The Fellowship Room

Words of Wisdom by John T Polk II For WECO FM 101.3 and The Fellowship Room

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

11-30-2015 Sequence Matters

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us (Luke 1:1)...

it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed (Luke 1:3-4).

The Book of Luke was written by the Holy Spirit because "many" were writing their own account of Jesus' life, but not accurately. Luke's "orderly account" literally meant he was writing about the events in Jesus' life "one after another." Time sequence means something, for:

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son (**Hebrews 1:1-2**).

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12-01-2015 Fulfilled Prophecies

Peter's second sermon to the Jews in his day said:

Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. You are sons of the prophets,

and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities (Acts 3:24-26).

Jesus came and fulfilled what the Old Testament prophets had spoken and written, after they spoke and wrote it. Otherwise, there is no such thing as fulfilled prophecies. It is important to notice that the prophecies came first, then the fulfillment in "these days" of Jesus Christ. Notice, also, that the Gospel was preached to the Jews first, then to us.

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12-02-2015 Salvation Finally Revealed

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning (Romans 15:4).

"Our learning" must come from studying the events written in the Bible. God's plan to save both Jew and Gentile through Jesus Christ, and add the saved to the church of Christ, is in the New Testament, not the Old Testament. Paul wrote that God's Plan,

... In other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets (Ephesians 3:5).

Peter commanded Jews:

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38);

and Gentiles "to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:48).

Jesus saves "from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:39).

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12-03-2015 Birth Order

To end confusion, Luke wrote "an orderly account" (Luke 1:3) of Jesus' life. God had things happen in a certain order, and the Bible preserves that order. For instance, when Jesus was born, the angel said to the shepherds,

There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11), ... And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger (Luke 2:16).

However, "wise men" came to a toddler, for Herod killed "all the male children" in and around Bethlehem:

"... from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men" (Matthew 2:16).

Showing "wise men" with the babe in a manger ignores God's order in the Bible.

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12-04-2015 New Birth Order

Let all things be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).

No better example of this is found than Jesus' statement:

He who believes and is baptized will be saved (Mark 16:16).

Baptism is into Jesus' death.

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (Romans 6:3).

Any salvation offered before baptism is without the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. If not, why not? There is not one passage of Scripture where baptism and salvation/ remission of sins are mentioned together that places salvation before baptism. If salvation comes to a sinner without being baptized into Jesus' death in order to obtain remission of sins, then, as far as their "salvation" is concerned:

Christ died in vain (Galatians 2:21).

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