

20130305 19.00 Erlo Stegen/Marius Pretorius

KwaSizabantu Ministers' Conference 2013

"Jesus - the Way, the Truth and the Life"

John 14

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Matthew 28

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Let's look at v 19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost".

We've heard that all authority has been given to Jesus in heaven and on earth.

May you take it together with you and not have bags that leak, like in the parable of the sower where the birds of the air came and ate the good seed.

It would be wonderful if our hearts are fertile soil to bear fruit.

When the first astronaut put his foot on the moon it didn't take long and everybody knew that man had put his foot on the moon. But it's now more than 2000 years and many still don't know of Jesus!

God Himself, the Creator has said, go and make disciples of all men, but the task is not completed yet.

This command of Christ is given once and it should be done. We should not be like a bad parent that has to tell his child many times to do something. Then we take after the devil. No, a good parent tells his child once and that child knows to obey.

But if God has to tell you many times before you obey, no wonder you raise your children the way you do it. They take after you.

At present it is still the time of grace, but one day Jesus will be your Judge.

The Lord Jesus used the "auris" tense here, which means He only speaks once and the command is supposed to be done.

Let's look at "baptising them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

Let's not turn the Word of God upside down. Some, when speaking about baptism only think in terms of the baptism of John.

When Paul met some Christians he noticed some things among them and asked them with what baptism they were baptised with. Why? The way they acted was not consistent with someone filled with the Holy Spirit.

Don't equate the baptism of John with the baptism of Jesus.

We don't have time to go into detail now, but go and study this matter and see what the Bible teaches.

There is also the baptism of suffering and the baptism of death. Remember how the Lord Jesus asked the disciples who aspired for position if they can be baptised with His baptism, referring to His passion and suffering and death.

When I studied at Bible College the man of God, dr Edwin Orr, spoke at a meeting. At the start of the service he called a Dutch Reformed and Baptist minister to the front. Then he asked them, "honourable ministers, when you baptise people, whom of you uses the most water?" I couldn't understand that he would ask such a question. But then he said, "sirs there's one problem with both of your baptism and that's that the tongue remains dry". That's the sin of both congregations, slander, whether they're baptised under the water or sprinkled.

Baptism doesn't cleanse away your sin.

You that baptise should understand that by baptising a person you don't change their character, even if you should change their name.

No, Jesus commanded us to baptise them in the Name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.

In the Greek it means to baptise into the name of the Father, and into the name of the Son and into the name of the Holy Spirit.

It is good to baptise a person who believes in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But that is not the end. The work is not done by that.

To baptise into the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit means much more. The Name signifies the character of God. That's your goal and work to place them into the love and character of God. Make sure they are united to God, made disciples who keep His commandments unconditionally.

You must reveal God's love to your neighbour.

You say you love God but do you love your neighbour? If not then you're a liar.

Paul said he would rather be accursed if thereby his people be saved!  
When you see your brother sin, do you simply leave it? Then you don't love him.

We must be baptised into the character of God to love others with God's love.  
We need to show experimentally that "where sin has abounded grace abounded much more".

So if you've baptised a new convert your work is not finished. Then the work had only started and you need to teach them to keep all Christ had taught you and commanded you. You must baptise them into the Name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit and it is no small task.

Jesus said that when He has gone and the Holy Spirit has come He will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement.

Do you see how great that work is Jesus has given us? You must unite that person to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

How can you baptise a person but he carries on with sin? How is that possible if your work is done?

Are you making your congregants to be witnesses of the Lord Jesus?

Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit has come upon them they will receive power to be witnesses to Jesus.

Jesus said that the world will believe that the Father sent Me if you truly love one another.

If we are in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit then our life will shine brighter than the sun.

We've heard how the Muslims say that if only Christians live as Christians then there will only be one religion on earth, Christianity.

You can preach the most wonderful sermon but if your life doesn't back it up then that sermon means nothing.

Sadhu Sundar Singh was a staunch Hindu who even burned Bibles in his zeal for his religion. But then he met with the Lord Jesus and Jesus conquered him as He conquered Saul who became Paul. Sadhu Sundar Singh then travelled to England to learn more about Christianity but was shocked to see most English live like heathen. He thought that they all were Christians. One day he met a professor who asked him why he became a Christian and Sadhu Sundar Singh answered him, "because I met the Lord Jesus Christ". The professor answered that he understood that but wanted him to elaborate. He asked Sadhu, "was it not also because Christianity's teachings are better than the other religions?" But Sadhu answered, "no, it was because I met with Jesus Christ". The professor again made light of his answer and said that he understood that, but pressed him to find the "real" reason.

The problem was that the professor thought he understood but did not understand.

Salvation doesn't come by education but by revelation - that Jesus is revealed to you. May you receive that revelation.

Paul said, "I was very zealous for our religion, but then God's Son Jesus was revealed to me". He never became a Saul again. Until his dying day he preached the Gospel and spread it and eventually died for Jesus.

Saul became Paul, a hero of the faith. Are you living that life, being a true disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ?