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BAPTISMAL MANUAL



6. By what other test may we tell a false prophet?

Ans.—"If there arise among you a prophet, . . . saying, Let us go after other gods, . . . and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet. . . . Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear Him, and keep His Commandments, and obey His voice." Deuteronomy 13:1-4.

7. What rules should we remember when dealing with prophets?

Ans.—"By their fruits ye shall know them." Matthew 7:20. "To the Law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20.

8. Shall we trust in the messages God sends us through His prophet?

Ans.—"Believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper." II Chronicles 20:20.

9. Is the gift of prophecy given to the remnant of God's Church—Seventh-day Adventists?

Ans.—"The dragon was wrath with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the Commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17. "The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10.

Summary: Of all gifts to the Church, the gift of prophecy is most important; for a prophet is a mouthpiece, or spokesman, for God. God cannot speak directly to sinful man without destroying him; so He gives His messages to men by speaking in dreams, or visions, to prophets specially selected for their devotion to spiritual things. The Holy Spirit impresses their minds with what to say. Thus God always keeps His own people in touch with what He is going to do. There are many false prophets in the world now, and all claim to be speaking for God; so we must be careful not to be deceived. But God makes it very plain just how to know a true prophet: God's spokesman must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is the remnant of the true Christian Church for all time. If he foretells events, they will always come to pass. He will never bring any message that will lead us away from the worship of the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the Author of the Ten Commandments, and the Bible. He will keep all of the Ten Commandments himself, and will teach God's people to obey them. He will teach faith in the whole Bible. He will show in his life only the

fruits of the Spirit—"love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." The only way for God's Church to prosper is by belief in His prophets; for through prophets is the only way He can speak to the Church and warn it of danger and guide it in the right path.

In times past, God has chosen both men and women for His prophets. For the last part of His Church, the remnant in these days, He chose a woman, Ellen G. White. She has written many books containing His messages to us; and we have enough in them to guide us till Jesus comes again. These writings are not to take the place of the Bible, but they help us to understand the Bible better and to apply its teachings to our problems today. These prophetic writings for this last end of the Church are known as the *Testimonies*; and they should be studied diligently and obeyed by all members of the Church, so that we will not be led astray in the perilous times in which we live.

LESSON 42

Christian Baptism

1. What is necessary in order to become a member of the Church body?

Answer.—"By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be . . . bond or free." I Corinthians 12:13.

2. When Jesus told His Church to go everywhere preaching the gospel of the kingdom, what did He say about baptism?

Ans.—"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19.

3. What is baptism like?

Ans.—"So many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death. Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead, . . . even so we also should walk in newness of life." Romans 6:3,4.

4. Since baptism is like being buried, what is the proper way to baptize?

Ans.—"They went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." Acts 8:38.

5. Is any other kind of baptism taught in the Bible?

Ans.—"One Lord, one faith, *one baptism.*" Ephesians 4:5.

6. What must come before baptism in a person's experience?

Ans.—"He that *believeth* and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16. "*Repent, and be baptized.*" Acts 2:38.

7. What should be our experience after baptism?

Ans.—"If we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: knowing this, that *our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.* For he that is dead is freed from sin." Romans 6:5-7.

Summary: Baptism by water is necessary before one may enter the Church as a member. After believing in Christ and His power to take away sin, and after thorough repentance for personal sin, one is ready for baptism into the Church. Jesus commanded His apostles to baptize every one who would come into the Church. Baptism is a likeness of Jesus' death, burial in the grave, and His rising from the grave. When we become Christians, repenting of our sins, in reality our bodies go on living; but spiritually we die to sin, kill the "old man of sin," bury him forever, and come forth new creatures in Jesus. It is something like planting a seed, the body of which dies, but the life within it springs forth to produce many new seeds. Since baptism is like burial, the only true way to baptize is to dip the whole body under the water, as the whole body goes into the grave. The meaning of the word *baptize* is to immerse, put entirely under the water and bring up again. Babies and small children should not be baptized, for they are too young to believe and repent. One should not be baptized till he has been given time to prove that he is really sorry for his sins and is a true Christian. Christ was baptized, not because He was a sinner, but because He wanted to set an example for us. If, after baptism, the church member goes back wilfully into sin, he should repent, prove that he is really converted again, and again be baptized. Baptism marks the beginning of freedom from the rule of sin.

The Lord's Supper

1. Did Christ give to His Church any memorial to be observed, that its members might not forget His death for their sins?

Answer.—"This do in remembrance of Me." Luke 22:19.

2. What are we to do in memory of Him?

Ans.—"The Lord *Jesus* the same night in which He was betrayed, *took bread:* and when He had given thanks, *He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body,* which is broken for you: *this do in remembrance of Me.* After the same manner also *He took the cup, . . . saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.*" I Corinthians 11:23-25.

3. By partaking of bread and wine in this way, what do we show?

Ans.—"As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, *ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.*" I Corinthians 11:26.

4. Is it a serious matter to eat and drink the Lord's Supper?

Ans.—"He that *eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself,* not discerning the Lord's body." I Corinthians 11:29.

5. Then shall we not eat and drink, for fear we do so unworthily?

Ans.—"Let a man *examine himself,* and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." I Corinthians 11:28.

6. To help us examine ourselves, what did Jesus tell us to do before partaking of the Lord's Supper?

Ans.—"He . . . took a towel and girded Himself. After that He poured water into a basin, and began to *wash the disciples' feet,* and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded." John 13:4, 5. "I have given you an example, that *ye should do as I have done to you.*" "If ye know these things, *happy are ye if ye do them.*" John 13:15, 17.

Summary: Lest the members of His Church forget the sacrifice He made for them, Christ left a memorial of His death. He told us to meet as often as seems necessary and partake together of a little bread and wine, which are symbols of His body which was broken, and His blood which was shed, for us. The bread is to be unleavened, and the wine unfermented (fresh juice of the grape); for leaven (yeast) in