and did a search on the number 153 by inserting the phrase “Bible 153” — and found the following:

$$153 = 1 + 125 + 27 = 1^3 + 5^3 + 3^3 \text{ (the sum of their cubes)}$$

Graphically this might represent a Corner Stone 3D image as follows:



I know that Volume is equal to length x width x height so the image is not an accurate mathematical representation of the former equation. However, that the Trinity— the Father, Holy Spirit, Son— is the sum of its three components is definitely an interesting comparison!

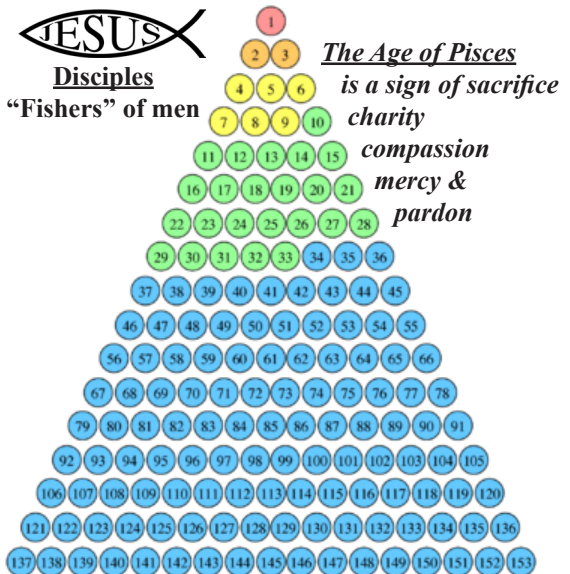
So I continued my online search for the meaning of 153 and found the following:

$$\begin{aligned} 153 &= (1 \times 1) + (1 \times 2) + (1 \times 2 \times 3) + (1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4) + (1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5) \\ &= 1 + 2 + 6 + 24 + 120 \\ &= 1! + 2! + 3! + 4! + 5! \end{aligned}$$

(the sum of the first five factorials)

Now I wasn't too sure what this meant spiritually, but it sure was interesting mathematically— leading to the belief that Jesus very carefully chose the number of large fish to be **153**.

To my amazement the latter equation can be represented by the following image:



I found out that the sum of the first five factorials (153) is represented by the **17th perfect triangle** as shown. Surely this reminds us of the **Holy Trinity!**

Also, 153 is the sum of the first **17 integers** and 153 is divisible by the sum of its own integers! Neat number! There are many other interesting things about the number 153 that you might wish to pursue with your own online search!

Jack felt that Jesus had prepared only fish and not bread for the disciples— so I felt it would be a good idea to clarify things by reading the actual account in John 21:1-14.

John 21 New International Version (NIV)

JESUS AND THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, “Friends, have you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

JESUS REINSTATES PETER

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

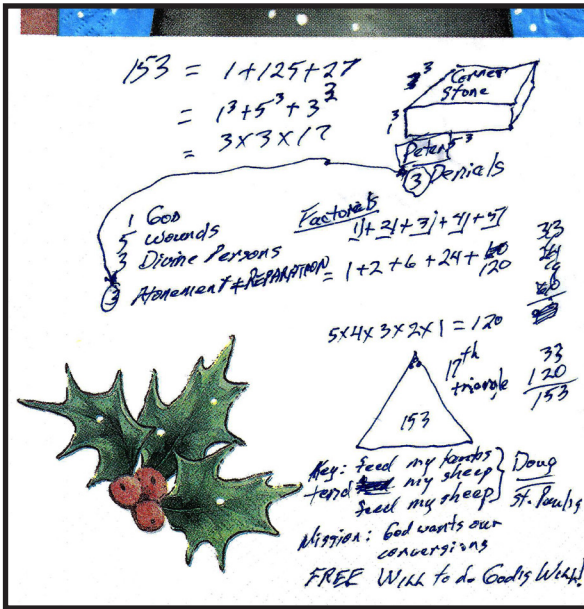
Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

At this point you may wish to view my meal napkin below—
upon which I tried to capture some of my thoughts
as Jack and I discussed the Bible reading
John 21:1-14



WOUNDED BY MY SINS

During the preceding reading I began to be wounded by God's Bliss as I recounted my experience in St. Paul's Catholic Church several years ago. A Bliss tear was forming in my right eye.

Prior to Mass in St. Paul's I asked the priest if he had time to hear my confession and he, even though very busy, granted my request in the Sacristy. As Mass progressed to the Eucharistic Prayer, just before communion, I heard an interior voice, the gentle loving voice of Jesus beckon to me—

Jesus: Do you love me?

Doug: Yes I love you.

Jesus: Feed my lambs. (in a very low soft voice)

Jesus: Do you love me?

Doug: I love you.

Jesus: Tend my sheep. (in a bit louder voice)

Jesus: Do you love me?

Doug: Yes Jesus, I love you.

Jesus: Feed my sheep. (in a clear voice)

WOUNDED BY MY SINS

You may wonder how I reacted to this message! Well at that time I was full of amazement and wonder as to the meaning of these words. Overcome with Bliss (peace, love and joy) my right eye shed several Bliss tears and I was overcome with God's Love and Mercy.

Only later did I come to realize that just as Peter was given the opportunity to atone for his denial of Jesus the evening before His Crucifixion, I too was being given the opportunity to atonement for the forty years of meditation in which I did not go to church and receive the body and blood of my Redeemer in the Holy Eucharist! Nor did I seek out the Sacrament of Reconciliation during all those years! You see— I have been a wretched sinner who was accumulating sins!

In addition, I have since realized that Jesus had been asking me to inspire the young (lambs) and old (sheep) to repent and seek the Kingdom of God in their lives. Like Peter two thousand years ago, I was being given the mission to seek the conversion of souls that they might merit eternal salvation in God's Kingdom both here in this world and in paradise.

I am shamed by my sins and by the infinite Mercy of our Creator Jesus Christ. How often I have neglected this message and yet our Eternal Father gives each one of us the new opportunity to walk on the narrow path to salvation through the grace and redemption offered to us by His Son's sacrifice on the cross. Praise God!

How easy it is to forget that when Jesus was asked what are the greatest commandments— Jesus replied:

***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.***

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

Matthew 22.37-39

Through charity God offers us salvation, and through grace and charity we dedicate our lives for the conversion of souls as did Jesus our Saviour— that we might attain eternal Bliss in Paradise with all the angels and saints. Amen!

There is no higher calling!