

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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“I AM NOT ONE TO ARGUE SCRIPTURE”

John Edwards

When we challenge those who teach things that are Biblically incorrect and call for discussion of such, we are met with the response, “I am not one to argue Scripture.” Those who shun religious disputes ought to read the following passages:

ACTS 17:16-17: *“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore **disputed** he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.”*

ACTS 18:1, 4: *“After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth... And he **reasoned** in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.”*

ACTS 18:19: *“And he came to Ephesus...and **reasoned** with the Jews.”*

ACTS 19:8-9: *“And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, **disputing** and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of*

*that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, **disputing** daily in the school of one Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years...”*

The word translated “disputed” and “reasoned” is defined as, “to think different things with other persons, to converse, argue, dispute” (*Vine’s Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words*, pp. 324-325).

About everywhere Paul went, he was arguing (disputing, reasoning) with someone from the Scriptures. Now read Paul’s words in Philippians 4:9: *“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do...”*

THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

John Edwards

The statement of the Hebrew writer, in Hebrews 13:8, *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”*, is often abused and misused.

When we point out the Bible does not teach that men today are baptized with the Holy Spirit, there are those who point to passages in the book of John, where Jesus promised the

apostles would be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and argue as follows: “Jesus promised Holy Spirit baptism. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, men today receive Holy Spirit baptism.” With this same reasoning, we can prove all kinds of things to be true that are not true, according to plain Bible teaching. For example:

1. The Lord formed Adam of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Gen. 2:7). He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, men today are miraculously formed of the dust of the ground as was Adam.

2. The Lord created Eve, Adam’s help meet, from the rib of Adam (Gen. 2:21-22). He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, women today are miraculously made from ribs as was Eve.

3. The Lord fed His people with manna (Ps. 78:24). He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, His people today are miraculously fed with manna.

4. The Lord said, *“these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall*

not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mk. 16:17-18). He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, these signs shall follow them that believe today.

That which proves too much proves nothing! A man today might as well expect the Lord to put him to sleep, remove a rib from his side and make him a wife as to expect to speak with new tongues, take up serpents and drink any deadly thing without harm or hurt, lay hands on the sick and they recover or to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

**THE MOST
COMPREHENSIVE
STATEMENT
IN THE BIBLE**

John Edwards

One of the most comprehensive statements in the Bible was made when Moses said, "And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways,

and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?" (Dt. 10:12-13). If we are concerned about God, then we will be concerned about what He requires and meeting His requirements. What doth the Lord thy God require of thee?

1) TO FEAR THE LORD.

Man is duty bound to fear the Lord. Solomon recorded, "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). Fear of God is reverence for God that moves us to do the will of God.

2) TO WALK IN ALL HIS

WAYS. God's ways are on a far higher plane than our ways (Is. 55:8-9). It is not that we are to walk in some of His ways, but the Lord requires us to walk in ALL His ways. One would do well to read the book of Ephesians to learn how to walk today (Eph. 2:10; 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15).

3) TO LOVE HIM. "This is the first and great

commandment" (Mt. 22:37-38). Love for God involves keeping the commandments of God. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 Jn. 5:3). "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 Jn. 2:4). Do you know Him?

4) TO SERVE THE LORD THY GOD. Joshua's appeal was to serve the Lord "in sincerity and in truth" (Josh. 24:14). Too many are trying to serve God and mammon, and such cannot be done (Mt. 6:24)!

5) TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD. God's commandments for us today are contained in the gospel of Christ. Within the gospel is "the righteousness of God revealed" (Rom. 1:16-17), and the Psalmist said of God, "All thy commandments are righteousness" (Ps. 119:172). So, to be righteous, one must obey the gospel commands!

Will you do what the Lord thy God requires?

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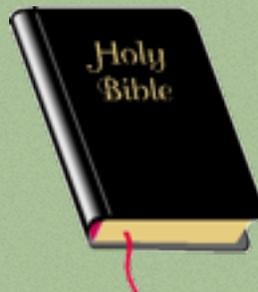
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