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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

October 2007

The Holy Spirit – Part II

BY THE EDITOR

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AY God help us to realize spiritual Truth is not discovered by human ability or wisdom, but must be revealed by the Spirit of God. “But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (I Corinthians 2:10,12,14).

Co-Creator of the World

Note the three passages presenting the Spirit’s share in creation: “The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2); “By His Spirit He has garnished the heavens” (Job 26:13); and “You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; You renew the face of the earth” (Psalm 104:30.) The first mention of the Spirit of God in the entire Scriptures is in the earliest creation.

Co-Creator of Man

The Spirit of God, the third Person of the Trinity, was included in creation: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Genesis 1:26); “Breathed into his nostrils the breath (Spirit) of life” (Genesis 2:7); and “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life” (Job 33:4). We did not evolve from lower forms of God’s creation. God the Spirit was responsible for our being.

Co-Creator of Animals

“You sent forth your Spirit, they are created” (Psalm 104:27-30). How dare we be cruel to such animals that God brought into existence. Remember the animal world will share in Christ’s redemption, and experience a mighty deliverance when God comes to reign upon this New Earth. (Romans 8:19-22)

Co-Creator of Beauty

Job told us that it was the Holy Spirit who beautified the heavens: “By His Spirit He has garnished the heavens; His hand has formed the crooked serpent” (Job 26:13). We deeply appreciate Psalm 29 when we remember that the creative voice is none other than the Holy Spirit Himself. Ezekiel speaks of the voice of the Almighty (10:5).

Co-Creator of Rest

The tender, considerate Holy Spirit provides rest for the animals: “As the beast goes down into the valley, the Spirit of Jehovah caused them to rest” (Isaiah 63:14).

*Marian Porter
is with the Lord.
She passed into
His Presence
September 8, 2007.*

He is the life-giver and can also take life away. (Ecclesiastes 12:6,7) He can also produce sudden death. (Acts 5:1-10)

Co-Creator of Christ’s Human Flesh

As the Holy Spirit fashioned the body of the first Adam, so He did with the Second Adam. Christ’s birth was miraculous, not in formation of His body within the womb of Mary, but in the manner in which He was begotten. He was created as the result of a Divine creative act apart from natural generation. He was conceived of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 1:20) Here is the secret of our understanding His sinlessness — “The Holy Spirit shall overshadow you.” In some ways, the infant Jesus was a greater marvel than when He was with the people, wore the purple robe and the thorns, and was on the cross.

Co-Creator of the New Nature

“That which is born of the Spirit” (John 3:6); “Born of God” (John 1:13); “Through the Spirit . . . being born-again” (I Peter 1:22,23); a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17). Regeneration (be-

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The Holy Spirit (continued from page 1)

ing born-again) is to produce a new man, not to make a sinner a better man. The old nature is not improved; the Holy Spirit places within us a Divine nature. What a glorious change in our appetite, desires, and life-style, making us the habitation of God and His Spirit.

Co-Creator of the Scriptures

Over 40 writers were employed in the compilation of the Scriptures. “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (II Peter 1:21; I Peter 1:10,11; II Timothy 3:16; II Samuel 23:2). Not only did the Holy Spirit inspire the Scriptures, but He also unfolds the treasures within that Book. He guides us into all Truth and grants spiritual discernment. (John 16:13-15, I Corinthians 2:10-14). There is no comprehension of Truth independent of the guidance and illuminating work of the blessed Holy Spirit.

Co-Creator of the Church

Being responsible for Christ’s physical body, He assumes the same responsibility for the mystical body of believers with Christ as the Head. He has graciously condescended to indwell such a holy creation, making it His habitation. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Co-Creator of the New Creation

Being a part of the creation of the present heaven and earth, we can be confident of His involvement in the one yet to be created. (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; II Peter 3:12,13; Revelation 21:1) It was the Holy Spirit Who carried John to a high mountain and unfolded to his adoring gaze “that great city, the holy Jerusalem descending out of the heavens from God” (Revelation 1:10, 21:10). The last creative act of the Spirit is to prepare an absolutely holy home for a holy Bride and Bridegroom. Will you be present at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb? I will be there, so be sure to look me up.

Wonderful Fellowship

As a child of God with the Holy Spirit living within, let us have sweet communion with Him. Let’s give thanks for all His wonderful eternal benefits. Talk to Him in direct conversation. He will not force His work in our behalf, but will take charge over the area of our lives we surrender. It is the members of our body that we present to Him. (Romans 12:1) When you act at His direction, let me know the difference in your life.

Personal Word (continued from page 3)

bitterness to anyone who would listen. Others bragged about their crime escapades. Some, of course, were sane, sensible and gracious. I attended their church service, which was “feeling”-oriented in message content. The Bible? It was not there — it was not referred to anyway. When seeing so many prisoners at one place, I wondered how many have ever heard of the grace of God. I do know that some on death row have received our literature and have written to me. In our regular monthly shipment we are sending them 40 each of 23 different messages, plus 25 each of “Fear, Frustration and Worry” and “Give No Place to the Devil.” Included in this mailing are 75 literature order forms. Monthly, they receive 100 copies of *The Challenger*. Pray for an increased interest on the part of these inmates.

Remember, friend, there is no hope of changed lives independent of personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. They do not know this fact! We Christians do! Let’s reach more of them with the life-transforming gospel — that Christ died for sinners, was buried, and rose again. (I Corinthians 15:1-4)

The Final Word

(continued from page 4)

make shoddy or inferior products. ***“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”*** (Ephesians 2:10). I came to Christ with a boatload of the life of the flesh, and one by one those things have and are being cast overboard, while at the same time I am taking on new cargo, putting on the new man — the things of God and of the Spirit from His Word. I never knew before I was saved that life could have such value and purity and sweetness and blessing. And let’s not forget, trials and testing. ***“First comes the testing, then the blessing,”*** a wise teacher used to say. Any strength that I have today in the Christian life and walk is due to the victories over the trials or testing at one time or another. Praise God for His continued working in my life to gain victory after victory over sin’s power.

The third tense of salvation is future: saved from the presence of sin. This is that great day of eternity future. I can’t write much here as it is beyond my finite capacity to understand or even relate to my being in a setting wholly free from the presence of sin or its consequences. This is when my salvation, through my trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, reaches its fulfilled purpose in God. I can’t wait. Won’t you join me? God is ***“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*** Christ shed His blood and died in your behalf and then rose from the dead to give you the same opportunity of salvation that I had. It is a life or death issue . . . and the final word always has been and will always be God’s.

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Personal Word

FRIEND, I am delighted you are in our family. This publication is just a part of our far-reaching ministry. Would you like to unite with us in the proclamation of biblical Truth? As you know by this time, we do not mince words about heaven or hell. We still use biblical terms and have no desire to proclaim a contemporary message in any way or fashion. Your most valuable relation with us is your prayer life. Place us near the top of your prayers. We are reaching thousands of sinners daily in our prisons with God's message of grace. This responsibility is indeed awesome. I need your support.

Let's Just Visit Together

As I sit here in my study and studio, I have so very much to thank God for. The greatest gal in all the world is working somewhere nearby, either in our home, garage, or yard. I look out my one window facing our backyard and see rabbits, squirrels, beautifully colored birds, and two large bottle brush trees. I see the birds eating and drinking. And to think, while sitting and musing about the Lord's goodness, thousands of men and women are reading our printed messages. Their content is not about feeling, happiness, and personal fulfillment. They will read from the Bible about their sin and of God's demand of righteousness and holiness which He has provided for sinners through the gift of His Son on the cross.

As I sit in my nice study, people from all over the world via our web-site can hear our audio messages, read our printed messages and download them on their printer into their own home or office. Can you believe this? Anyone around this earth has access without one dime! These listeners or readers have easy contact with us by e-mail with the form provided. On this same web-site they learn of our monthly mailing of cassettes and CDs, plus our special Bible Study Course. They can read our monthly publication, *The Challenger*, and notify us of their desire to receive it regularly via e-mail. Provided are some 100 printed and audio messages. With the touch of a finger, one of these can be heard or read immediately!

New Equipment

Recently, we invested about \$1500 in new equipment. Three pieces replaced 20-year-old items. One was for our new CD ministry. These expenditures are over and above our monthly budget, so here is another prayer request. We thank God for you dear people of like mind and passion, who keep us going forth expounding the Scriptures. We are reaching thousands of unsaved people every month. It is the Word of God that strengthens His children to accomplish His plan and purpose in their lives. The power of the gospel rescues people from their sin and its horrible consequences. It is the Word that reveals God's gracious power to live above sin as He equipped us to live godly in this present evil world. (Titus 2:11,12)

You Can Help Us!

Personally, I believe this ministry on the Internet can become one of our greatest outreaches for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Most Christian agencies use the Internet for advertising their products for sale. It is the goodness of the Lord and the faithfulness of our donors that WE GIVE AWAY EVERYTHING WE HAVE WITHOUT COST OR OBLIGATION, INDEPENDENT OF ANY FINANCIAL SOLICITATION.

Now that we are in full-scale operation, we must notify as many people as we possibly can of our existence and purpose of operation. You can assist in this ministry. Give the location of our web-site to everyone you know who is on the Internet. Pray with us for the Lord to direct many hungry hearts to hear and read GENUINE BIBLICAL TRUTH through our new web-site. Your suggestions for this outreach are welcomed.

Inside a Prison

The other evening in the comfort of my living room, the TV placed me inside the San Quentin Prison in California. It has been one of the largest, oldest prisons in that state. Of course, it is overcrowded as are all prisons in the USA. They have twice the number the prison was built to contain. I came to a new conclusion: We need to pray for the safety of the prison guards just as we pray for the inmates. I heard some of the prisoners pour out their

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From San Quentin

This past year has been very busy at San Quentin, and God is adding to His Kingdom daily. Your part in this work has been greatly appreciated by both the workers and the men who have received your gifts over this last year. We always thank Him for the 'foot soldiers' who visit the men at their cells night after night to pass along the Good News of Jesus Christ. The various materials that you so graciously donate keep these men armed for the battle. So again we extend our heartfelt thanks for the sacrifices and donations from your ministry.

We are again praying that God will enable you to once again donate materials needed for the many men who will come through the gates of San Quentin. We need Bibles, tracts, books, tapes, Bible studies, and any other materials that will help put Christ before these men. It is our constant prayer that together we will bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

FROM THE DESK OF . . . DR. MICHAEL ECCLESTON

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HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

THE FINAL WORD: GOD'S

The Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth, **“to seek and to save that which was lost.”** In my case He accomplished what He set out to do. I was definitely lost, in need of being saved, or else I had to die in my sins and try to pay for what Christ already paid through His precious blood, death, and resurrection. For me at that time, it wasn't that I thought I lacked the ability to save myself, but, rather, that I had gone too far in life and Christ couldn't save me. The scales of good vs. bad were unalterably tilted toward bad. I didn't realize that man cannot save himself. I wasn't familiar with the number of Bible verses that spelled it out so clearly, that the Lord Jesus Christ, Who was sinless, became sin for me in order that I might repent toward God, and trust Christ and His finished work for me. In my case, being saved was not easy. I remember agonizing and probably debating with the man who was concerned enough for my soul to explain God's plan of salvation to me. I was fortunate to be able to talk with someone who was giving to me God's plan and not the watered-down or added-to, term-switching, or compromised version of man. Sales techniques are intentionally created for the customer to agree with what the salesman wants you to agree with. The gospel of Christ goes against that grain. There is no sales pitch. There are no discounts, no buy one-get one free deals, no coupons, no hidden extra qualifications, and there is no sale price to our salvation.

Upon receiving Christ as my personal Savior, God, in His infinite grace saved me through my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There were no works involved, no meriting being saved, no water baptism included to finalize the salvation, no walking an aisle, no raising a hand, no saying a prayer: I was saved by the grace of God through the action of faith . . . alone. Saved, not reformed or on probation — Saved! Saved! All glory goes to the Lord for what happened to me.

The Bible speaks of salvation in three tenses: *past, present, and future*. Either I have been saved from the penalty of sin, or I haven't been. If I haven't, then I am not saved. Salvation is what God says. Its power is in the gospel of Christ. I am either saved or I am not as to the past tense. Christ took both my sin debt upon Himself on the cross and paid my whole debt with His blood, or He didn't. But since He did and the Bible spells out that it is faith alone in Him and His finished work that God honors enough to save us by His grace, then I am saved from sin's penalty — eternal separation from God in hell, and then the Lake of Fire. If this cannot be a settled matter and an eternal matter — all else is meaningless, superficial, and vain — much if not most of what would happen then would be dependent on us, not the finished work of Christ alone.

Secondly, all born-again saints of God, of which I am one, are being saved from the power of sin in their everyday lives. I am a work in progress, a masterpiece in the making by the Master Artist of life, the clay being molded by the Potter. I am being conformed to the image of Christ day by day, hour by hour, decision by decision. Christ redeemed me by His blood. He purchased me in the marketplace of sin. But He didn't then leave me there. He didn't expect me to stay there, or go back there. He took me out of that place, set me free from sin's power, to which I can now freely and wholly serve him all the days of my pilgrimage here on earth. It is useless to say, “I can't help myself,” if born-again. You can, for you have the ongoing and progressive power over sin in your life. It is not that you will not sin — it's that you have the power not to. Listen to how John puts it in I John 2:1: **“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.”** I, through yielding to the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, can produce fruit, a fruit that lasts, good fruit. Through that same Holy Spirit I can produce good works as well. I am the workmanship of Christ, and He doesn't

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“Be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . . You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord” I Corinthians 15:58

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