

THE THREE ELEMENTS OF SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM
Acts 19:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Baptism is a part of the Christian religion
 - 1) No one can deny it's existence
 - 2) It is an area of great disagreement
- B. We should not be uneasy and afraid when we study it
 - 1) The Bible is revelation, not mysticism
 - 2) It is possible to know the truth
- C. In these verses we see that scriptural baptism consists of three elements
 - 1) Most Baptists believe there are only two
 - a. The right candidate, a believer
 - b. The right mode, immersion
 - 2) Here we see twelve people who were believers, who had been immersed, yet their baptism was flawed and thus rejected by the Holy Spirit.
 - a. They were "disciples" and "believers"
 - b. They had "John's baptism", immersion.
 - c. They did not have the "gifts, spirituals"

I. Paul Found Certain Disciples at Ephesus vs. 1

- A. "Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus"
 - 1) Paul had been here before 18:19
 - 2) He had left Aquila and Priscilla here
- B. "and finding certain disciples"
 - 1) "finding" = heurisko = "to find, as without seeking"
 - 2) "disciples" = mathetes = "a student", "a learner" In the New Testament it may mean one who follows both the teacher and the teaching.

II. These Disciples Were Saved vs. 2

- A. Paul was instantly aware that they were lacking in spiritual gifts.
 - 1) "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"
 - a. "received" = paralambano = "to take near", "receive with or to one's self"
 - b. "believed" = pisteuo = "be persuaded", "to rely on", "fully assured and unswerving confidence"
 - 2) Why would Paul ask such a question?
 - a. No evidence of Spiritual fruit
 - b. No evidence of Spiritual gifts
 - 3) What did the correction bring? vs. 6
 - 4) He did not tell them how to be saved
 - 5) They were a "church" without gifts

B. They needed the gifts, not salvation

- 1) "we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost"
- 2) "heard" = eisakouo = "to hear to", "to listen to"
- 3) "Nay! not even whether there is Holy Spirit did we hear" Rhm. 26 translations
- 4) This is proof that they had not received their baptism from John's hand, for he plainly taught the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 5) Matthew 3:11, Acts 1:4-5
- 6) This was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost when the church received the gifts of the Spirit.

III. These Disciples Had Been Immersed

vs. 3

A. "And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized?"

- 1) "baptized" = baptizo = "to dip", "to immerse"
- 2) "What baptism, then, did ye receive?"

B. "And they said, Unto John's baptism."

- 1) The Apostles had John's baptism
- 2) Jesus had John's baptism
- 3) Paul had "church" baptism It is Just as Good!

IV. Their Immersion Was Flawed

vs. 4

A. "Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance."

- 1) Here we see repentance as a necessary act before John would administer baptism.
- 2) The mode is certainly immersion

B. John's baptism was predictive

- 1) "saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."
- 2) John's baptism prefigured the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. This was, "to come"

C. John's baptism pointed to the coming one. After Jesus had appeared and had literally fulfilled the act, then all baptism is to be a historical statement. He has died. He has been buried. He has been raised. It is now after the fact and must include His name, or title.

- 1) Matthew 28:18-20
- 2) They were ignorant of these facts

V. The Correction of Their Flawed Baptism

vs. 5

A. "when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

- 1) "heard" = akouo = "to have the faculty of hearing", "be informed"
- 2) "baptized" = "immersed"
- 3) "name" = honoma = "the proper name of a person" Titles are not enough. The name is now necessary.

B. The evidence of their scriptural baptism

vs. 6

- 1) "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."
- 2) The Apostles could impart spiritual gifts to a scriptural congregation, II Tim. 1:6 or person.
- 3) Tongues were for a sign, that the gifts were in a congregation, and to those who were unbelievers.
- 4) It was a sign of God's acceptance of a Gentile congregation. Was before baptism because of the unbelief and prejudice of the Jews. Acts 10:44-48.

C. These two gifts were very important

- 1) They could preach to any person on earth
- 2) They would know God's will for themselves

VI. Do You Have Scriptural Baptism?

A. Were you a believer?

B. Were you immersed?

C. By what or by who's authority?

