

THE BAPTIST DEFENCE

VOLUME I - 2007 JANUARY, 2007

“Hear ye my defence ...” Acts 22:1

SWEARING ON THE BIBLE BY PASTOR RONNIE WOLFE

Should a matter of concern arise about the swearing in of a Senator on the Bible? Swearing on the Bible certainly seems like a good idea, because our country is known as a Christian nation; but is it really imperative for this to take place. Consider some thoughts.



the greatest country in the world. Thus, we have religious freedom in our great country, and the state has no power to establish a religion or to interfere with the free exercise of religion.

Because of this, presidents would not swear on a Bible that was taken from a church, because that may indicate that the president had leanings to one denomination or another. Rather, they would use a family Bible or a Bible from some other place.

Which Bible Should Be Used?

Now, if we are to require a president or senator to use a Bible for his swearing-in, then we must decide which Bible he is to use. Will he use the American Standard Version, the King James Version, the New International Version, the Douay Version, the New Confraternity Version, the New English Bible, or which one?

If we really want a person to believe the book on which he places his hand to be sworn in, then we may have a problem

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America Is Not A Christian State

Despite what many would like, this country of America is not a Christian state. Our founding fathers made sure that the state was not run by any particular denomination or religion. This, I believe, was a very good idea; and it has made America

BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY BY PASTOR RONNIE WOLFE



1 Cor. 12:13 *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

To see the importance and the proper under-

standing of this verse one must first consider its context in scripture. We notice in the first chapter and second verse of this wonderful book the words, *Unto the church of God which is at Corinth*

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SWEARING ON BIBLE (CONT.)

1 COR. 2:10 BUT
GOD HATH
REVEALED THEM
UNTO US BY HIS
SPIRIT: FOR THE
SPIRIT SEARCHETH
ALL THINGS, YEA,
THE DEEP THINGS
OF GOD.

11 FOR WHAT
MAN KNOWETH
THE THINGS OF A
MAN, SAVE THE
SPIRIT OF MAN
WHICH IS IN HIM?
EVEN SO THE
THINGS OF GOD
KNOWETH NO
MAN, BUT THE
SPIRIT OF GOD.

12 NOW WE HAVE
RECEIVED, NOT
THE SPIRIT OF THE
WORLD, BUT THE
SPIRIT WHICH IS
OF GOD; THAT WE
MIGHT KNOW THE
THINGS THAT ARE
FREELY GIVEN TO
US OF GOD.

13 WHICH
THINGS ALSO WE
SPEAK, NOT IN THE
WORDS WHICH
MAN'S WISDOM
TEACHETH, BUT
WHICH THE HOLY
GHOST TEACHETH;
COMPARING
SPIRITUAL THINGS
WITH SPIRITUAL.

with his using a modern version of the Bible, a version with the Apocrypha, or the Koran, which is Keith Ellison's choice for his swearing-in on a Senate seat.

John F. Kennedy used the Douay Version of his family Bible, which is a Catholic version of scriptures which includes the Apocrypha. What is the difference in his swearing on that Bible and Ellison swearing on the Koran? The Douay Version of the Bible tells about Bel and the Dragon and speaks of praying for the dead. Is the one worse than the other?

Why Not Just "Affirm" Your Allegiance To The Constitution?

Actually, the swearing-in of a government official is only to affirm that he or she will uphold the constitution of the United States. Do we need a Bible to do that? Does putting one's hand on a Bible guarantee that he or she will actually uphold the constitution? I don't think so! If a man or woman's word is no good, putting his hand on the Bible will not make it any more true or valid.

So, let the men and women simply tell us with their lips that they will uphold the constitution of the United States of America; because if they are men and women of their word, then they will do their best

to uphold the constitution, and if not, it will not matter even if they place their hands on a million Bibles.

Many people have problems with Keith Ellison, but the problem should not be with his swearing on the Koran but with his association with the Council on American Islamic Relations, which Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois says "is unusual in its extreme rhetoric and its association with groups that are suspect." New York Senator Charles Schumer once said that CAIR "has ties to terrorism" and that Ellison's supporter Awad has "intimate connections with Hamas." With all of this hanging over his head, why should we be concerned about which Bible he swears upon? What if he actually swore on the good old King James Version of the Bible? Would he be a better person, and would he disassociate himself with his "former" comrades?

The truth good or bad lies in a man's actions, not on his swearing in; so we will have to watch Mr. Ellison to see where his actions take him. If we neglect to follow his career, we may be surprised one day when his actions come to light while we slept. Perhaps he will make a good senator. That would be my prayer. Only time will tell, and we must pray for all of our government leaders. Ω

BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY

(Continued from page 1)

To this context we must link our verse under consideration. This is not a generic church, a universal, invisible church; it is a local, visible church where believers come together to worship the Lord and carry out the commission of our Lord.

Secondly, we must consider the Spirit in which believers are added to the local, visible church.

One Spirit

We learn much about this subject in 1 Cor. 2:10-13 (see left). In these verses we find that God has revealed some things that have not been seen by the human eye nor heard by the human ear nor entered into the heart of man.

It is by this same Spirit that believers in the Corinth church were able to determine the baptism by which believers should be added to their body. We know that immersion is the mode of baptism by the very meaning of the word.

By the same Spirit the Lord led the congregation at Corinth to authorize the immersion of believers.

There is no other Spirit like this One Spirit. He leads individual believers, and He leads churches in the direction of truth if they are truly the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ and if they will submit to His will.

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BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY
(Continued from page 2)

One Baptism

After the Holy Spirit has led the members of this church to recognize a proper confession of faith in a person, the church has the privilege of authorizing that person's baptism in water.

So this baptism is not a spiritual baptism of some kind (there is no such thing). It is a physical, visible, and wonderful water baptism where people are put down under the water symbolizing the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful thing for a church to experience! I wish we could experience at least one baptism a week.

There is only one baptism, and it is described plainly in scripture. John the Baptist dipped in water, and so did the disciples of our Lord. Baptists have always dipped in water and still do today.

One Body

In this passage there is One Spirit, which is the Holy Spirit of God. There is one baptism, which is immersion in water. There is also one body, which is a local, visible assembly of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are not somehow in a spiritual way baptized into the Kingdom of God, as many teach today; we are immersed into (or in relation to) the church which gives authority for our baptism.

Baptism is associational: the believer is associated with, linked to, or concerned about the local church where he is baptized. We do not baptize people and let them go. We baptize them and expect them to be members and expect them to work in and through the church which baptized them.

There is not one sole body; there is one kind of body. When Jesus said in Matt 16:38 *I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*, he was not

speaking of one sole church that exists around the world; he was speaking of His kind of church, His kind of body—Col 1:18 *And he is the head of the body, the church*

A body which teaches a good-works salvation is not that one kind of church. A church which teaches that a person must be baptized to be saved is not that one kind of church. A church which teaches any other gospel than that which Paul preached and received is not that one kind of church.

We are baptized by one Spirit, the Spirit of God as He leads the local churches. We are baptized into one body, which is the local church through which the Spirit leads and which has the authority to immerse believers in water, and each believer is responsible to serve in that one church.

Important Notes

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PRAY THAT GOD WILL SEND GOOD PASTORS TO THESE CHURCHES.

SUNDAY MORNING ALARM

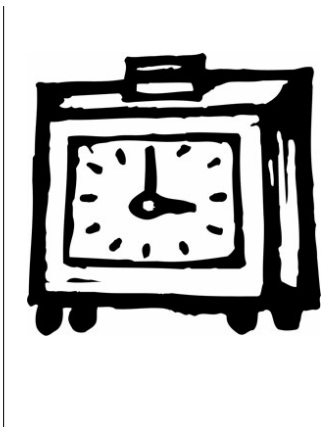
"Have you any alarm clocks?" inquired the customer. "What I want is one that will rouse father without waking the whole family."

"I don't know of any such alarm clock as that, madam," said the shopkeeper. "We keep just the ordinary kind that will wake the whole family without

disturbing father."

How about getting an alarm clock that will wake up the entire family early enough to get to Sunday School a little early.

Every child needs to be in Sunday school, and every parent needs to bring the children rather than send them to Sunday School. See you Sunday!



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**OUR 59TH
ANNIVERSARY
WILL BE ON
MARCH 25, 2007**

TELL ABOUT HEAVEN
IN 2007

Happy 2007

As we travel through this new year of 2007, we do not know what challenges we will meet; but we know that our Lord God is the same all the time: God never changes.

Every day, look for that wonderful manifestation of God in your life. Take him at his promise, and encourage yourself in the Lord. When others let us down, our Lord is there and will never leave us.

Do some things for the Lord today and throughout this year. Be faithful in church attendance, in Bible study, in Sunday School, in helping around the church, in witnessing of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. This is what God expects us to do, and this we should do.

We should not expect special honor or recognition for these things, because we are merely servants of God. Remember John 15:20 *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

In the new year, let us simply serve the Lord and make everything else take second or third place. This will make us happy and will further the Kingdom of God to his glory.



A Quarter A Week To Feed The Hungry

Would you give a quarter a week to feed the hungry? I am not talking about giving food to starving children. I am talking about giving Bibles to people who are hungry for spiritual food. Bring one quarter each week to Sunday School, and we will send money to a church which prints and distributes Bibles to those who are spiritually hungry. I believe God will bless our efforts in this. Young and old alike can get involved in this. May God bless our efforts for His Glory.

THE BAPTIST DEFENCE

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