

DISCUSSING THE BIBLE

By Keith Greer

While preaching in Las Vegas a number of years ago, I had the opportunity to teach the Bible at Indian Springs Prison in Nevada, every Monday for a three hour period. Twelve men obeyed the gospel in the first year.

Let me tell you this was an exciting work. I arrived at 1:00 p.m. and for the next three hours we had Bible discussions. I never knew what questions were going to be asked, but they were good ones. There was never a shortage of topics.

On three different occasions during these times a young man, who was meeting with a Pentecostal group, attended part of our studies. He always wanted to "correct my teaching". While I tried to give him a fair hearing, the members of the Lord's church in that prison pointed him to the Scriptures. What a sight!

In one of these discussions he wanted to bring forth that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one person. He had passages to prove his case. Let me share them with you.

"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." {1 John 5:7}

"I and My Father are one." {John 10:30}

"Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are." {John 17:11}

Now I will fully agree with these passages, but why didn't the young man continue to read?

"And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one." {1 John 5:8}

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." {John 17:20,21}

Spirit, water and the blood are one? Yet, are they three different things? However God and the Son are one, we can also be. If I and a fellow brother are one-- are we not still two people? Let me show you the passages I showed him (along with correcting his thinking on his passages).

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. "{Genesis 1: 1,2}

"Has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds. "{Hebrews 1: 2} So in Creation you have God the Father, the Spirit moving on the waters and Christ who was the means God used. Three persons!

" When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'. " {Matthew 3: 16, 17} Again, all three Persons of the Godhead are present. Who died on the cross? Who did the Lord send back after His ascension?

What did he say to these passages? Did he give any passages to counter my points? He walked out and offered no explanation. Truth always silences error in any Bible discussion. ***