

HOW WE ARE ENLIGHTENED

Introduction

- 1) Christ was sent into this world as the true **Light** (Jn. 1:1-9)
 - a) Christ gives light to every man (v. 9b)
- 2) Jesus declares that He is the light of the world (Jn. 8:12; 9:5)
 - a) He who follows Jesus will have the “light of life”
- 3) Just how is man **enlightened** with the light of life?

I) **Christians are Those who are Enlightened /Illuminated**

- A) **Ephesians 1:18** – “*the eyes of your understanding being enlightened*”
- B) **Hebrews 6:4** – “*those who were once enlightened*”
- C) **Hebrews 10:32** – “*after you were illuminated*”
- D) From Gk. word *photizo* (from word for “light” – *phos*)

II) **The “Supernatural Holy Spirit Enlightenment” Doctrine**

- A) “This simple and external demonstration of the divine word ought, indeed, to be fully sufficient for the production of faith, if it were not obstructed by our blindness and perverseness. But such is our propensity to error, that our mind can never adhere to divine truth; such is our dullness, that we can never discern the light of it. Therefore nothing is effected by the word, without illumination of the Holy Spirit” (John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*)
- B) Described as “the inner, supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit” (James M. Boice); “a work within us that enables us to grasp and to love the revelation that is there before us in the biblical text as heard and read, and as explained by teachers and writers” (James Packer); “The Word of God is understood by the Spirit through your heart, not your brain” (Xavier LeMond)
- C) Two-fold process: (1) miraculously enlightened by the Holy Spirit, and then (2) enabled to understand the word of God

III) **Problems with the “Supernatural Holy Spirit Enlightenment” Doctrine**

- A) Enlightenment comes first supernaturally, not by the preaching of the Word? (see 2 Cor. 4:3-5)
- B) If all are not enlightened by Holy Spirit, then all are not able to know the truth? (see 1 Tim. 2:4)
- C) Different/erroneous interpretations due to lack of supernatural “enlightenment”? (see 2 Pet. 3:16)

IV) **Man is Enlightened by the Word of God**

- A) The “Word” came to bring light to men – grace and truth (Jn. 1:1, 14, 17)
- B) As the light, Jesus came to man with divinely authorized words (Jn. 12:44-50; 8:31-32)
- C) Our understanding is enlightened when we learn the truth of Christ (Eph. 1:18; 4:17-21)
- D) We are enlightened by the truth of Christ when we hear/read the revelation of the word of Christ in the New Testament (Eph. 3:1-9)
 - 1) Paul wrote/preached (vv. 3, 8) for men to read/hear to understand/enlighten (vv. 4, 9)
 - 2) Holy Spirit revealed revelation of Christ to apostles and prophets (v. 5) for us to hear
 - 3) We walk in the light as children of light when we understand the will of the Lord (5:8-18)
- E) Strengthened by Spirit in inner man when Christ dwells in heart “through faith” (Eph. 3:16-17)
 - 1) Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17)
 - 2) Drawn to Christ by teaching of truth (Jn. 6:44-45) and grow in Christ in word (1 Pet. 2:2)

Conclusion

“The entrance of Your words give light; it gives understanding to the simple” (Psalm 119:130). We are not supernaturally enlightened to understand the truth, ***we are enlightened by the truth!*** The Holy Spirit has revealed the light of God’s word – we must obey the light of truth! If we do, we will be able to walk as “children of light” in this dark world of sin (Eph. 5:8; 2 Cor. 4:6).