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From the editor:

Doctrines.

There are two ways to arrive at a doctrine to be used in churches.

The first one is to start with a concept, generally derived from some religious tradition, and then try to find some (half) scriptures to add to it to give this doctrine some "authority"

The second one is to find ALL the scriptures regarding a certain subject, discover the connection between these scriptures and come to a conclusion as to how to apply this.

A typical example of the first is the doctrine about sprinkling some drops of water on the forehead of babies and calling it Baptism.

In the Dutch Reformed religion there is a book added in the back of the Bible called the "Catechisms" This is a complete year study spread over 52 Sundays and has a different subject for every Sunday.

The 2nd lesson for the 27th Sunday reads: "Shall we then also Baptize young Children?"

This is answered in the affirmative and followed by a number of scriptures, allegedly supporting this doctrine.

We find the following scriptures:

Genesis 17:7 Matthew 19:14 Luke 1:15 Psalms 22:10 Isaiah 44:1-3 Acts 2:39 Acts 10:47 Genesis 17:14 Colossians 2:11-13

If we look through these scriptures we only find mention of baptism in two of them.

Acts 10 verse 47 is mentioned. This verse is of course preceded by verse 44-46.

This reads:

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

These verses are often quoted to say that there must have been small children in this family and that they must have been baptized also.

Firstly, this is an assumption and secondly they must have spoken in tongues because the directive to baptize refers to the ones who have just "received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" Babies don't speak in tongues! (verse 46) so, if there were any, they were not baptized! In *Colossians 2:11-13* there is also a reference to baptism. "Buried with him in baptism" is mentioned.

Two points are important. One, this talks about *burial!* Two, it talks about "*him*"

We know that Jesus was never sprinkled as a Baby but was baptized by John the Baptist right under the water. It seems very logical to conclude that this talks in no way whatsoever about sprinkling Babies but rather following Jesus in Baptism.

The other "supporting" scriptures don't need to be discussed. They say nothing at all remotely connected with Baptism.

All this foregoing is a typical example of what Jesus calls "doctrines of men"

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men.

Let us now look at the second method. Let us find ALL the scriptures regarding Baptism and discover the connection between these scriptures and come to a conclusion as to how to apply this.

We find the following:

The word "Baptism" is used 22 times in the Bible.

The word "Baptized" is used 51 times in the Bible.

The word "Baptize" is used 7 times in the Bible.

The word "Baptizing" is used 4 times in the Bible.

In a great number of cases "Submersion" of Adults is specifically mentioned.

There is no scripture whatsoever talking about babies being sprinkled.

It goes beyond the scope of this epistle to go through all these scriptures but we can all do some homework on this if we have a concordance.

Have fun,

Pieter C Visser

Greetings to everyone.

We are all looking forward to Camp beginning early August in Wasserkuppe, Germany. We are expecting about 300 saints, some travelling from as far away as Australia! This will be a good time to pray, hear lots of talks, fellowship and outreach. As we heard in a talk from Pastor Piet, we are the real freedom fighters! Jesus made a way for us to receive peace, happiness, freedom, and eternal life. We see the signs of the times in the headlines. Many false religions are popping up and love is being replaced by egoism. People in the world fight for peace but never find it. Why do people create other solutions when God has given us the perfect one?

Again, it has been good to see new faces at meetings. Sixteen (16) people were baptised by full immersion, a number of these coming from outreaches held in the city of Gorinchem, where we are holding regular meetings.

Heard From The Platform

- ? It is better to do more for the Lord than just the bare minimum.
- ? Religion is mankind interpreting the Bible in his own way.
- ? When you allow the Lord to work with you, your life will overflow.
- ? All that you have to give up for the Lord are only things that are bad for you.
- ? You are either with Jesus or against Him – there is no in between.
- ? It is pointless and dangerous to fight against God. It can cost you your life! We should fight for Him.
- ? EVERYONE needs to know the gospel, so don't keep quiet!
- ? All that we have received is a gift from God and we should be thankful.
- ? Repentance is being humble, obedient and realising that our old life is of little or no value.
- ? Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, that everyone may be saved, but unfortunately not everyone wants to be.
- ? What is being Holy? Receiving the Holy Spirit and doing what God asks.
- ? PRIORITY No. 1: KINGDOM OF GOD.
- ? The Spirit of the only person in the history of mankind who overcame death is in you.
- ? Understanding the truth makes you free.
- ? Be ready at all times for we do not know when the Lord is going to return.
- ? We have no right to have a bad testimony.

What Else Has Been Happening

Holland

Prayer and Fast

Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. Ish 58:9.

We began the month by taking time out of our usual routines to leave the world outside and spend time praying and fasting. This is our ultimate weapon against all problems and a time to draw closer to God. After house-meetings on Friday night, we came together at the hall where we prayed and were edified by three talks:

1. Harry spoke about how we must demonstrate the reality of God in our lives. **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Col 3:2.** We can always be happy and content as God has done everything in our lives so we need not complain, stress or strive any more. The world pushes us to be busy, busy, busy but STOP and see what God has done for us. Prayer and fasting is an excellent time to be thankful and pleased with what we have. We have a good life and if we weren't children of God, where would we be? A great price has been paid for us and we are on our way to eternity.
2. Jan-Pieter spoke about, What can we expect from God? The answer: More than you think! God can do much more than all we can think and it is important to realise that He wants to give us all we need. Jesus did everything for us and we have received everything – we just have to go to God to claim it. This is not something that we hear in the traditional church. Expect nothing from the world. **God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? Num 23:19.** What God has promised, He will perform.
3. **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Phil 4:13.** Pastor Piet spoke about your God, not the God of someone else. Naturally we find support in our brothers and sisters, but we must grow to have our own independent walks with the Lord. Like a natural father, God as our spiritual Father no doubt has joy in seeing us growing into good functioning adults in His Kingdom. Growing is only possible if we experience all sorts of things and learn from them. We pray to God and when we get an answer from Him, accept it. This too is how we grow. Whether we like it or not ASKING is the rule of the Kingdom. Your God can do anything. We can do anything through remaining humble and steadfast. Our task is easy, simple and clear and we have received the tools from God to perform it!

Presentation: Babylon Among Us

This presentation is very interesting. The origins of the 'Mother and Baby' worship and the Cross are just a couple of examples that were explained. History shows us when we look back to the time of the Tower of Babel and when God confounded languages, that people took their ideas with them. The Mother and Baby worship can be found in many countries such as Egypt, Greece and South America. The cross is an interesting example with its origins starting with Nimrod and his wife Semiramis who bore a child, Tammuz. Tammuz was seen as the 'born again' Nimrod. The 'T' from his name was the beginning of the worship of the cross which has become an abomination to God. **"thou shalt see greater abominations"** and **"behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz"**. Ez 8:13, 14. A lot of this information can be very easily found in history books but mankind just doesn't take the time to find out where their beliefs come from. But God has revealed all to us through His Holy Spirit so that we don't have to be blinded by these things.

Prophecy Board Outreach – Gorinchem

Last month we have held meetings in Gorinchem. A good way to let people know that we are in town is to have a specific outreach so thus the prophecy boards. It was a great day with most saints taking at least a two hour shift throughout the day. The great news is that seven people received the Holy Spirit with the Bible evidence of speaking in tongues. That evening there was a talk about speaking in tongues – the biggest stumbling block for many people. By the end of the weekend three people were baptised, with promises from others.

Mini talks

We enjoyed a Saturday evening fellowship where brothers gave Short Talks. These were held also at the Saturday evening fellowship in Gorinchem.

Gorinchem:

- ? Our brother Frans spoke about evangelism being a commandment from God and therefore we have a responsibility to speak Gods Word. When we have spoken, it is up to the people that have heard it to do something about it. Gods Word is not for us to sit on but to live and speak. Frans also gave a few pointers for when we are on the streets: Be totally convinced of what you have received and use the Holy Spirit that God has given us. Pray before you go to an outreach - it really helps. Don't get angry, we are not there to win arguments. Just keep the gospel simple, the way God made it. Finally, just as the apostle Paul, be all things to all men.
- ? Arno spoke about 'Our Will to Serve God'. You have to start at the beginning by being born again and God gives us this will through the Holy Spirit made possible through His Son Jesus Christ. Problems that come our way are not problems at all but through God's power we can achieve the impossible. What does God expect from us? To walk in the Spirit with all our heart, mind and soul. Our reward when we are overcoming daily is a crown of righteousness waiting for us, promised by God. So brethren, let's keep it simple and just do what God expects from us and the reward will be ours.

Dordrecht:

- ? Kees spoke about our brothers and sisters are those that **do** the will of God. **Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. 1Jn 4:7.** We are going to camp to give to one another. This is demonstrating the love of God. Only through loving one another can we remain in the love of God. If you have a giving attitude you will never have problems with the brethren. When we stop giving our joy will fade and our shortcomings surface.
- ? Edwin spoke about 'Doing the Will of God.' We do this by being humble, listening to Pastors and oversight and doing what is asked of you. We should support one another, being patient and forgiving. Preach the gospel using wisdom. Be a good testimony. Be thankful for everything!
- ? Aiky spoke about as children of God, we must have a 'black and white' vision. We have received a confidence from God that the world does not have. Jesus is our standard and died for our sins, making the Holy Spirit available to us. **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. 1Cor 5:17.** We can pray and have contact with God. We know what is right and wrong and have no confusion. We can give people the hope we have received.

Germany

We have had a nice month. The best outcome is that we have learnt a lot about ourselves and each other through fervent prayer. Our monthly combined meeting was rewarding with good talks and fellowshiping with each other. We had no new visitors this month. Dan, the Chinese girl, has been attending the meetings.

We had a pleasant visit to Holland. Half of our assembly stayed over there for the week before the camp. I'm writing this just before the camp, we are excited and expect great results. Amen.

Greetings, Ritva.

Switzerland

Here is the monthly report from Switzerland.

On the 2nd July, brother Lawrence and his family from New Zealand visited us in Bern. We held the Wednesday meeting together and had a lot of fellowship.

When they left us on Saturday the next visitors arrived. On the 5th July, seven brothers and sisters, two families from Adelaide, visited us and stayed for a couple of days. It was very uplifting to share the testimonies with all these brothers and sisters and to learn from one another.

It was very funny to live together as a big family between suitcases and boxes because on the 12th July we moved from our flat. The Lord has given us a new flat with enough space for meetings, for brothers and sisters and for the baptism tank. Praise the Lord!

Also, we are still in contact with two new people who want to visit us after camp.

That's all for now and we hope to see you all at camp in Germany.

Greetings from Switzerland and God bless, Stephan.

Hungary

Greetings to all the saints everywhere from the Hungarian fellowship. We have had three baptisms this month with two people receiving the Holy Spirit, these two being children within the fellowship. This has been a great blessing for us all to see that our children want to follow the ways of the Lord at such a young age, and says a lot for the teaching of Sunday school where the four members are all spirit filled and baptised under the age of eight. If only the world was so open to Gods ways!

We had two prophesy board outreaches this month which were attended by many saints, and at one of them we found ourselves in the middle of a Jehovah Witnessing convention. It was interesting to say the least how far people can be from the truth when they profess to want to follow God.

A day of fellowship at the pastors was preceded by a prayer and fast weekend where once again all the talks connected perfectly with each other even though the brothers had not planned a theme beforehand. It's always wonderful to see the Lords word consistently given.

With 27 saints on the way to camp we are looking to share testimonies and learn yet more about his ways and become closer to what he wants us to be.

God bless, Nigel and the Hungarian fellowship.

Testimonies

I had been searching for the Lord for 10 years but could not find Him anywhere. Sometimes I thought that I had found Him but it turned out to be another disappointment as the truth of the gospel was clearly very different from what the churches preach. Ten years ago, when I was 19, I was confronted with the death of a classmate which I find very difficult to come to grips with. I began using drugs, like he did, thinking that this would help me understand, but it did not work at all.

I became psychotic, not being able to separate reality from fantasy and I lived in constant fear. Twice I was sent to a mental hospital. I lost my friends, job and self confidence.

When I was spoken to by people from the Revival Fellowship, I felt very touched by what I heard.

It was difficult to follow the conversation due to the reactions of a Pentecostal friend I was with at the time.

Praise the Lord, two weeks later I met two other brothers from the Revival Fellowship and this time I was alone and could listen to their story.

I went to the next meeting (11 May 2003) where I was baptised by full immersion – this time with the expectation of receiving the Holy Spirit. I spoke in tongues exactly as is promised in Gods Word.

Since then I have experienced many things, the greatest for me that since my baptism I have had no fear and this is something that I had been looking for all those years. I have found the rest which is spoken about in Gods Word. I thank and praise Him every day because He is now working and will continue to work in my life.

Judith van der Pasch, Holland.

I received the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, as is written in the Bible, in 1981. The following week I was baptised by full immersion just as Jesus had been as our example, (Mt 3). From that time I have signs and wonders my life. I was immediately healed from depression as I not only received the Holy Spirit that day, but also the great happiness, power, peace and rest which everybody seeks for. I have also been healed from stomach complaints, back pain and cancer. The Lord has taken care of my financial needs and provided housing. My brothers and sisters help me when needed, I help them when possible, but the Lord, in whom I trust, has carried me through everything and He will continue doing this as I continue trusting in Him - because this is what He has promised.

Rita Roccisano, Holland.