

The Baptist Defence

Hear ye my defence . . . Acts 22:1

First Baptist Church, Harrison, Ohio

Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

November, 2011

What's The Difference?

By Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

1 Cor. 4:7 *For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*

A great importance should be put on the things that differ instead of, by common practice, on things that are the same. If one dwells on how much the king snake and the coral snake are the same, he may indiscriminately pick up one as to pick up the other; but if he notices the difference, he will choose one over the other. The king snake is a very friendly and non-poisonous snake; but the coral snake, though very close in color, is venomous and will certainly hurt or kill a man if the man picks up the snake.

There is alike a difference in government. A democratic republic and a socialist republic are somewhat alike, but in comparing their likenesses, one could be very cavalier in voting for one arbitrarily; but the reality is that these two are very different, and the person who votes without considering the differences may eventually be sorry that he voted for one instead of the other.

Likewise, there is a difference in religions. Many today are endeavoring to determine how much all religions are alike instead of how much they are different. Thus, we have organizations promoting a world religion that is based upon how much we all agree, perhaps that there is a god somewhere who is watching over all of us, one who may have a plan for each person, but one who does not really care much about what we do as long as we do not steal or kill. Upon this basis, a new religion can and may arise as the long-awaited "true" religion, since that kind of religion would eliminate any hatred or prejudice. Is that not the kind of religions that we want?

Well, that may be the religion of the future for most people in the world, but that is not the religion for me. We must be aware of the differences and not major on the likenesses of all religions, for that is what "maketh thee to differ from another . . ." In

this difference we find our identity.

In history we find that Baptists have always been identified by their difference, not by their likeness to other denominations and religions; thus, we have Baptist churches and Campbellite churches existing side by side as we travel through the south of the United States. We find names for even different kinds of Baptist churches: Primitive, Seventh-day, Enterprise, General, Particular, Free will, Missionary, etc.

Wherein do we differ? Are the differences worth considering? We differ in doctrine, and, yes, this is worth considering. The sameness sometimes comes out in terminology. Some have recently indicated that Baptists should be called Evangelical, but this word, according to Martin Luther, is what all Protestants should be called. Since we are not Protestants, we should not be called Evangelical. Now, that will rub some people the wrong way, but there it is!

True Baptists are different on salvation, on baptism, on church polity, and on many other things, from other denominations and other religions, and even other Baptists. This is what "maketh thee to differ from another . . ." We are, then, different, not the same.

Notice Leviticus 10:10 *And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; If we are to serve the Lord appropriately, we must make a difference between the holy and the unholy. We must know salvation from reformation, salvation from sanctification, and grace from works. These things make us differ.*

Believe me, if you are not different from the worldly religions, they will be sure to make you different when you preach that which is right. Notice Luke 6:22 *Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.* If we are different, we will be persecuted for what we believe; but the Lord has accounted us worthy to suffer for him: Philippians 1:29 *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;* The apostles were different, and the world hated them (Col 4:9).

(Continued on page 2)

What's The Difference?

(Continued from page 1)

Jesus was different, and the world hated him (John 15:18, 25). We are different, and the world does not like us because of our biblical and doctrinal stand (John 15:18).

We are different, because we are God's children (John 15:19). We are different, because we have been redeemed (Gal. 3:13). We are different, because we have scriptural baptism (Gal. 4:4-5). We are different, because we are members of the Lord's churches (1 Cor. 12:27). We are different, because we are a peculiar people (1 Peter 2:9). We are different, because we belong to Jesus Christ ("my people" Rom. 9:25; "my friends" John 15:14; "my sheep" John 10:27; "my disciples" John 13:35, etc.).

So, does it really make a difference? Yes, it does. Without Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5), but through Christ we can do all things (Phil. 4:13). Yes, it does make a difference, and the difference is Jesus Christ. Ω

Blessed Rain

By Ronnie W. Wolfe - September 5, 2011

How beautiful to hear the blessed rain
As drops from heaven's own reservoir
Beaming down, welcome as sun drops,
Received from heaven in this needed hour.

From God's Almighty store on high
Sweet rain comes down in sovereign care
And grips our soothing, thankful hearts
Appearing in transparence fair.

How beautiful the lonesome, solemn tears
As closely they their seasoned drops appear!
Resounding God's gracious, unselfish suffrage
To hear the patter on this my sinful ear.

To what contribute this the blessed gift,
To what the unwarranted bliss of love,
Unless it be from God's own bounty store,
Divine longsuffering from His own courts above?

Draw near to God, and God will draw
near to you.--

James 4:8

Work, work, from morning
until late at night. In fact,
I have so much to do that
I shall have to spend the
first three hours in prayer.
~ Martin Luther

Friendship

By Ronnie W. Wolfe — Nov. 7, 2011

No beauty day, no sunshine beam
Stronger more or greater seem
Than friendship.

Stranger than a sweet refrain
And strangely now descend like rain
Is friendship

Teach your heart and keep your mind,
Watch your life and be ye kind
For friendship.



Church Doodles

War And Peace

By Berlin Hisel

We see and hear much on the news today concerning war. We read or hear of racial and social disorder of every kind throughout our United States. With each new outbreak we hear of solutions proposed by men. The majority of remedies suggested do not get at the real problem. Ridding our country of slums and guaranteeing an actual income will not bring peace to this nation. Sending building material and economic aid and advisors to other nations will not avert war.

These solutions will fail because of what Jesus said. "For the poor always ye have with you..." (John 12:8). He also said, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars..." (Matt. 24:6). Shall someone make Christ a liar? For men to suppose they can change, this is to be found fighting against God (Acts 5:39).

The world's trouble is not caused by environment or social standing. It is caused by sin. Man is a sinner. His evil, sinful nature brings forth what is said above. Churches, in the majority, have joined the world to change environments. Churches were commissioned by the Lord to preach the gospel, not to reform the world. The gospel puts Jesus Christ on the inside of men where it does some good. Churches should be preaching institutions, not seething pots of social reform.

There is, however, a peace which Jesus does give. It is peace to the individual and not worldwide. When one believes on Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior, there comes a peace to that individual that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7).

Remember, changing situations will not change the man. The man can be changed by Christ in the heart and this will change his situation and environment. He is changed by *faith* in Christ (II Cor. 5:17).

*"The Baptist Defence"
Berlin Hisel, 1978*

***And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.
Matthew 24:6***

"To The Ephesians"

*An Outline Study of Ephesians
By Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe*

- 14 Doctrines Taught In First Chapter
- Christ As The Head Of The Body
- The Body Is The Church (local)
- Christ Not The Head IN The Church
- Christ Is Head OVER The Church
- There Is One Body
- There Is One Spirit
- There Is One Hope
- There Is One Lord
- There Is One Faith
- There Is One Baptism - 87 Pages

*You may have a copy of this for any
donation to First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 201 - Harrison, OH 45030*

Antioch Baptist College

Online Classes

By Dr. Ronnie Wolfe



**Two Classes Completed
And ready for students
To take:**

Anthropology / Ecclesiology

Teacher: Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

Under Construction:

Pauline Epistles

Teacher: Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

If you are interested in taking any of these Classes, please contact Antioch Baptist College
Web Site: www.antiochbaptistcollege.net
Phone Number: (513) 779-4316

The Baptist Defence

First Baptist Church
P. O. Box 201
Harrison, OH 45030-0201

Non-profit Organization U.S. Postage
P A I D
Harrison, OH 45030
Permit #101

Return Service Requested

One Hope - By Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

1. We Have Hope Of The Promise (Acts 26:6). This is the hope (or assurance) that the promise that God gave to the fathers is a sure and steadfast hope, one that can be tested and trusted.
2. We Have Hope Of The Glory Of God (Rom. 5:2). This is our hope of God's glory and its being manifested in His Son, Jesus Christ (John 1:14) and the glory of His coming and our hope for Heaven.
3. We Have Hope Of The Gospel (Col. 1:23). This sure hope is one that exists because of God's plan and purpose for the believer. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16) and has nothing to do with our own efforts.
4. We Have The Hope Of Glory (Col. 1:27). This is the great mystery that Paul expounds in his writings, especially to the Ephesians and Colossians. This hope is "Christ in you." If Christ is not in you, then you are not His.
5. We Have Hope Of Eternal Life (Titus 1:2; 3:7). This sure and steadfast hope is bound up in the redemption of Christ and is a certainty to every believer in Christ. Eternal life is ours now as believers (1 John 3:1-3).
6. We Wear This Hope As A Helmet (1 Thess. 5:8). This hope protects us from the evils of the Wicked One and gives us comfort for the life that we live in Christ. We have assurance of Christ's protection and security as a helmet is worn on the head.
7. Some Have No Hope (Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:13). The lost have no hope, but the believer's hope is only in Christ, nothing else: his sacrifice, his suffering, his calling, and his gift of salvation, our only hope.



Welcome To First Baptist

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School 10:00 AM
Preaching Service 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM
(Bible Club for grades 2-6)
Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM