

SEPTEMBER 2004

BARKING DOGS

"Of them the proverbs are true: 'A dog returns to its vomit,' and, 'A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.'" 2 Peter 2:22

As I was finishing my latest on line book titled, "Eternal Security", I saw something more clearly than I have ever seen before. The final point was dealing with dogs and sows in 2 Peter 2:22, in contradistinction to sheep, and I knew from many years ago that the term "dogs" was a reference to unsaved men who had rejected the gospel of grace, and that the term "sows" was a reference to unsaved females who had rejected the gospel. (See "Dogs, Sows and Sheep" in my on line book, "Eternal Security").

There are, in fact, **four animals mentioned in the NT: dogs, sows, sheep and wolves**, and out of those four only one of them refers to the **saved- the sheep!** All the rest of them refer to **unsaved people**. As I was finishing my article the Lord showed me something with such clarity that ties in with this concept. In America today there is a phenomenon, a movement that is sweeping across the land like a plague. It's called by many names: the Tongues movement, the "Holy" laughter movement, the Pentecostal movement and the Charismatic Renewal movement. It's latest manifestation is grown men and women standing before thousands of people **barking like dogs and howling like wolves!**

Now those involved in this say that it's the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in their midst- but it isn't! **The filling of the Holy Spirit does not degrade people; it does not rob them of their human dignity; it does not cause them to emulate animals; even animals that have been used scripturally to refer to the unsaved!** The devil has tipped his hand in this one by using two animals that refer to the unsaved; he has shown to the world that he is the one leading the people of God astray. What this shows is that Satan is behind this and that the unsaved are involved here.

You see, the Word is very clear on this matter; the fruit of the Holy Spirit is: love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, meekness, temperance, long-suffering and faith. The Scriptures teach us how and in what manner the Holy spirit manifests himself in the souls and lives of God's people. We do not have the authority to take any phenomenon that some people are experiencing and say that the Holy Spirit is the one doing it. **People's experiences must line up with the teaching of the Word of God, if it doesn't, then it is not from the Lord!**

One does not have the right to state that the Holy spirit is the one behind people losing all sense of reality laughing uncontrollably, or speaking in "tongues", or barking like a dog, or howling like a wolf, or rolling around on the floor. Just because they say that the Holy Spirit is behind it all doesn't mean that he is! The Word of God is the only reliable source on this subject and we must listen to what it says, not people! And the Word of God clearly states that the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in believer's lives produces love, joy, peace, hope, etc.. Nowhere did he produce this insanity.

You say, "What about tongues?" **The biblical gift of tongues was the ability to speak in a known foreign language, not some gobbedly-gook!** The Word even tells us what languages they were speaking in in Acts 2:8-11: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, etc.. An interesting side note, every single instance of speaking in a foreign language was always in the masculine gender, never in the feminine, which means **that no woman has ever spoke in tongues!** Not only that, women were to keep silent in the churches; they were not allowed to speak, teach men, or have authority or leadership positions. 1 Corinthians 14:31; 1 Timothy 2:11,12.

There may be a spirit causing these people to bark like dogs, howl like wolves, laugh without self-control and act in a shameful, undignified and tragically sad manner, but it isn't the Holy Spirit! The Word of God is very clear in describing the effects of the filling of the Holy Spirit and it soen't describe these things. If anyone rejects the scriptural concepts, or adds their own ideas on the matter, they are rejecting what the Scriptures clearly teach. But let's take a look at some examples of the true filling of the Holy Spirit from the Word.

The most important example is the Lord Jesus Christ who was full of the Holy Spirit, "*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert*", Luke 4:1. There was never another person in the history of God's people on earth that could remotely compare to the fullness of the Holy Spirit's empowerment as Christ was in his humanity, and when did he ever bark like a dog? When did he ever howl like a wolf? When did he ever laugh uncontrollably breaking down and sobbing? When did he ever act hysterically? When did he ever fall down on the ground and shake like one demon-possessed? **The answer is never!**

We can ask the same thing about the twelve apostles, the Pastors in the churches, the deacons and the godly men and women, when did they ever act like that? Every place in the NT we see that believers in Christ, the true believers in Christ, conducted themselves with dignity, self-control, emotional sobriety and godliness; they had a peace, calmness and dignity about them.

There is a dignity attached to being a human being because God created man in his own image! And to take human beings and to debase them to such disgraceful, shameful behavior is contemptible and is definitely not Christian, but anti-Christian! But then to say that the Holy Spirit is the one behind all this is blasphemy!

The ministry of the Holy Spirit, combined with Bible Doctrine, conforms us to the image of Christ, "*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*", Romans 8:29. Is this shameful behavior these people are doing the image of Christ? Is Christ going around in heaven on his hands and knees barking like a dog? And if Christ is the image of his Father, they're also stating that the Father is doing this too! Is the Father howling like a wolf, barking and shaking on the ground? No! Never! God forbid even the thought!

Can we not see how blasphemous their statements are? Can we not see the evil of all

this? Can we not see the hand of the devil in all this as he laughs at the debasement of God's creatures? It's bad enough to see grown men and women behave in such a demeaning manner under any circumstances, but to do so in the context of a "Christian" gathering brings disgrace to all of Christianity, but to say that the Holy Spirit is behind it all is unthinkable! But no wonder, for the Apostle Paul tells us that in the Last Days there will be a spirit of delusion leading people astray; leading astray those who are negative to truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:11; 1 Timothy 4:1.

Since the beginning of the Church Age there have been **two "Christianity's"**, one true, the other false. As soon as Christ planted his field the enemy came in at night, (under the cover of darkness, [deception and disguise]), and planted his **tares**. These two Christianity's, true Christianity and false Christianity, have been in existence for the last almost two thousand years. Sometimes the false Christians infiltrate the true believer's churches, and sometimes true believers are deceived into going into the false Christianity's churches. How one can tell the difference is the one will be centered around the Word of God and the other one won't.

The Apostle Paul warned us about this in 2 Corinthians 11:13, when he told us that at even at that time there were **false apostles**. The Apostle John warned us about the **false prophets** in 1 John 4:1. The Apostle Peter warned us about the **false prophets and false teachers** in 2 Peter 2:1, who were already in their midst in the churches, even holding leadership positions. The Apostle Paul also warned us about **false brethren** in Galatians 2:4, those who pass themselves off as Christians, but aren't!

Then there is the **False Prophet**; the second beast of the Tribulation, who comes up out of the earth in Revelation 13:11. The first beast, known as the anti-christ, will be the political ruler of the New World Order, while the second beast, known as the false prophet, will be the religious head of the New World Order. His having two horns as a lamb tells us that he will be posing as a Christian, but isn't one. One of the things that stand out about him, other than his religious facade, is that the words he speaks will not be Christian doctrine, but the doctrines of the devil.

These false apostles, prophets, teachers and brethren are just like their master, the devil. Like the devil, they transform themselves, **disguise themselves**, appear to be something that they aren't- Christians! The word used in the original is *metaschemizo* which meant to change the outer appearance, but not change the inner essence. They have never been truly born again; they have never really trusted Christ as their Savior. They may adopt the outward manner, speech and show of what one would associate with Christianity, but there is no new man on the inside of them.

If you can get past all the outward show of these people and look at the real issues you will find there is one thing by which you can distinguish between the true and the false. **True believers in Christ are people of the Word of God; they love it, want it and must have it; they languish on the vine without it.** The truth is the issue with them. Why? Because the true Spirit of God lives within them, the Spirit of truth, and he is leading them into all truth. *"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth..."*, John 16:13a.

As for the others, we are to have nothing to do with this movement; instead we should be seeking out churches and men of God who are faithful in teaching the Word of God. If you are already attending one, then you should be praying for your Pastor and supporting his ministry any way you can. If you do not have a church where you live that teaches the Word, then ask the Lord to give you the doctrine that you need. *“My sheep listen to my voice, (the Word of God); I know them, and they follow me.”* John 10:27

Pastor Mike