

## **A Baptist named Bogard and a Text about Baptism**

The text under consideration is Galatians 3:26, 27. This article contains a direct quote, an excerpt, from Dr. Ben M. Bogard's booklet: *Fifty-Two Lessons Exposing Heresies*.

Let the reader know that in the 1900s the "heresiological" function of preaching was, as it is today, a responsibility only those competent to "rightly divide" the word achieved.

That is, the work undertaken by Dr. Ben M. Bogard was not exclusive, because men were wary of it, rather, incapable of it. To disclose any knowledge as a "heresy" is to so capably demonstrate a knowledge of the text, and its context: the verbal environment afforded in its original language, as to achieve a contrast between *Tacit knowledge*- a kind of knowledge that is presumed in our heads that is constructed from experience and pre-texts: Personal contexts imported onto a written narrative, and *Explicit Knowledge*- a kind of knowledge that is written down, and remains on record.

The pre-text is not written down, nor does it remain on record, and...needless to say: It is hard to articulate.

Thusly, the lesson before the reader extracted from pages 41 & 42 affords explicit knowledge for all that read it:

### **EXPOSITION OF GALATIANS 2:26, 27**

26. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27. For as many ones of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Paul in Galatians is writing concerning Christian unity. Jews, Greeks, males and females, became one in Jesus Christ, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus," verses 20-25.

The word "baptize" means to plunge, submerge, dip. Translate it that way in verse 27 and it will read: "For as many of you as have been baptized, that is, submerged or dipped into Christ, have put on Christ." It does not read "as many as have been baptized into water have put on Christ" -water baptism is not meant. It is the baptism or submersion into Christ, not water. It does not read "as many as are baptized into the Spirit," for Holy Ghost baptism is not meant -it reads, "as many as have been baptized, that is, dipped or submerged, in Christ, have put on Christ." How are we submerged or dipped into Christ? By faith, "for ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus," verse 26.

The ordinance of baptism is not meant in this passage at all. If the word baptize had only been translated (baptize is a Greek word and has not been translated) nobody would have thought of the ordinance of baptism in connection with this passage, for it would have read: "As many of you as were submerged into Jesus Christ have put on Christ," a beautiful expression showing our lives are in Christ.

Col. 3:3 Our lives are hid with Christ in God. II Cor. 5:17: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."

We are submerged into Christ by faith (pp 41, 42).

The above example illustrates a great contrast between tacit knowledge and explicit knowledge, or in other words, the difference between what has been said, and that which has been written and remains on record.

A student of Scripture knows that learning only occurs as one is moved from disequilibrium toward equilibrium, that is, is moved from that which is said, toward that which is written. For, as the Master Teacher Himself said: "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time..." so we are taught to distinguish between those things spoken and those things written. The Bible speaks of an imbalanced reality; namely, disequilibrium among students, describing them as those "tossed to and fro" by every wind of doctrine. The metaphor is a written demonstration of the idea of imbalance, disequilibrium. Moving students from such an imbalanced state toward a balanced, firm foundation-the Scriptures-was the achievement of Dr. Ben M. Bogard. Such is the nature of the "heresiological" function of his writings, sermons, and recordings.

#### Reference

Bogard, B. (Unknown). Lesson XXX. *FIFTY-TWO LESSONS EXPOSING HERESIES* (). Texarkana, Ark- Tex. 75501: Bogard Press. (Original work published)