

Acts # 78

“What Baptism Did You Receive?”

Acts 19:1-4

God’s geographical will is perfect for every believer in Christ.

God’s timing is perfect and Paul will have a fantastic ministry in Ephesus, to the extent that Ephesus will take over Church headquarters which is now in Antioch of Syria.

Paul didn’t go directly to the synagogue to make contact with the Jews but apparently on his first day in Ephesus, he encountered some rather unusual people; disciples who were actually Old Testament saints.

They were believers who’ve received the Lord Jesus Christ

as personal Savior but they are still living in Old Testament dispensation of the Age of Israel.

Paul realized these people were believers but obviously ignorant of Church Age biblical truth.

With all NT saints, the moment we believe in Jesus Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit but this was not true of the OT saints.

The purpose of the giving of the Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ.

In the two previous dispensations, giving the Holy Spirit was a matter of a sovereign decision of God but in the Church Age, the giving of the Holy Spirit is automatic, every believer receives the Spirit at salvation.

And the Tribulation is the end of the Age of Israel and therefore the ministry of the Holy Spirit, as far as indwelling, goes back to the same principle that existed in the Age of Israel.

Jesus said through His baptism that He was willing to do the will of the Father which was to go to the cross.

So, there were two baptisms which occurred at the interruption of the Age of Israel: John’s baptism which was a sign and Jesus’ baptism which was unique.

There is a water baptism practiced today which basically indicates down with human good and up with divine good.

The water represents retroactive positional truth, identification with Jesus Christ as He hung upon the cross, died and was buried.

As He hung upon the cross, He rejected human good as His work was divine good because He was handling our sin problem.