



The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

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April 1st, 2007

The Powerful Word of God

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Seldom ever in the age of man has the Word of God occupied its rightful and supreme position in the affairs of life. Man has failed to appreciate and respect the Bible as God's absolute and final will for man. No other book in the annals of history has had so many enemies as God's word, the Bible. But God's Word is enduring (**1 Peter 1:25; Matthew 24:35**), powerful, it's God's **DYNAMITE**. *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (**Hebrews 4:12**). *"It is the power of God unto salvation"* (**Romans 1:16**). The power of the Word of God is compared to the crushing impact of a hammer which breaks a rock into pieces (**Jeremiah 23:29**). It *"cannot be broken"* (**John 10:35**).

From these passages it is apparent that God's Word is active and working, powerful

enough to do what it is designed to do (**Isaiah 55:11**). The very nature of God's Word is such that it will do its job in the one who hears it. It gives men the *"power to become the sons of God"* (**John 1:12**). It is powerful enough to lead the unbeliever to faith in Christ (**Romans 10:17**). We can see the active power of the Word in conversion (**Psalms 19:7**), in the new birth (**John 3:5**), in spiritual warfare (**Ephesians 6:17**), in direction (**Jeremiah 10:23**), in the prevention of sin (**Psalms 119:11**). It saves (**James 1:21**), sanctifies (**John 17:17**), cleanses (**Ephesians 5:26**), it gives light and understanding (**Psalms 119:105,130**), and it can expose and destroy false philosophies and imaginations (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**).

God's Word has the energy, the capability to accomplish all these things that He has designed it to do. God's Word has to do with things *"that pertain to life and godliness"* (**2 Peter 1:3**). However, it cannot do its work if

it is not allowed to!

The Word of God is living, active, sharp, pierces, divides and discerns. Friends, the Bible has endured time, persecution, and criticism because it is the eternal Word of our eternal God.

Are We Drifting From The Old Paths?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

There can be no argument about our drifting. Attitudes have softened, approaches have varied, spiritual knowledge has diminished, and the boundary line between truth and error has almost been annihilated, demolished and erased. That which once was defended on the basis of principle is now sacrificed on the altar of expediency. What once was opposed on the basis of human doctrine is now accepted on the basis of situation ethics. **YES**, we are drifting!

One area we are drifting in is the accepting of members who have come in on their denominational baptism. We are told that they were baptized "for remission of sins" and, therefore, their baptism was scriptural. We do injury to a man in trying to extend fellowship when he is out of Christ.

In **Acts 19:1-7**, we read of the apostle Paul finding twelve men who had been baptized with the baptism of John. They were baptized again. Yet, John's baptism was "for remission of sins" (**Mark 1:4**). If "remission of sins" is all that is required, then those twelve would not have been baptized again; but they were. When Paul had explained the difference between John and the Lord Jesus, they were baptized "in the name of the Lord Jesus."

It is a tragic mistake to pretend that baptism has only one purpose. The truth is that God's word reveals several things that result from baptism. "He that believeth and is baptized shall

be saved" (**Mark 16:16**). One who is baptized "because I am saved" is not obeying Christ in the purpose He had for baptism. Such a person (like those in Acts 19) should be baptized in obedience to Christ. There are other purposes of baptism: "into Christ" (**Gal. 3:27**), "into the death" of Jesus (**Rom. 6:3**), to be "born again" and begin "newness of life" (**Jno. 3:5; Rom. 6:4**). In **1 Cor. 12:13** we read, "for by one spirit are we all baptized into one body." That body is the church of which Christ is head (**Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18**): **IT IS NOT A DENOMINATION (1 Cor. 1:10-13)**.

Anyone baptized for the wrong purpose **MUST** be baptized again to please the Lord. The one baptized because he "is already saved" has missed the purpose of baptism and should be baptized for the right reason. But, in the same way, one baptized into a denomination has missed the purpose of baptism into the one body, the church of Christ, and he should be baptized for the right purpose. If one says "they didn't know it was a denomination when they were baptized", the answer of **Acts of 19** still applies: those twelve men didn't know that John's baptism was no longer in effect. When they found out the truth about it, they were "baptized in Jesus' name." In the same way, when one learns the truth about the church, he will reject denominational baptism and be "baptized into one body" which is the Lord's church.

We do injury to a man in trying to extend fellowship when he is out of Christ. Thereby we lull him into a false sense of security, making him feel justified before God while he is yet in his sins.

Tragically, it is true that due to unconverted preachers, many unconverted folk have been received in fellowship, and both they and the church stand in jeopardy. Brethren, we've drifted too far already! It is time that we begin to defend the Bible, and the church!