

Baptism and the Holy Spirit

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. What is the purpose of baptism?
 - 1. What is the Holy Spirit's role in salvation?
- B. People love matters about which little is revealed in scripture.
 - 1. Mysterious, potential for deeper knowledge, interest in the unknown
 - 2. Possible to speculate or inject personal beliefs
 - 3. Angels, demons, Revelation, where did Cain get his wife, what did Jesus write on the ground, how miracles were performed, and anything about the Holy Spirit
- C. Our task is simple, non-glamorous, and relatively easy
 - 1. Consider what is written in the Bible
 - 2. Preach what is written in the Bible
 - 3. And be content with what is written in the Bible

I. WHAT DID THE APOSTLES PREACH ABOUT BAPTISM?

- A. It was commanded for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38
- B. It was done to wash away sins - Acts 22:16
- C. It involved much water - Acts 8:36-38, 10:48
- D. It was done with no delay - Acts 16:25-33

II. BAPTISM IS A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION WITH CHRIST

- A. It is a baptism into the death of Christ - Rom. 6:3
- B. It is a burial with Christ into death - Rom. 6:4
- C. It is done that we might walk in newness of life - Rom. 6:4-5
- D. It involves crucifying the old man, destroying the body of sin - Rom. 6:6
- E. It frees us from sin that we might live with Christ - Rom. 6:7-11

III. BAPTISM AND DEITY

- A. Baptism is the means by which we put on Christ and become children of God
 - 1. Gal. 3:26-27
- B. Baptism is a work of God - Col. 2:11-13
- C. Baptism is a washing and regeneration through Christ - Titus 3:4-7; John 3:5
- D. Holy Spirit is the giver of the gift, the Revealer of the promise - Acts 2:38-39
 - 1. The phrase is Objective Genitive instead of an Appositional Genitive
 - a. The gift of John Brown; John Brown is the giver of the gift
 - b. The gift of God; God is the giver of the gift - John 4:10
 - 2. The meaning must be determined on the basis of doctrinal truth rather on grammatical form - Franklin Puckett, The Holy Spirit, p.14
 - 3. The promise in verse 39 pertains to the blessing of salvation, the consequent result of the remission of sins - Franklin Puckett, The Holy Spirit, p.22
 - 4. The promise relates to the Abrahamic covenant, fulfilled in and through Christ (Gen 12:1-3; 22:18; Ga 3:14-16) - *ibid.*, p.22-26

5. This harmonizes with Paul's phrase "the promise of the Spirit" (Gal. 3:14) as that which the Spirit promised
 6. The Holy Spirit was instrumental in revealing the means whereby we acquire the blessings of salvation. His role was revealer.
- E. "What about baptism in the Holy Spirit?"
1. Matt. 3:11 - Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire
 2. What Christ meant - John 16:7-8, 13-14
 3. When it happened - Acts 2:1-4, 10:44-48
 4. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was limited to a few people on only two occasions; it was accompanied by miraculous activity; it was for the purpose of Divine revelation; it was before baptism, not with baptism; it had no other connection with individual salvation than that of revealing what one must do to be saved
 5. Believing the Holy Spirit has a larger role than that which is revealed does not make it so.
 6. Why do some members of the church want a larger role for the Holy Spirit? Why do they want a literal, personal indwelling of Deity in the absence of scriptural support?

IV. WE DO NOT WANT TO BE ALONE

- Astro-biologists look for earthlike planets that might have the conditions for life. They want to find life somewhere in this unimaginably vast universe. They do not want to believe we are alone; they do not want to be alone.
 - Even in a crowded city, people feel very much alone when they sense that there is no one near them with whom they can identify.
- God created us to be social creatures. Families, clubs, communities, cities, countries: people need people in order to thrive. God knew this and put Christians together in the church.
 - The people of Genesis 10 wanted to be together more than God intended. They built the tower of Babel. Lot moved his family into Sodom. Countless millions succumb to peer pressure and mob mentality. Sometimes people want to be closer than God designed for us to be.
- As people age and lose family and friends to the mortal condition of life, they grasp strongly to remaining relationships because they do not want to be alone in this world.
- It is this desire to be close that leads many disciples to desire and to come to believe in a closer relationship with Deity than that which God has promised.
- Such people feel very alone and want God to be even closer than His word says He is. They want Him to live inside of their very bodies, so He will be as close as possible.
- While I feel great affection and empathy for such persons, I cannot preach their convictions. The Bible does not promise it, therefore I cannot proclaim it.
- In as much as love dwells in you, that is the extent to which God is with you.
- In as much as faith dwells in you, that is the extent to which Christ is with you.
- In as much as the word dwells in you, that is the extent to which the Holy Spirit is with you.