



May 21, 2006 (Vol. 6)

TRUTH - The Way God Sees It (2)

by Douglas W. Hill
member of North Sparta church of Christ

God's word is Truth (John 17:17), not man's opinions. Even so, many people approach truth as subjective or "the way I see it." Have you ever considered what a feeble position it is to equate man made opinions, religious feelings & traditions with revealed Truth? This is especially hard to fathom when so many of these ideas contradict the express word of God and the rest contradict principles of His Word. What are some examples?

1. The denial of baptismal regeneration. We know denominations deny this. Yet what does the Spirit of Grace say? "Grace and truth came through Jesus" (John 1:18). Baptism was not revealed as part of the Law of Moses. You do not find it in Genesis through Malachi. Rather, you find it in the New Testament and firmly attached to preaching the "gospel" (Mark. 16:15-16).

Further, Peter wrote, "seeing ye have purified your souls in obedience to the truth..." (1 Pet. 1:22). He adds that this truth is the gospel which they preached (v. 25). He then clarifies that this truth is illustrated by Noah's salvation "through water" (3:20). Now notice what Noah's salvation is a figure or foreshadowing of in v. 21:

(TCNT) And baptism, which this foreshadowed, now saves you--not the mere cleansing of the body, but the search of a clear conscience after God--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

(WEB) This is a symbol of baptism, which now saves you...

(WNT) And, corresponding to that figure, the water of baptism now saves you...

(YLT) also to which an antitype doth now save us--baptism...

Noah's salvation is the type, the figure, the shadow of baptism. Many today look at baptism as a symbol of what already took place (salvation). But how then does Peter say it "now saves you"? Peter denied that it is a symbol and affirmed that it is the real spiritual moment of salvation.

Again notice some parallel passages: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of **water** and of **the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5) "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the **washing of water by the word**," (Eph 5:26). The new birth involves two elements: water and the Spirit. The sanctification & cleansing of those who become Christ's involves water and the word. Now what relationship does being born anew have with water and the word of the Spirit?

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the **washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost**;" (Titus 3:5) That is right, "regeneration" and "renewing". And no matter how firmly men deny "regeneration"

occurring in the waters of baptism, the Spirit said that is exactly what takes place.

Note that I did not say the water regenerates. No, no. But it is definitely when one is regenerated by faith in the Word of the Spirit. The only thing we need to consider on this is: Will we believe men or God? Will we submit to what the Spirit has revealed or reject that for what men teach? Friends, God said, it is therefore Truth... now what will you do?

(To be continued)

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Home Bible Study** – Sat., May 27.
- **Business Meeting** – Sun. May 28 @ 5pm.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Ron Roberts, Oct.15-20, 2006.
- **Men’s & Ladies Classes** - Tues, June 13 @ 7 pm.

PRAY FOR

Mag Bumbalough, Greg Capps, Sabrina Capps, Thelma Cunningham, Donald Eller, Holly Jernigan (Joyce Gardner’s niece has cancer), **John Ross Key** (Mary Cox’s son), **Marci Miller** (Alisa Fletcher’s mother), **Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Rose Taylor, Doris Williams, Wayne Williams** (Doris’ son), **Horace Jones** (Doris William’s brother), **Ruth Williams** (Betty England’s niece), **Wanda Frazier; Robert England, Joyce Gardner; Ocia Bell-Jones & Charlie Jones** (Mother & brother to Doris Williams); **Sheila Eller** (Expecting); **Mia Godsey, Greg Sims** (Ralph Sims’ nephew, recovering from open heart).

Those in Iraq: Jason Zelenak (Alisa Fletcher’s brother), **Cary Matheny.**

We Invite You To All Our Services!

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| Sunday Bible Study | 9 am |
| Sunday Morning Worship | 10 am |
| Sunday Evening Worship | 6 pm |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 7 pm |

Are We Zealous For Good Works (Titus 2:14)?

Have You Read Your Bible This Week?

Have You Prayed For An Open Door?

Have You Invited Someone?

Have You Visited The Physically Sick? Or Edified The Weak?

Take thought for things that would fit Titus 2:14, and do them!

North Sparta church of Christ

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