

Guest Article...

The Lord's Baptism of Fire

John the Baptist said: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:11-12, NKJV). John explained the Messiah's work as he prepared the way before Him (Matthew 3:3). In a scathing condemnation of the self-righteous hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Sadducees, John warned them that Christ would execute judgment against sinners. They needed true repentance to flee the approaching wrath, not reliance on their physical heritage (Matthew 3:7-10). The Christ would bring a baptism of fire upon sinners. This fire burns the "trees" that bear evil fruit (Matthew 3:10). It is the "unquenchable fire" of Matthew 3:12, that overwhelms the wicked. Jesus promised, and baptized His apostles with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5, 8. 2:1-4). He has promised an overwhelming, eternal destruction upon the wicked (Mark 9:43-48).

Judgment Day is real, and eternity is forever. Therefore, "fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28; Hebrews 9:27). You do not want to experience the Lord's baptism of fire! - *Joe Price*

News and Notes

Check out the Warfield church website...

WBCOC.ORG

You will find updated material covering recent sermons, bulletins, Bible classes, our fall gospel meeting, and the new radio program.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited by
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com

THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

November 26, 2017



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Created in God's Image

Paul uncovered the deceptive practice of commending ourselves on the basis of others' faults in Second Corinthians 10:12-14. This practice lowers our expectations of ourselves and others to the lowest common denominator. On the other hand, by measuring ourselves against the standard of Jesus Christ, our expectations are raised to the highest possible level of excellence.

We often believe that we are incapable of measuring up to the standard of God's expectation; as if we are incapable of ever achieving such a level. Is this an honest evaluation of our capabilities, or is it a self-deceptive and self-destructive practice in which we engage so as to justify our weaknesses and vices? Can we achieve the standard of excellence God expects of us? Consider this:

God's revelation concerning the creation of man says this; "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; ...So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them" (Gen.

1:26-27). The last verse of Genesis, Chapter One reads, "And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good..."

Since God created us "in His own image," we certainly have the capability of excellence. However, the achievement of this excellence is not intrinsically within us. The prophet Jeremiah acknowledged; "O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23). In fact, when we attempt to "find our own way," invariably, we fail, and sorrow and regret follows.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that every individual is created in the image of God. We have learned through reason and experience that our created image is not achieved through comparing ourselves among ourselves. The result of this erroneous practice certainly does not display the image of a glorious God. In order to realize our true created image, we must achieve our designed purpose. God has revealed that our purpose is achieved, and our created image is realized, when we simply, "Reverence God, and keep His commandments" (Eccl. 12:13).

This truth is born out in the examples

of men of the Bible who, evidently, came to appreciate their created image and strove to fulfill their created purpose through keeping God's word. "Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God" (Gen. 6:9). Job was a "blameless and upright man, one who revered God and shunned evil" (Job 1:8; 2:3). David acknowledged; "It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect" (Psalm 18:32).

Jesus encouraged us to "be perfect, just as you Father in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). In other words, we are to fulfill and reflect the image of our Creator and Savior. Jesus is the ultimate example of this level of excellence. Since Jesus is perfect, following Him, perfectly and completely, assures His followers of perfection. While we may fall short of this level of excellence, we should never use our failure to justify a lower standard of excellence. Rather, we should acknowledge our shortcomings and be determined to do better.

Each of us can be more than we are. If we will reflect on our created image and follow our Creator's guidance, we can be realizing greater levels of excellence in our life. - *Doug Roush*