

For Our Sakes

by G.W. North

God's actions in the past were recorded to teach us valuable lessons and principles for our lives today, and baptism in the Holy Spirit is the key to understanding the true meaning of water baptism.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:7

Topics: "Unity in Christ", "Baptism"

Description

G.W. North emphasizes that the historical accounts in the Bible, particularly in 1 Corinthians 9:7-10, were recorded for our benefit, illustrating God's intention to teach important truths through the experiences of the Samaritans. He explains that the Samaritans, being a mixed race, provided a unique opportunity for God to demonstrate the inclusivity of the Gospel, as they were brought into the fullness of truth through the ministry of both Philip and Peter. North highlights the significance of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, asserting that without it, the meaning of water baptism diminishes, as it is through the Spirit that we find true remission of sins and identification with Christ. The sermon calls for a deeper understanding of the spiritual implications of baptism and the unity it brings among believers.

Transcript

In 1 Corinthians 9:7-10, Paul sets out another aspect of the operation of this same principle telling us that what God did of old and caused to be written then, was written for our sakes. It was all historically true and beneficial for those people, but he was quite clear that it was recorded for our benefit also. But besides this there were other factors which, when taken into consideration, may explain why God dealt with the Samaritans in this particular way. We will not here investigate all the scriptural grounds with which we have been supplied, but remark only that there were certain ethnic reasons which provided God with both a righteous ground and good opportunity to break down and set forth in an analytical manner this one Baptism He has instituted for both Jew and Gentile.

The Samaritans were not a pure race, but were a kind of 'in-between' people. Originating from Gentile stock, with decadent Jewish religious and cultural habits superimposed upon them, they were consequently neither Jew nor Gentile, but had developed into quite a different race. The Lord therefore took advantage of the opportunity presented by the situation created by Philip's preaching among them, and used it to teach the Church some very important truth. In doing so He in no way deprived them of fullness of blessing, nor jeopardised their faith; they were brought partially into truth by Philip and fully into it by Peter, and all by God.

Baptism in Holy Spirit is the important thing though, for apart from it, baptism in water in this dispensation has lost its chief meaning, Although other meanings it may still have, if it loses this, its greatest meaning, then all other meanings must ultimately vanish also. If it does not mean the Baptism in the Spirit, then soon it will cease to mean remission of sins and crucifixion with Christ, for these have only been made constant and of permanent value to us by the Christ in the Spirit.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/gw-north/for-our-sakes/>

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