

DISTORTED AND CONTRIVED RELIGIOUS TERMS #1,

By Jon Gary Williams [Part 2 of 4]

TERMS FOUND IN THE BIBLE BUT GIVEN DISTORTED MEANINGS

WITNESS

People are sometimes heard to speak of being a “witness” for Christ. What they mean is that they want to tell someone about Jesus. Though well meaning, they are misusing the word “witness.” Many preachers are guilty of encouraging people to “witness” for Jesus. However, no one today can be a witness for Christ. Why? Because to be a witness one must be able to give first-hand evidence. The apostles were witnesses for Jesus and his resurrection, hence, they were actual eye witnesses. Jesus said to the apostles, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me ... Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection” (Acts 1:8,22). No one today can “witness” for Jesus. This is a false belief.

FATHER

In the Catholic Church, priests are commonly called “Father.” This is another of the corrupted titles found in Catholicism. Sometimes priests have been known to become offended if someone failed to call them “father.” In Matthew 23 Jesus addressed the Jewish scribes and Pharisees, exposing their corruption. They were those who elevated themselves, desiring special recognition of the people. They wore special religious garments and prayer charms. They wanted to be called by exclusive titles, such a Rabbi. It is here that Jesus plainly taught the people that the word “father” was never to be used as a religious title. “And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven” (Matt. 23:9).

FAITH ONLY SALVATION

The idea of salvation by “faith only” is a doctrine widely held throughout the denominational world. This teaching began with the works of such men as John Calvin and Martin Luther and was their response to the extreme works found in Catholicism. With them the pendulum swung from extreme ‘works’ to extreme ‘faith,’ whereas the Bible teaches a mutual harmony of both faith and works. Yes, the lost are saved by faith, but not by faith alone. James plainly said that the lost are not justified by faith only. “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:24). Actually, the Scriptures include other steps in God’s plan of salvation: Repentance (Acts 17:30), Confession (Rom. 10:10), Baptism (Acts 22:16).

SANCTIFY

Holiness and Pentecostal Churches are known for emphasizing the word “sanctify.” They believe that in addition to being saved there is another level to reach in which one is truly “sanctified,” and is usually associated with being baptized with the Holy Spirit. However, such a belief is nowhere found in the Scriptures. The word “sanctify” (sanctification) simply means to be separated, that is, to be set apart from sin. The Bible clearly shows that being “washed” or “sanctified” or “justified” all refer to the same thing. “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:11). Hence, of itself the word “sanctify” has no special meaning.

TONGUES

Many Pentecostal Churches claim that people today can possess a power to speak in so-called mysterious “heavenly tongues.” When witnessing such “tongue speaking” it becomes obvious that this is nothing more than lip stammering. By contrast, in the first century those with the gift of speaking in tongues did not speak in mysterious “tongues.” Rather, they spoke in human languages in which they had not been educated. That was the miracle of it. On the day of Pentecost the apostles demonstrated this to be the case. “...Every man heard them speak in his own language ... how hear we every man in our own tongue ... we do hear them speak in our own tongue” (Acts 2:6,8,11). The Scriptures clearly teach that the age of miracles, including speaking in tongues, ceased long ago. “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away” (1 Cor. 13:8-10).

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

Some Pentecostal type Churches claim that people today can have a “baptism of the Holy Spirit” like the apostles received. However, such a claim is foolishness. The baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit received by the apostles was exclusively for them. Jesus told the apostles that only they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). This was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. “And there appeared unto them [apostles] cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:3-4). The baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit enabled the apostles to perform exceptional miracles, for example, raising the dead (Acts 9:49; 20:9-10). And notice that the apostle Paul spoke of the special “signs” of an apostle. “Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds” (2 Cor. 12:12). All miraculous manifestations, including the baptism of the Holy Spirit, came to an end before the close of the first century (1 Cor. 13:8-10). It is false to claim that people today can receive such a miraculous measure of the Spirit. (seektheoldpaths.com)

Braggs church of Christ Bulletin
March 14, 2021

Sick & Shut-in

Bennett, Norma
Brashear, Logan
Bunch, Margaret
Cunningham, Jerry
Evans, Carla
Evans, Steve
Hall, Donna
Horn, Bobby
Isbell, Bill
Isbell, Thomas
Moore, Jean
Moore, Roger
Mouse, Tyler
Nunez, Bob
Prichard, Barbara
Prichard, Bobby
Sturgeon, Wayne
Sullins, Ray
West, Dawn

Evangelism

Cliff Lyons, Ilya Muzychenko and Markov Roman, Russia
Ricky Gootam, India
House to House/Heart to Heart
Website - Braggschurchofchrist.com
[Facebook.com@braggsec](https://www.facebook.com/braggsec)
In Search of The Lord's Way- Tulsa, OK, on
KQCW TV 19 - Sun 7:30 am

Attendance

February average - 35
Attendance last Sunday - 36

Scripture Reading – Prov. 2:10-12

News & Notes

Gospel Meeting with Allen Webster - July 25-27, 2021