

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

July 30

2017

THE HOLY SPIRIT

One of the most misunderstood subjects is the Holy Spirit. Many view the Holy Spirit as a mystical force that has had everything attributed to it from salvation to helping find a parking space. Maybe some of this thinking comes from the King James version identifying the Holy Spirit as the Holy Ghost. Just who is the Holy Spirit and what is His work?

First, we must recognize that the Holy Spirit is deity, one of the God head. In Acts 5:3 Peter said Ananias had lied to the Holy Spirit but in the very next verse he says, *“thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”* Yes, the Holy Spirit is God.

To know what His work is we can go to the words of Jesus. Before His death he told His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit as a Comforter to them and said, *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come”* (John 16:13). In 1 Corinthians 2:11 Paul tells us that no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God and in verse 10 he states that the Spirit had revealed the things God has prepared for those that love Him. In Ephesians 3:3-6 Paul tells us that the Spirit has revealed the mystery of Christ to the apostles and prophets. This “mystery” had not been made known in ages past but is now revealed. All of this teaches us that the only way to know the mind of God is to read and understand that which has been revealed by the Spirit. Too many rely on their feelings and

personal “think so’s” rather than on the Spirit revealed word.

We also read in the New Testament that there were miraculous gifts of the Spirit in the early church. The apostles received these when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and others received them by the laying on of the apostles hands (Acts 8:18). The purpose of these gifts was to confirm that the word being spoken was from God (Mark 16:20). When God’s revelation was complete the purpose of these gifts was fulfilled and they were no longer needed (1 Corinthians 13:8-10). The word had been revealed and confirmed. We now have that perfect law of liberty, the God inspired scriptures, that is all sufficient (James 1:25; 2 Timothy 3:16,17).

I guess you could say that the work of the Holy Spirit can be summed up in two words; revelation and confirmation. If you would be led by the Spirit then lay aside the doctrines and commandments of men and give heed to that which has been revealed from the mind of God. He is the one who has the right to say what is or is not acceptable to Him. Read and heed.

✍ James Hahn



Genesis 1: Literal Days or Long Ages?

The ‘Day/Age’ Theory argues that each of the days in Genesis 1 were actually long ages of time. This, of course, is an attempt to harmonize Biblical teaching of a young earth with the false claims of some scientists who claim our earth and universe are billions of years old. Here are some simple affirmative arguments to prove that the days of creation in Genesis 1 were literal 24 hour days rather than long ages of time:

1) God defined His own terms in Genesis 1:5. "And God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." A period of light followed by a period of darkness constituted a day. Unless someone wants to argue that it stayed light for long periods and then stayed dark for long periods (which, of course, poses huge difficulties), we will have to stand upon

this clear statement and conclude that the days really were literal 24 hour days. Furthermore, Genesis 1:14-18 mentions the sun and moon and stars, and says they were made to be "for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years." If we are to believe that the days were actually long ages of time, then what were the seasons and years?

2) Romans 1:20 says, "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made" (NIV). This verse claims that someone has been here to see and understand God's power ever since the creation of the world. This poses no problem to those of us who believe that man was created within the same actual week that everything else was created. But, those who want to believe that each day represents a long "age" have a problem. If man was created eons after the other elements of creation were formed, then this makes no sense. This line of reasoning is confirmed by Jesus' own statement in Mark 10:6. "From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female." The day/age theory places man at the end of millions or billions of years of geologic time. In light of these verses, it cannot be true.

3) If the days were actually long "ages", then we have the wrong chronological order of events. For instance, plants were created on day three, but insects were not created until day five or six. But many plants depend on insects for cross-pollination, etc. How did plants survive for long "ages" without their needed counterparts in the insect world? Other similar problems of chronological order exist that strongly argue against the day/age theory.

We know that this day/age theory is commonly held by many who teach the false doctrine of theistic evolution. It is not true, and is actually an unnecessary attempt to compromise the truths taught in the Bible with the unproven claims of some scientists. They teach that we live in an ancient universe, while in actuality we live in a relatively young universe that was created in six literal days by our omnipotent God.

✍ Greg Gwin

Seeing to Others' Needs

Jesus explained His return in Judgment as follows: "*When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left*" (Matthew 25:31-33).

Where will you be in that great day? Will you be on the right or the left? Among the sheep or the goats? The choice is yours.

Jesus goes on to explain that those on the right will be those who have been mindful of others. Do you help give food to the hungry? Do you give drink to those who thirst? Do you take in strangers? Do you help clothe the naked? Do you visit the sick? Do you go to those imprisoned? (See vs. 34-36).

Rather than being concerned about a specific checklist of six things, the point is this: Ours must be a life of ministering to others needs. Such is a true demonstration of "faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6).

May we all become better at seeing to others' needs!

✍ David McPherson

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

James Hahn (317) 745-1507