

... avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. **Titus 3:9**

Store In My Heart 2Corinthians 5:11

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

About a year after the earlier letter Paul again wrote to the brethren in Corinth. He was now in Macedonia and would visit them before long. This letter points out some things that need to be corrected still among these brethren. Unity in the spread of the Gospel and the need to be holy in all of life along with forgiveness, take up a large portion of this writing. Instructions about giving and Paul's defense of his ministry are also included.

The problems at Corinth stemmed from their focus on self rather than Christ and one another. This is a continual problem among the people of God. We must willingly give up self, or we will never grow in our service to God. We must think less of self, more of Him.

Error Must Be Addressed!

Max Dawson

In our continuing journey with Paul, we have recently been with him at Jerusalem, Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth. Paul stayed at Corinth for a year and a half as he taught the word of God. He then visited a few other cities, but returned to Antioch (**Acts 18:18-23**). This marked the end of Paul's second missionary journey. By the way, we were introduced to Priscilla and Aquila at Corinth as they worked with Paul (**Acts 18:1-3**). It now appears that they are traveling with the apostle (**Acts 18:18**).

As Paul was wrapping up his second journey, he made a short visit to Ephesus (**Acts 18:19-21**). Upon departing for Antioch, he left Priscilla and Aquila behind at Ephesus where they encountered a teacher named Apollos (**Acts 18:24-26**).

The text tells us that Apollos was "*an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures.*" In spite of his speaking ability and knowledge in the Old Testament Scriptures, he was in error with respect to baptism. Though he was accurate in many things he taught, he knew only the baptism of John. Aquila, assisted by his wife, Priscilla, took him aside and explained the way of God to him more accurately. Apollos then moved on from Ephesus and was effective in teaching at the city of Corinth (**Acts 18:27-28**).

When Paul returned to Ephesus, he found some disciples who may have been influenced by the error of Apollos (**Acts 19:1-5**). Paul learned of their baptism by first asking them a question about the Holy Spirit. These disciples had not even heard of the Holy Spirit! Their answer let Paul know that what they had been taught was incomplete. So Paul asked them, "*Into what were you baptized?*" They answered, "*Into John's baptism.*"

John's baptism was temporary in nature, pointing forward to the one who was to come (**Acts 19:4**; see also **Matthew 3:1-12**). John's baptism was no longer valid. From the Day of Pentecost onward,



baptism was administered by the authority of Christ (**Acts 2:38**). It was a baptism into Christ, into His death (**Romans 6:3**). Baptism under the New Covenant is not the same as John's baptism. All who were baptized from Pentecost onward were baptized into His death. John's baptism did not put one into the death of Jesus. It was no longer authorized or administered by the authority of God. Thus, it was no longer valid.

After Paul corrected the error of those disciples he found at Ephesus, they were properly baptized (**Acts 19:4-5**). The text says, *"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."*

Following their baptism, Paul laid his hands on these twelve men, giving them miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:6-7). By the Holy Spirit these men *"spoke with tongues and prophesied."* Do you recall when we were with Peter and John at Samaria, that we saw the same thing? That the miraculous gifts of the Spirit were given by the laying on of the apostles' hands? (**Acts 8:14-19**).

While we will see more of Paul's time at Ephesus next week (this is from his email blog, DLH), the simple lesson to be drawn from today's study is that leaders address error when it is encountered. Aquila and Priscilla corrected the error of Apollos. Paul addressed the error that the disciples at Ephesus were taught. Both cases had to do with baptism. I would add this: It is reasonable and proper to ask people about their baptism. Paul did it. We do the same, even though folks sometimes get upset when questioned about it. Why do we ask about their baptism? Because of what is supposed to be accomplished at the point of baptism.

It is at the point of baptism that we are saved and come into Christ (**Acts 2:38, 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27**, etc.). So many people have not been baptized in accord with what these scriptures teach! They have received something called "baptism" that is different from what we see in the book of Acts.

Kingdom leaders know to ask the right questions.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
— MEETS HERE —



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Ruben Keisler will have elbow surgery, Monday July 13.

Brenda Keisler is doing physical therapy for some help with her neck & back pain.

JoBeth Henderson is recovering nicely from her surgery. She has a follow-up appointment on July 21.

Amy Simpson is doing better after hip problems last week.

Jack & Deberah Brooks have been dealing with sinus issues this past week.

Tommy Robinson should see his doctor again this month.

Sunday @ 5 - **Isaiah 65:8** Wednesday @ 7 - **Luke 1**