*Tuesday, December 10, 2013*

**Old and New**

John 1:29-31 The next day John sees Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world. 30 This is he of whom I said, after me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. (KJV)

Let’s look at John the Baptists calling, and why he did what he did. First of all keep in mind that this man was still under the old law. His calling was to announce the coming of our Lord and to make known what was about to take place.

John 1:32-34 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shall see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizes with the Holy Ghost. 34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. (KJV)

Now there are many today who claim our Lord was actually born again and was receiving the Spirit at this time. However, nothing could be further from the truth. No, what John saw was a personal confirmation from God that upon whom he would see the Spirit descending on was the Son of God. We see God explaining in verse 33 that this man would be baptizing with something other than carnal waters and that this man would baptize with the Holy Ghost instead.

Matthew 3:4-7 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (KJV)

If you are going to keep re-enacting water baptism, then why not wear a leather girdle and make your diet locusts and honey? Sound a bit farfetched? Well, not much more than those that should be operating in the new who are still working the dead works of the law. In verse 7 the distinction is made that this is John’s baptism and his calling which he did fulfill.

Acts 10:36-38 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; 38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. (KJV)

The baptism that John preached was to make known the fact that our Lord was about to make His appearance, which in that time was in the flesh of Jesus of Nazareth. Today the baptism we should be preaching is pointing the people where our Lord is now operating, in the realm of the Spirit. Which realm are you looking in, and is it really something new, or are you just chasing your tail in some old outdated doctrine that a fallen man tries to promote as truth?

Dearly loved, may the eyes of your understanding be continually enlightened to the truth of the gospel of Christ unto eternal life; God bless and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.