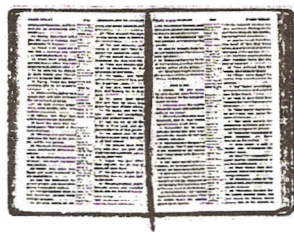


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for *reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*" (2 Timothy 3:16)

Volume 46

APRIL, 2009

Number 4

SOME THINGS THAT MAN CANNOT PROVE! (NO. 4)

As our study of some things that are often taught or preached that man can not prove by the Scriptures continues, we are considering the statement that "Believers today receive Holy Spirit baptism like the apostles did on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2" that we began considering in our article last month. Our **reply** to the above statement continues.

In Acts 1:5 (*speaking to the apostles*) Jesus said: "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." In verse 5 He said: "...Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..." In Acts 2 we have a record of the apostles (the twelve) being "filled with the Holy Ghost." They spake "with other **tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*" **languages - Ed*

NOTE: The reasons the apostles received Holy Spirit baptism was for the revelation and confirmation of the New Testament. (See John 14:26; 15:26 & 16:12-15).

The only other recorded case of Holy Spirit baptism is when Cornelius (and other Gentiles) received it as recorded in Acts 10 & 11. A careful study of those two passages

should make it clear that they did receive Holy Spirit baptism. Acts 10:44 says "the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word." Verse 45 says "on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost." Verse 47 says "which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we."

In Acts 11:15-18 the apostle Peter said: "As I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning." That reminded him that Jesus had promised the apostles Holy Ghost baptism. He said: "Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us..."

When they (the apostles & brethren in Judaea - Ed) heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." OBSERVATION: When these Jewish brethren heard that the Gentiles had received Holy Ghost baptism like the Jewish apostles did on Pentecost, they accepted the fact that Gentiles as well as Jews could become Christians! NOTE: We have the truth revealed & confirmed & we accept that Gentiles can be Christians! There is no need for Holy Spirit baptism today! (CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950.

ELDERS

Lionel Gary

Rex Henson

Carrol R. Sutton

DEACONS

Mike Pack

Jerry Tucker

Gerald White

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Website: <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com>

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950 or at <theinstructor@bellsouth.net> or at (256) 878-0920 or <sutton413@bellsouth.net>

Second-class postage paid in

Albertville, AL 35950.

Editorial...

"MANY...BUT ONE"

Paul, the apostle, said "...
There is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many, But to us there is but one God, the Father,...and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge..." (1 Cor. 8:4-7)

It should be of interest to all of us to know what the word of God teaches on any and all subjects. To learn this we must appeal to the Scriptures and give diligence in our studies of them.

A careful reading of the above statements will show conclusively that there are some things about which it can be said that **"there are many, but one."** This is a paradox! It is "a state-

ment that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet is perhaps true."

NOTE: Since an inspired writer (the apostle Paul) wrote it, without question, **it is true!**

Let us examine the above statement and see what it is saying and thus what it is teaching.

(1) In verse 4 we learn that **"an idol is nothing in the world"** although some offered sacrifices to idols.

(2) In verse 4 we learn that **"there is none other God but one."**

(3) In verse 5 we learn that there are those that **"are called gods"** and in that sense **"there be gods many, and lords many."**

(4) Without question these verses are teaching that there are many *false gods* (idols) and many *false lords*.

(5) Verse 6 says: **"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."** NOTE: Since we (Christians) know that idols are nothing in the world, we recognize them for what they are. They are nothing but *false gods*! The *"many lords"* that exist are really nothing in the world, but *false lords* and we recognize them as such!

CONCLUSION: There are *many gods* that are *false*, but there is *only one true God, the Father*, of whom are all things, and we in him! There are *many lords* that are *false*, but there is *only one true Lord Jesus Christ*, by whom are all things, and we by him!

YES, THERE ARE MANY, BUT ONE

In Eph. 4:4-6 the apostle Paul declared that **"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."** NOTE: In this passage we are told that **"there is one"** God, Lord, Spirit, faith, baptism, body and hope!

Based on the principle that we studied and learned from 1 Cor. 8:4-7 let us consider each of the "ones" in Eph. 4:4-6 that we did not study in 1 Cor. 8:4-7. We discussed one true God and the one true Lord in contrast with the many false ones!

Let us now discuss the fact that **"there is one...Spirit."** In similar wording to the statements found in 1 Cor. 8:4-7 we would say: *"For though there be that are called spirits... (as there be spirits many,...) But to us there is but one Spirit..."*

In the records of the baptism of Jesus by John the baptizer, the expressions "the Spirit of God", "the Spirit" and "the Holy Ghost" are used interchangeably. These expressions refer to the "one Spirit" (Mt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22 & John 1:32-33). In view of this fact, let us consider some passages that deal with the one Spirit. Here are some of them:

1. Mt. 28:19- **"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."** NOTE: When a penitent believer is baptized **"for the remission of sins"** (Acts 2:38), he is baptized into a relationship

with the Father, the Son, and the *Holy Spirit.*

2. Acts 2:38; 5:32; 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 1:22; Gal. 3:2; 4:6; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 1 John 3:24 & 1 John 4:13 teach us that we are given the Holy Spirit. It is an earnest of our inheritance. We have been sealed with it. It dwells in us. Our body is the temple in which it dwells.

3. John said: **"...Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."** (1 John 4:1) It is obvious from this verse that there are "many spirits" which are false. NOTE: **There are many false spirits, but one true Holy Spirit. Yes, "many, but one."**

We will now examine the fact that **"there is one...faith."** The expression **"the faith"** is used to refer to the system of faith, the gospel, the perfect law of liberty, the word, etc. (See Jude 3; Acts 6:7; Rom. 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:8; 1 Pet. 1:24-25; James 1:25; 2:12, etc.) Although there are many "faiths" that are *false*, **there is but one true faith!** (See Gal. 1:6-12). **Yes, there are many, but one!**

Paul also said **"there is one...baptism."** Prior to this, there had been a number of baptisms in God's plan as set forth in other passages, but when this was written there was only one! Paul said so!

Today there are various and "many baptisms" but there is but one baptism! In Acts 2 there were two baptisms in effect – Holy

Spirit baptism and water baptism. In Acts 10 (at the house of Cornelius there were two baptisms in effect – Holy Spirit baptism and water baptism!

By the time that Paul wrote Eph. 4:4-6 there was only one baptism in effect! Holy Spirit baptism was provisional and was never intended to last throughout the gospel age. However, since water baptism is a condition of salvation (see the commission given by Jesus after His resurrection in Mt. 28:19-20 & Mk. 16:15-16) it was to be in effect as long as men are lost and thus need saving. It was designed to last throughout the gospel age! *Yes, there are many false baptisms but only one true baptism!*

Paul also said "there is one... body." We learn from Col. 1:18 & Eph. 1:22-23 that *the church is the body!* 1 Cor. 12:20 says: "But now are they many members, yet but

one body." Language could not be any plainer! ***There is but one church!*** However all of us know that there are hundreds of different churches in the world. In view of this we must conclude that there are many *false churches* and ***only one true church!*** ***Yes, there are many, but one!***

In Eph. 4 Paul also said "there is one...hope." This one hope is based on our faith in the one God, the one Lord, the one Holy Spirit and our obedience to the one faith, submitting to the one baptism and being baptized into the one body!

Study carefully Rom. 8:24; Tit.1:2; Heb. 6:18-19; Col. 1:5, 23 & Rom. 8:23. NOTE: *Yes, there are many false hopes but only one true hope!* (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS at Underwood Heights in Florence, AL – April 12 – 19, 2009 - Regular times on the Lord's Day -7:00pm nightly - *Carrol R. Sutton, preaching.*
Make plans to visit with us and please tell others!

SENTENCE SERMONS

It seems to me that the life that a person lives is the religion that he practices!

* * * * *

Wisdom often prevents us from saying some things that we think and would like to say.

* * * * *

Love and humility will prompt us to ask forgiveness and to forgive others!

* * * * *

To train children at home, both the parents and the children must spend some time there.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 US Highway 431
Albertville, AL 35950

Periodical Postage