

RE-DIGGING OLD WELLS

Gen 26:15-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Abimelech orders Isaac to leave Phillista
- B. Isaac re-digs Abraham's wells Gen 26:18
 - 1. Phillistines had filled them Gen 26:15
 - 2. Isaac gave wells same name as Abraham
- C. Christianity compared with water Jhn 4:14
 - 1. Christ opened way to fountain Rev 21:6
 - 2. Fountain clogged by human doctrines
 - 3. This predicted (prophesied) 1Tim 4:1-3; 2Tim 4:3,4

DISCUSSION:

I. ORIGINAL WELLS OPENED BY CHRIST

- A. One head Col 1:18; Eph 1:22,23
- B. One faith Eph 4:5
- C. One body Eph 4:4
- D. One baptism Eph 4:5
- E. Local Church government
 - 1. Elders in every church Acts 14:23; 1Pet 5:2
 - 2. Deacons to assist elders 1Tim 3:8-13
- F. All sufficiency of God's word 2Tim 3:16,17
 - 1. Alteration is fatal Gal 1:6-9
 - 2. Transgression is fatal 2Jhn 1:9-11
- G. God given names
 - 1. "My church" Matt 16:18; Rom 16:16
 - 2. Disciples (followers) called Christians Acts 11:26

II. THINGS THAT CLOGGED THESE WELLS

- A. Changed form of church government 3Jhn 1:9,10
 - 1. Began to change approximately 150 AD
 - a. Began to exalt one elder and call him bishop
 - b. Then group of bishops over group of churches
 - 2. 318 AD Bishops met at Nicea and in 325 AD wrote creed
 - 3. Constantine, emperor of Rome encouraged same kind of pyramid type government in the church
 - 4. First Pope in 606 AD
- B. Human creeds became authority instead of Bible
 - 1. Nicene creed became authority for Catholics
 - 2. Followers of Martin Luther incorporated his teachings into a creed around 1530 AD (Lutherans)
- C. Began to have different faiths and bodies
 - 1. Lutherans 1530 AD (Martin Luther)
 - 2. Presbyterians 1536 AD (John Calvin)
 - 3. Church of England 1552 AD (Henry VIII)

- 4. Baptist 1609 - 1611 (John Smyth)
- 5. Episcopal 1789; Holiness 1890; Pentecostal 1900
- D. Document titled "religious bodies" - 77 denominations (From Wikipedia). (Encyclopedia of American Religions) says there are 1,584 religious organizations in the U.S. and Canada. Note also "pie charts" concerning different religions
- E. Wearing of human names condemned 1Cor 1:10-13

III. ATTEMPTS TO RE-DIG WELLS OF GOD

- A. Reformers resulted in denominations mentioned
- B. Restorers went back to the original pattern (the seed Lk 8:11)
 - 1. James O'Kelly Methodist preacher
 - 2. Barton W. Stone Presbyterian preacher
 - 3. Thomas Campbell Presbyterian preacher
 - 4. Alexander Campbell and others
- C. Their motto
 - 1. Speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent
 - 2. Speak as the oracles of God 1Pet 4:11
- D. Observe the principle of the seed Lk 8:11
 - 1. Seed is the word of God
 - 2. God created everything full grown
 - 3. Providing a way of procreation
 - 4. Vegetable, animal and spiritual kingdom
 - 5. Cannot destroy the spiritual seed Matt 24:35
 - 6. Can pervert it, but will be accursed Gal 1:7
 - 7. Plant same seed today and get the same plant
 - 8. Dig same well, get same pure water

CONCLUSION

- A. Let's be sure we go back to the Word of God
- B. Call Bible things by Bible names, do Bible things in Bible ways
- C. Let's dig out the original wells of God
- D. Let's speak as the oracles of god 1Pet 4:11