

Redig the Wells

## Three facts in Gn.26

1. Abraham dug wells of water, 18
2. Philistines filled wells with dirt, 14-15
3. Isaac dug again the wells of Abraham, 18

# Three facts about the gospel

1. Apostles revealed truth of gospel, Ro.1:16-17

Father → Son → HS → Apostles → Gospel

Jn.7:16 Jesus answered them and said, My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

Jn.16:13 when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

1 Co.14:37...I write...commandments of Lord

# Three facts about the gospel

1. Apostles revealed truth of gospel, Ro.1:16-17

Father → Son → HS → Apostles → Gospel

Jn.7:16; 16:13-14; 1 Co.14:37

2. Men filled churches with error; made void the gospel, Ro.10:1-3

3. Some churches dug out errors and returned to water of life

## Three facts about the gospel

Jn.4<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water. <sup>11</sup> The woman said to Him, Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? <sup>14</sup> ...the water that I will give him will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

2 Tim.1<sup>13</sup> Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus

Acts 15 – cf. Paul in Galatians

# I. Choose What The Early Disciples Chose

# They were not denominations

## *Money*

- Jesus was not denominational. Jn.17:20-22
- Apostles were not denominational. 1 Co. 1:10
- Early disciples did not use denominational creeds. Ac.8:36-38
  - No reference to a creed. Isa.53
  - Would God call one to preach what He calls another to deny?

# They were not denominations

## *Money*

- Jesus was not denominational. Jn.17:20-22
- Apostles were not denominational. 1 Co. 1:10
- Early disciples did not use denominational creeds. Ac.8:36-38
- Early churches did not form denominations. 1 Co.1:10-12; 4:17
- No church of NT had a denominational organization. Ep.1:22-23; 4:11



## Seed produces after its kind (Lk.8:11)

1 Pt.1:22, Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart

- *We can be what they were*

Mt.15:13, But He answered and said, Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted

- *Fatal not to be what they were*

# What did the seed produce in NT times?

- Ac.2: Jerusalem
  - 37-38, [faith], repentance, baptism
  - 39, afar off [to a long way] (Ep.2:13, 17)
  - 40, must do
    - 41, received Word (believed, accepted, agreed) ... were baptized
    - 42: doctrine of apostles (Mt.28:20)
    - 47, not a denomination

# What did the seed produce in NT times?

- Ac.9:31, Samaria
  - How? 8:5, 12-13
  - Same preaching as Jerusalem; produced same results as Jerusalem (Ac.2)
- Ac.10, Cornelius
  - Not a Gentile plan of salvation... Mt.28:18
- Ac.26:27-28, Paul
  - 29, what did Paul want?
  - Can we preach same message as Paul?

I. Choose What Early Disciples Chose

## II. Continue In The Faith

<sup>22</sup> ...to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister

# Real issue: what pleases God

- Mt.7<sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven
  - These people spent lifetime claiming Jesus as Lord; they deceived themselves
  - Will of My Father...
    - It is not enough to do 'religious' things (6:1)
  - How to please God? V.24

# Real issue: what pleases God

- Mt.7<sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?
  - *In that day*: Hebraism – last day; Judgment
  - Could these religious people be wrong?
  - Acts 2: audience: religious people; most rejected the gospel. Who was saved? (v.41)
  - Salvation is not decided by emotions / numbers, but by word of God

# Real issue: what pleases God

- Mt.7<sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!
  - Did not recognize them for what they claimed to be
  - Depart: rejection; eternal loss. Iniquity

# Real issue: what pleases God

- Mt. 17<sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him.
  - God rebuked Peter for making Moses and Elijah equal to His Son
  - How serious is it to give lesser men this honor?



## Real issue: what pleases God

- Luther: 'I ask that men make no reference to my name, and call themselves not Lutherans, but Christians. What is Luther? My doctrine, I am sure, is not mine, nor have I been crucified for any one...No, no, my dear friends, let us abolish all party names, and call ourselves Christians after Him Whose doctrine we have.'

## Real issue: what pleases God

- Wesley: 'Would to God that all party names, and unscriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christian world, were forgot and that the very name might never be mentioned more, but be buried in eternal oblivion.'

## Real issue: what pleases God

- Spurgeon: 'I look forward with pleasure to the day when there will not be a Baptist living! I hope that the Baptist name will soon perish, but let Christ's name last forever.'

# What does God want?

Devotion to His word

- Worship: Jn.4:24
- Teaching: Mk.16:15-16
- Assembling: Hb.10:25
- Respect for His authority: Mt.28:18 –
  - Spoke: speaking as opposed to silence. Mt.9:33; Lk.1:64. No focus on *what* they said, but the fact that they spoke. Break silence
  - Saying: substance of speech; what is said. Discourse. Kingly authority / power...

# What does God want us to know ?

<sup>16</sup> For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

<sup>17</sup> For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives – Hebrews 9