

THE BAPTIST DEFENCE

2007 - VOLUME 3 MAY, 2007

ANSWER TO A SMALL MAN'S QUESTION

BY MARK WILLIAMS

Tanner,

I knew at some point you would get to this verse. I do not want to discourage your study or discussions with Dean. They can be healthy if they do not cause you to question your faith. The Scripture you have asked me to explain to you is a scripture which has been greatly debated by many men. This scripture is always used by men who believe in salvation by water baptism to say that you must be born of the water in order to be saved.

Greater men than I have debated this scripture. I have also debated this scripture many times myself. One thing I

have found is that the ones I debated wanted to just debate. They did not have a teachable spirit with a willingness to learn. They only wanted to prove that I was wrong. After many hours of trying to convince them of their error, with no avail, I always gave up. One thing that I have noticed is that they often get angry when you bring their interpretation of certain scriptures into question. Let me encourage you to be careful as you discuss this with Dean.

I have studied the doctrine of baptismal regeneration very closely. I wanted to know why I believed what I did. Many factors

were involved when I considered my position on this doctrine. One of them was my own experience. I know when my heart was changed. My heart was changed long before I entered the waters of baptism. This is one thing that can never be changed by anyone's interpretation of scripture. Another factor was the simple rules of interpretation of the Bible.

The rules of interpretation state that we should take the plain, sensible meaning of the scripture first. Also, scripture should interpret scripture. Additionally, scripture cannot contra-

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *May 12 - Visitation*
- *May 17 - Seniors*
- *May 22 - Seniors — Conner Prairie*
- *Trader's World*
- *May 11 - 15 — Vacation Bible School, 6:30 - 8:30 PM*
- *June 2 - Visitation*
- *June 21 - Seniors*
- *July 7 - Visitation*
- *July 10 - Answers In Genesis*
- *REVIVAL - Carl Morton, July 16 - 18*
- *July 25 - Mark Wallace going to Uganda*

COMMENT ON HEBREWS 6:1 By David Dickson

For many heard Christ's gracious sermons, and wondered and believed his words to be true: but Christ did not commit himself unto them; for he knew what was in them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PHOTO



Here are some of the girls in our Sunday School at First Baptist Church. They look like they are enjoying their time here.

Come And Join Them Sunday

Come and study the book of Hebrews with us on Sunday evenings at 6:00.

QUESTION (CONT. - PG. 1)

(Continued from page 1)

WE ALSO SEE THAT OUR FAITH AND THE POWER TO BECOME A SON OF GOD DOES NOT COME FROM THE WILL OF THE FLESH OR OUR OWN WILL BUT OF GOD.

dict scripture. In other words, when you have two scriptures which seem to contradict one another, the scriptures are not wrong, but your interpretation is wrong. We must keep these rules in mind when studying scripture. Also, I believe that we must come to the study of the scriptures with a prayerful heart. The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth.

Now, for the explanation of John 3:5. First, I want to start with what we know. We know what the scriptures say about salvation. We know how we are born again, and that the originator of our regeneration is God. Regeneration is being born again. Many scriptures bear this out:

Ephesians 2:8,9: *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.* We see from this scripture

that salvation is a gift from God, and we did not work to get it. In other words, if we do anything to gain salvation, it is no longer by grace.

John 1:12, 13: *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.* Notice, the power to become a son of God comes from God. We also see that the power to become a son of God comes from our faith. We also see that our faith and the power to become a son of God does not come from the will of the flesh or our own will but of God. We become the sons of God because God wills it to be so.

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.* Again from this scripture

we see that God is the originator of our coming unto the Father. We cannot come to God on our own; the Spirit must draw us. The promise is that when we come to him, he will raise us up at the last day. We cannot come to God on our own time, when we decide. He draws us to Himself.

John 6:47: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.* In this scripture, we see the promise of eternal life. Two things I want you to notice about this scripture. First, it is those who believe. Second, we see "hath" everlasting life. The word hath is a present possession. It also means it is something we will continue to possess. Upon being born again we have in our possession eternal life. In this scripture we see eternal life comes to one who believes.

Let me explain the
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DID YOU KNOW?

Some people can:

1. Be enlightened
2. Taste of the Heavenly Gift
3. Be partakers of the Holy Spirit
4. Taste the good Word of God
5. Taste of the powers of the world to come ...

... and still be lost?

In Hebrews 6:4-6 we find that this is true, because Paul was persuaded "better things" of these Hebrews, even the things that accompany salvation (See Heb. 6:9).

Salvation is based upon a promise that God gave to Abraham, and Abraham obtained the promise after having patiently endured.

Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Can you do the same?

SUNDAY SCHOOL PHOTO

These young folks, along with the teachers, have assembled to sing some Christian songs and to enjoy the study of God's Word.

Sit With Them Sunday



QUESTION (CONT. - PG. 2)

(Continued from page 2)

"process" of salvation. Salvation comes to us when we are born again. We were chosen to salvation before the world began. In time, God sends His Holy Spirit to convict our hearts through the preaching of the gospel. In God's time, the Holy Spirit makes the Word of God effective in our lives. The Spirit reveals to us our sin by quickening our minds and spirits. We then can see our sin and our need for a Savior. The Holy Spirit then grants us repentance and faith. We then call upon Jesus to forgive us of our sins. You may ask, how long does this process take? It is instantaneous. When the Holy Spirit quickens your heart, you are made alive. The first acts of being born again are repentance and faith.

Now that we have discussed what salvation is, let us explain what it is not. Salvation is not of works. So, therefore, if we must do anything to be saved, salvation is no longer grace but debt. Therefore, baptism cannot be necessary, because that would be a work. You see, men have always tried to make salvation something they acquire by themselves. However, scripture bears out to us that salvation is not of the works of man's will but of God.

Knowing all of these

things, how do we interpret John 3:5? First, we cannot forget John 3:3. Except you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God. Remember, being born again comes first. What is being born again? It is being quickened of the Spirit, it is the Spirit of God's coming into your heart; it is being granted repentance and faith. Now, I want you to remember that Dean has heard every interpretation of this scripture that I am going to share with you. He also already has a defense ready for why it doesn't mean what we are going to say it means. Just because you cannot get him to believe what you say does not mean that he is right and you are wrong. You must believe the scriptures for yourself and know why you believe what you do.

John 3:5 It is always important to understand what is being discussed. Jesus and Nicodemus are discussing birth. In verse 4, Nicodemus asks, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? The response to the question of Nicodemus is John 3:5. So what do you think he is talking about? Since Nicodemus was asking how you can go into your mother's womb again, Jesus is saying that in order to be born again, you must be born the first time; then you can be born the second time. This expla-

nation makes the most sense. The water represents the first birth and the Spirit the second birth.

Now, there will be some who try to explain this scripture different ways. It is possible that Jesus is referring to the Word of God in this scripture. The Word of God is often referred to as "water" in the scripture. We know we must hear the Word of God before we can be born again.

Tanner, I want you to know I appreciate your desire to know the truth of this scripture. As you mature as a young man and a Christian, you will face many challenges. Some will be challenges to live your faith, even though those around you do not. Others will come by those who misinterpret the scriptures and attempt to deceive you from believing the truth. Because you will face these challenges, some things should be very important in your life. First, read your Bible and ask questions about things you do not understand. Second, attend church every time the doors are open. I know it may not be convenient at times, and things seem to be geared to the grownups; but you never know when a scripture like this will be taught, and if you miss this service, you will miss the teaching. Thanks again for asking the question. If you have any other questions, please ask. Ω

Dark Is The Valley

Dark is the valley
That lies o'er hills and plains.
Its memory darkens
The one o'er whom it reigns.

Deep is the valley
Where dread and fear abound,
This is the valley
Where screams and cries are found.

And in this valley
Men of sin are wont to stay,
For to this valley
They sank so far away.

That lonesome valley
Where no friends are near;
Inside that valley
No escape from lonely fear.

From that valley
The saints have turned away
By God's grace
Safe from it they stay.

To a mountain
One day they will arrive
From death taken
And made to be alive.

In that mountain
A Savior waits to greet
Each waiting saint
Who stands upon his feet

Looking at Him
With expectant voices cheer
And shout aloud
The joys of being here.

Alas! My friend
The valley waits for you
Who do not turn
And trust the One who's true.

As you faint
From every doubt and fear,
Rise and stand
Believing He is near.

Trust His blood
And all His work divine.
Hear His words
"Dear sinner, come and dine."

In that valley
The Devil's hand will stay,
From that valley
You'll come without delay.

In the mountain
You will forever dwell,
And you will know
Your soul is saved from Hell.

Oh the mountain
That drips with honey sweet!
Your home forever
To bow at Jesus' feet.

Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

Simply Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

"Simply Church"

Corner of Hill & Broadway Streets
P. O. Box 201
Harrison, OH 45030-0201

Phone: 513-367-6713
Fax: 513-367-6713
Email: firstharrison@aol.com

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WILD WEST WITNESS

RIDIN' IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS

2007 Vacation Bible School

First Baptist Church of Harrison
Hill & Broadway Sts - P. O. Box 201
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June 11 - 15, 2007

6:30 - 8:30 PM

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