



BIBLE WORD STUDY

But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. (Isaiah 28:13)

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Eph 4:1-8US

Keeping the Unity of the Spirit (#2 continued from last issue)

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all... (Ephesians 4:4-6).

One Body

There is more than "one body" if we are looking at quantity. There are many physical bodies and spiritual bodies. The believer (in a mortal body *and* the body of Christ now) will have a spiritual body *and* be in the body of Christ in eternity. (1 Corinthians 6:20; 15:44).

One Spirit

There are many "spirits" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The passage in the KJB that baffles the critics is Revelation 1:4-5.

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, (Revelation 1:4-5).

These "seven Spirits" are equated with God the Father and God the Son in the passage. This is a reference to God the Holy Spirit. No amount of juggling can make this refer to "works" of the Holy Spirit. The inevitable conclusion is that the Holy Spirit is Seven in One. Just as God is Three Persons in One, the Holy Spirit is Seven Spirits in One.

One Hope

There is a *positional* "hope" that is settled and sure. Jesus Christ is our sure Hope.

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; (1 Timothy 1:1).

A believer also has *prospective* and *practical* hopes. (Philippians 1:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 2:19).

One Lord

There are many LORDS but only One who is over all. (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16).

One Faith

During this Age of Grace there are three "faiths" and all of them are commended. There is the personal faith of a man, the doctrinal distinctions of this age such as "keeping the faith" and the "faith of Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Timothy 4:1; Galatians 2:20).

One Baptism

At this point a man has a problem if he uses Ephesians 4 to prove that water baptism is totally excluded. It is evident the purpose of Ephesians 4 is not to teach exclusively existent or beneficial "ones." There is more than one body, more than one Spirit, more than one hope and more than one faith---all are beneficial and consistent with the doctrine of grace.