

GRACE GAZETTE

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Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees. And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Hebrews 12:12-13

OUR GOD

Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

The LORD clearly told HIS disciples to go forth into the world, preaching the gospel and immersing (i.e.; *baptizing*) those who believe; in the NAME of the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY GHOST. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Mat 28:19) Yet nowhere in the New Testament do we have any record of HIS disciples explicitly doing so. There are four specific instances when this commanded immersion took place where we are told the NAME in which it was carried out.

The first is on the Day of Pentecost as Peter preached to the multitudes gathered in Jerusalem and some cried out to him as to what they should do in light of what he had told them. *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* (Acts 2:38) The next is when we read of the description of those in Samaria, whom Phillip baptized. *“For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”* (Acts 8:16) Then we read of the account of the LORD pouring out HIS SPIRIT upon the household of Cornelius and Peter immersed them. *“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.”* (Acts 10:48) Finally we see those that had believed on the LORD, who were former followers of John the Baptizer. *“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”* (Acts 19:5)

We could conclude that they were disobedient to that which the LORD JESUS commanded them to do. Yet I believe such a conclusion would be in error. The actual truth is that they carried out exactly what the LORD told them to do, when they performed this act of obedience. For the NAME of the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY GHOST is completely included in that NAME which is above every NAME. For in JESUS CHRIST *“dwelleth* (i.e. resides) *all* (i.e.; the whole) *of the fulness* (i.e.; what fills or is filled) *of the GODHEAD bodily.”* HE is in no wise some secondary figure in that which men often refer to as the “Trinity”. HE clearly declared such when HE told Phillip, *“he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”* (John 14:9)

The Jews had no doubt of what HE taught when they took up stones to stone HIM because HE dared to say, *“I and my Father are one.”* (John 10:30) *“The Jews answered him, ---thou, being a man, makest thyself God.”* (John 10:33) Their understanding was faulty for HE was not a MAN making HIMSELF GOD, but rather GOD who revealed HIMSELF in the likeness of sinful flesh. Men fall into great folly when they think that they can by their human reason attempt to fathom the depths of understanding the TRUE and LIVING GOD. HE is both immortal and invisible and yet HE has died for sinners and showed HIMSELF to men as their LORD and SAVIOR clothed in flesh. *“Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no*

man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.” (1Tim 6:15-16) “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1Tim 2:5)

When we are confronted with HIS glorious PERSON, we must put our hands upon our mouths and confess with Job. *“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:5-6)* Much so as we consider what it is that Paul taught the Corinthians concerning HIM and the time of the end when there is a restitution of all things and we are brought face to face to see HIM as HE is. John had a glimpse of HIM in this fashion as he recounts in the Book of the Revelation. *“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.” (Rev 1:17)*

The LORD told Moses, *“Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.” (Exo 33:20)* It is impossible that any man can see HIM apart from HIS condescension to men, as HE might reveal HIMSELF. Paul tells us how such a glorious sight is manifested while preserving the life of those who have been given the privilege of seeing HIM as HE is. *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2Cor 4:6)*

JESUS CHRIST is our GOD revealed in flesh and blood. HE is not a “part of GOD”, nor a “person in a panoply of persons”, but rather HIM who is the CREATOR of all things, the ALPHA and the OMEGA, the GIVER of LIFE and the ADMINISTRATOR of death. All things belong to HIM. *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” (Heb 1:1-3)* David spoke of HIM when he said, *“But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.” (Psa 115:3)*

JESUS CHRIST is our GOD who has purposed to redeem HIS elect bride. Not only did it please HIM to make her “subject unto vanity”, but to deliver her from the same in order to magnify the glory of HIS grace and to demonstrate the depths of HIS mercy. When Moses asked to see HIS glory, HE defined HIS glory as HIS GOODNESS. *“And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.” (Exo 33:19)* Some look upon this as a restriction, only because they think that GOD is somehow obligated to be merciful. When we understand that HE had no outside compulsion to show mercy, then the fact that HE is pleased to show mercy to any is a great display of HIS GOODNESS. This GOODNESS is manifested in HIS redemption of those whom HE has loved with an everlasting love, when HE did not have to love any.

JESUS CHRIST is our GOD who continually reveals HIMSELF to HIS people even though they are in rebellion and are not seeking HIM. *“I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name. I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts.” (Isa 65:1-2)* *“And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.” (Isa 42:16)*

JESUS CHRIST is our GOD whose purpose cannot fail nor be overturned. *“And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:39-40)* *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:37)* We live in an age when multitudes claiming to be the followers of CHRIST express a belief that the salvation of men depends upon them and what they decide to do. To believe such is to have no understanding that JESUS CHRIST is the SAVIOR who has obtained eternal redemption for HIS people or that HE is GOD who does *“according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” (Dan 4:35)* *“Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save; his glories now we sing who died and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.” (by Matthew Bridges, 1851) mam*