***The Analysis of Scripture, No. 5

Categories of Doctrine (Baptism), No. 2 - PH04-01***

The book of Philippians is a book which is to be studied according to a technique that we have been considering together. We have referred to this technique by the letters H-I-C-E-E. You may call it the HICEE technique, or as it is more commonly known, the historical grammatical method of interpreting Scripture. HICEE stands for the elements that are involved on the part of a pastor-teacher in interpreting the Word of God and explaining it to God's people. It includes: hermeneutics; isagogics; categories; etymology; and, exegesis. We have been reviewing the segment of the categories of Scripture. We have been illustrating putting together a summary of a doctrine by use of the doctrine of baptism. We have thus far summarized for you the baptisms of: Moses; of the cross; of the Holy Spirit; of fire; and, of John.

In this session, we're going to complete that with the other two baptisms of the seven that we find in Scripture, beginning with the summary on the baptism of Jesus. These summaries are simply bringing together certain basic facts that we draw out of interpreting the Scriptures concerning just one subject. This is drawn from all over the Word of God, and we come to certain conclusions, statements, and understandings on that particular topic. You may, of course, add many factors here of your own that are significant to you, or in the way of amplification to understanding any particular category of truth that you are studying.

**6) The Baptism of Jesus**

So let's look at the baptism of Jesus.

1. The baptism by John came before the baptism of Jesus because it was the herald's baptism anticipating Christ. The baptism of Jesus is a unique kind of baptism. It's one-of-a-kind. Though he came to John the Baptist to be baptized, the baptism which Christ received was a different kind of baptism from that which John was administering. However, John was baptizing as the herald who was announcing the coming of Christ.
2. It was the purpose of Jesus Christ to have his herald John baptize Him to signal the start of His public ministry at the age of thirty.
3. In John's baptism, the water represented the Kingdom of God. This is a general term for regenerated people from the time of Adam to the end of the millennium. Under John's baptism, when a person came to him to be baptized, he associated himself (he identified himself) with that water which symbolically stood for the Kingdom of God. The person in that way declared to John, "I associate myself with the body of regenerated people who believe in the coming Messiah, and I am prepared for the ushering in of the Messianic Kingdom."
4. In the baptism of Jesus, the water represented something different. In His case, the water represented the will of the Father in salvation; that is, it represented all that is contained in the cross. The will of God must be exercised before the eternal kingdom of God can become a reality--this kingdom of regenerated people--the cross has to come before the crown. So as Christ entered the water of His baptism, He was signifying that He was ready to die for the sins of the world. That's what He was declaring when He came to John and said, "John baptize Me." The water represents the will and the plan of the Father for Me on the cross. I am going to identify Myself with this water and with that which it represents in My case." So, as Christ entered these waters of baptism, He identified Himself with the plan of God and His readiness to die for the sins of the world. As He came up out of the water, He was signifying His resurrection and the fact that all believers would have a resurrection body such as His.
5. The baptism of Jesus was the counterpart (that is, the ritual) to the reality of the baptism of the cup; that is, the baptism of the Cross. Christ had a real baptism that He was to experience, and that was the real baptism of the sufferings of the cross. This baptism of Jesus was a ritual picture of that suffering that was to come.
6. The Holy Spirit appeared at Christ's baptism to signify that He would sustain Jesus in His humanity during His earthly ministry.
7. The baptism of Jesus was unique (one-of-a-kind) because Christ is unique and He had a unique mission to perform; that is, the mission of dying for the sins of the world on the cross.
8. For this reason, no one ever follows the Lord in baptism. This is a favorite phrase that preachers like to use to invite people to come and follow the Lord in baptism. You and I are not God men, and we are not going to the cross to die for the sins of the world. That's what the baptism of Jesus signified. Therefore, we cannot follow Him in baptism. The only way that you can follow the Lord in baptism is to the extent of the mode of immersion. However, you and I can be obedient to the Word of God by being baptized with water as the Word commands us to signify our identification in the new life with Christ.

So this in brief is a summary of the baptism of Jesus. These points cover the basic features that explain what the baptism of Jesus was all about. As you study the Word of God, if you keep these basic factors in mind, you will understand the references to this baptism. You'll understand how this baptism worked and what it signified. As you go along, other points may strike you, and you'll be able to add them to the list. It is extremely useful to bring together (and eventually you must do this) what the Bible has to say from different places on the subject and just classify it. In seminary study, this is done on a major scale in a study called Systematic Theology. This is where all of the Bible is divided into seven or eight major themes, and then all that the Word teaches on these subjects is brought together, and these are studied as classifications of truth.

**7) The Baptism of the Church Age**

Now there's one other baptism (number seven), and this is the baptism of the church age. We will now summarize these points:

1. Believers in the church have a real identification with Christ. This identification with Christ is twofold. First of all, it is an identification with His death. We referred to that as retroactive positional truth. That is, you are looking back to something that Christ has done on the cross to which you were related. When He died, you died. When He was buried, you were buried. All that took place on the cross, you experienced in the eyes of God with the Son of God. So you, at this point in time, retroactively received the benefits of what took place 2,000 years ago on the cross. Water baptism, in one of its facets, signifies Christ in His death. This is retroactive positional truth.

However, it also signifies, as the individual comes up out of the water, his resurrection. This we relate to current positional truth. That is, that you have a position right now in heaven with Jesus Christ. He is seated at the right hand of God the Father awaiting the time when all of His enemies have been made His footstool. You and I are in Christ. Therefore, positionally, we are in the heavenly places seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father with the Son of God. That's all that we could ask for, and it's all that we need. It means that every spiritual blessing is available and open to us. When you are baptized, you go down into the water, and you are saying, "I am related retroactively to that cross." When you come up out of the water, you are saying. "I am now with all of the fullness of my spiritual privilege." God is just waiting to hand it out. The problem is our capacity to receive all that is now our due--all that we are entitled to because of our relationship to Jesus Christ. Water baptism seeks to portray that.

1. Christian water baptism is a ritual baptism. The water is symbolic of the person and work of Jesus Christ. The person baptized is identified with Christ and portrays the baptism of the Spirit which has united him to Christ. Your water baptism as a Christian is actually the ritual which is portraying the real baptism of the spirit which joined you to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The believers going down into the water are identified with the water. In this way, the Christian declares that he is identified with Christ in His death, and at the death of Christ, the Lord rejected all human good for sin. So we, when we are going down into the waters of baptism, are identifying ourselves with the death of Christ, and we are declaring our rejection of human good as having any value in the eyes of God. This is the testimony of retroactive positional truth. It's our victory over human good.

The believer coming up out of the water is identified with the air. We are sharing Christ's resurrection life. The Christian in this way declares his identification with Christ in His position as the right hand of the Father in heaven. This is the testimony to current positional truth. His life is living through us. Therefore, we are capable as human beings of the production of divine good. This is what the Bible refers to as newness of life.

So here you come to water baptism as a Christian. The waters themselves represent the person and the work of Christ. You enter that water, and you are put down under the water. When you go down under the water, you are declaring to everybody sitting out there, "I'm through with human good, and I am relating myself retroactively to the cross and all that it connotes for my salvation." When you are brought back up out of the water, you are declaring, "I am now ready for the production of divine good through a knowledge of doctrine and the working of God the Holy Spirit within me. I am ready to let Him express the resurrected life of Christ with all the powers that that connotes through me because I am related to Him." This is current positional truth.

This relationship has two expressions in the way of good. It has the capability of producing both human good and divine good. The human good comes when the Christian is in the outer circle of fellowship with God which is the circle of carnality. This is the circle when the Christian is in sin and has not confessed the sin. Therefore, the Holy Spirit does not control his life. Instead, the old sin nature is in charge. In the inner circle, God the Holy Spirit is in charge, and when the Christian has all known sin confessed, then the Holy Spirit directs his life, and then from that inner circle follows divine good.

This is what is behind water baptism. When a person comes and says, "I want to take upon myself Christian water baptism," this is what has to be explained to him. Most people have all kinds of rinky-tink things like "following the Lord in baptism" explained to them, or being able to join the church if you receive water baptism, and it's associated with all kinds of things. The real spiritual significance of water baptism and the blessing that that experience should be is lost. So if you are one of the current candidates for water baptism, this is what it's all about--identification with Christ in His death, spiritual and physical. The cross is identification retroactively. Christ bore our sins. Christ rejected our human good. Identification with Christ in His resurrection is current positional truth. Christ eternally seated at the right hand of the Father is the basis of our eternal security. Experientially, we are filled with the Spirit, and this is the basis for the protection of divine good.

1. Ritual baptism must follow salvation. It should never precede it. For this reason, baptism is not for infants and little babies who can't make a decision for or against Christ. Until you come to the age of accountability and are able to choose Christ as Savior, you are not a candidate for baptism. Water baptism in the age of grace follows salvation.
2. Water baptism is the ritual which pictures the real baptism of the Holy Spirit.
3. Water baptism is the Christian's testimony to the fact that Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship to Jesus Christ forever.

So I think if you run your eye over these summaries concerning these seven baptisms, you'll have a pretty good idea of what we mean by taking various expositions of Scripture on a certain subject, and just making statements of truth summarizing those facts and putting it all together. If you take these basic statements about Christian baptism, you will have a good idea and a scriptural understanding of what it's all about.

This method of interpreting the Word of God that we have been looking at, the HICEE technique, and the role of the pastor-teacher are extremely opposed today. This is probably the major area of conflict in ecclesiology today in the matter of local church operations.

**The Old Sin Nature**

You and I as believers have a problem. You know that we are born with a presence within us of an old sin nature. We inherit this from our human Fathers. It was passed down from Adam. When Adam and Eve exercised negative volition toward the command of God in the Garden of Eden, they created something within themselves that had not been there before. They created a nature of evil that was inclined to oppose the will of God. Because Adam was responsible for that act in the Garden of Eden, as the man, and because he deliberately sinned (whereas his wife was deceived and tricked into the sin), the Word of God lays upon him the responsibility for what happened in the Garden of Eden.

For that reason, the old sin nature guilt is passed on through him in copulation and the generation of the child. So all of us have received this old sin nature from our parents. When we become believers, it is not removed. The only time the old sin nature is removed is when we finally stand in the Lord's presence. Yet, this old sin nature is the source of all the unhappiness and of all the failures that you and I experience as believers. I'm afraid that we as Christians do not constantly stay abreast in our thinking of how bad the old sin nature is. We do not maintain a serious and a guarded attitude toward this characteristic that resides in each one of us.

Satan carries out his plans on this earth through the old sin nature. If it wasn't for the old sin nature, Satan would be comparatively powerless. It is the old sin nature which is the handle in your life that he takes hold of in order to execute his will. Therefore, control of the old sin nature in the Christian is crucial because of the fantastic powers that Satan has once he can direct this nature within us.

Mark 7 is one of the places in the Bible that gives us a summary of the things that come out of the old sin nature. One of the things that the old sin nature produces is individual acts of sin. Mark 7:21-23 lists for us thirteen sins that flow from the old sin nature. It says, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts," and then it goes on and it lists these individual acts of sin. The word "heart" here is used in this place of the old sin nature. We usually think of the word heart in terms of the directive side of the Christian's mind. However, this is the part of our mind which is governed by the human viewpoint of the old sin nature, so it can be used interchangeably here with the directive side of the mind or with the old sin nature. "Out of the heart from within us proceeds these individual sins," or "out of the old sin nature."

This passage lists some very ugly sins. Remember that sometimes Satan's cause is best served by stimulating and drawing out from us these sins--sins of this kind and others. Sometimes Satan's cause is served by making us act nice and drawing out our human good. But right now, let's look at his serving his cause through drawing out acts of sin. There never comes a time when you are not capable of committing these particular sins, and don't ever forget this. Here you have a list of 13. Other places in the Scripture list them in other ways. But the point I want to make is that because you and I have an old sin nature (because salvation does not remove this nature), you and I, no matter who you are; no matter how long you have been a believer; no matter how active you are in the Lord's service; no matter how sincere; and, no matter how you love the Lord, you are capable of every one of these sins.

**Sins That the Believer Can Commit**

1. Depraved thoughts are mental attitude sins. Every one of us as believers is capable of the filthiest kind of thinking.
2. Fornication and sexual immorality are not the exclusive province of the degraded unbeliever. It is just as much the ground of any believer.
3. Thefts--in the big ways and in the little ways--that we dignify with some other word--there is not a believer studying this who is not capable of picking up something that doesn't belong to him.
4. The next one is murder. When we convey this into its scriptural intent in the place where murder begins, with personal hatred towards somebody, there are very few people who are not murderers. Many have probably been guilty of that within this past week, as fine a Christian and as serious and dedicated a Christian as you may envision yourself to be.
5. Next we have adulteries, the marital infidelities, particularly expressed here as in the form of mental infidelities. Any Christian is as capable of committing these as any unbeliever.
6. Covetousness is the desire to have what other people have. Here is a primary sin among the best of Christians who are looking around in their nice sweet way trying to own what other people own, and trying to be able to go to the places that other people go to, and do the things that other people do and that it takes money to do.
7. Wickedness consists of just plain downright acts of evil.
8. Next is deceit. The finest Christian is capable of being the world's biggest liar. There is nothing to protect you from playing a role of deception.
9. Sensuality is the personal indulgence of the senses. Many a Christian who goes around as a fine leader; a fine worker; a fine believer; and, a fine church member is an indulgent personality to his senses. Sometimes it's quite evident just by looking at him. The room gets a little too hot, and there are complaints. "I'm not used to sweating." Well, you would "perspire," because you have class. It is fantastic to listen to children. You can tell how they have been trained in sensuality at home. If they don't feel too well, they're not going to do things. Somebody doesn't feel up to his best capacities, so he doesn't come out to perform his responsibility. All are variations of sensuality. The best of Christians are indulgent in this way.
10. Next we have a malicious mischief working eye. Any Christian is capable of walking around and looking and casting the worst light upon what he sees. There are a lot of dirty-eyed believers walking around just like there are a lot of dirty-eyed old unbelievers walking around. Don't kid yourself that the old sin nature will relieve you of this because you are a believer.
11. Slander is misrepresenting somebody else, or the abuse of other people with what you have to say.
12. Pride is the great sin of Satan. This is arrogance and the desire to be "in." How many Christians perform the Lord's work because that's the "in" thing to do? How many Christians knock their brains out in some kind of Christian service so they can be associated with certain elements in the church that they consider the "in" people?
13. The last one in this list is folly--just plain insanity. The Word of God tells us that the Lord has come to give us a balanced mind. The old sin nature causes us to do things that are just absolutely insane. These are destructive things that make no sense. The long range returns are so pathetic that you just have to say, "Now, that was folly. That was insanity."

These sins make that we refer to as the lust patterns of the old sin nature. This force is within us as a potential source of evil constantly. For this reason, 1 Corinthians 10:12 says, "Wherefore, let him that thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation hat taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful who will not permit you to be tempted above that you are able, but will with the temptation also make the way to escape, that you may be able to bear it." The apostle Paul says, "Don't you kid yourself for one moment that the old sin nature is no longer operational in you as a Christian, and that you couldn't start here at the top of the list with number one, and just work your way right down through number 13, one-by-one, just as easy as pie, because you can, and you do."

"But," he says, "you don't have to." God is not going to put upon you as a believer a demand or a requirement for a type of life free of the expression of sins like this without giving you the capacity to do it. That's the point that we're driving at. God has given us a capacity for controlling the old sin nature beast that lies within us that causes us to be capable of this kind of expression even as believers. I cannot urge you enough to respect your old sin nature's constant potential even as you respect Satan's cleverness and his power. Because of the old sin nature within us, the Word of God tells us that there is nobody who is a good person.

You'll remember that the Lord Jesus made this point to the man who came to Him and called Him "Good Master." Luke 18:18: "And a certain ruler asked Him saying, 'Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'" Verse 19: "And Jesus said unto Him, 'Why do you call Me good? None is good except one; that is, God.'" Do you understand what Jesus was saying? Jesus was saying that there isn't a human being who can be called good because every human being has within him the old sin nature. The only person that you could call good is God who does not have the old sin nature. In effect, Jesus was saying to this man, "Are you implying that I am deity, and therefore you can call me good, though I am a human being?"

All of that was true of the Lord. He was a human being, and we could call Him good because He did not have an old sin nature. It is for this reason that we have made the remark which has offended some people: There are no personalities and no celebrities in the Christian life. Stop thinking in terms of outstanding Christian leaders, personalities, and celebrities. Because there is an old sin nature within us, there is none good. Therefore, there are no personalities and no celebrities in the Christian life, except one--the one man God who lacked the old sin nature, Jesus Christ. He is a celebrity, and He is the only celebrity that we make over and that we look to.

It was the apostle Paul who expressed the same idea in Romans 7:18 when he declared that from within himself, his flesh, he realized that there was no good thing. Romans 7:18: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwells no good thing. For to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good, I find not.

My dear friend, if you assume that you are above these terrible sins, sooner or later you are going to get the shock of your life. Romans 12:3 says, "For I say through the grace given unto me to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think." If you think that you do not have an old sin nature capable of these types of sins, you are mistaken, and you are going to get burned. This is because Satan is pussyfooting around like the lion that he is, gently walking his way among us waiting to see whom he may devour. Do you know whom he gobbles up? The Christian who is stupid enough to think that because he loves the Lord; because he reads the Bible; because he comes to church; and, because he serves the Lord, that his old sin nature cannot break out in this kind of an expression. But it can.

The old sin nature, while it produces this kind of loathsome thing, also produces another side, and that is that to which Isaiah 64:6 refers as "our filthy rags" ("our righteousnesses") or our personal human good. Human good is really evil in God's sight. It's only good by human viewpoint standards. Human good is perhaps the number one danger to the Christian life. This is because the Christian who is running around performing his human good is soothed in his conscience so that he fails to confess sin and recognize himself in the evil in which he walks in relationship to the Father. The common grace of God stimulates a good in man, but it is a good which the old sin nature controls. Sometimes Satan's goals are best served by drawing this human good from the old sin nature.

Remember that the old sin nature and the good that it produces have been rejected at the cross for salvation (Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9). The unbeliever's human good is going to be judged at the Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-12). The Christian's human good is going to be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:12-13). There is a great deal of Christian service which is performed under the control of the old sin nature. When that happens, it is an act of human good.

We have an illustration of this in Acts 5:1-11 in the case of Ananias and Sapphira. Their human good production led them to selling their property and pretending to give all of the money to the Lord's work. The thing that was stimulating this was their emotion as that emotion was being directed by the old sin nature. They got enthusiastic. They got carried away. They saw what others in the group were doing. On the basis of an emotional jag, they were going to make an impression too. The stimulations that are behind most human good production are the emotions of the soul as these emotions are influenced by the old sin nature.

For this reason, Satan has to be able to keep people operating on emotions in order to lead them into human good production and away from divine good production. Unless you understand this, you're going to miss a very important point, and a lot of people can't seem to grasp this. Someone said something to me the other day that just revealed to me again how hard it was for this individual to realize that through the control of our emotions, Satan is able to accomplish his goal. Satan has to be able to control peoples' emotions in order to lead them into human good production. The Christian who is operating from a mind which is oriented to the divine viewpoint of Bible doctrine is the Christian whose emotions are under control. That kind of a Christian Satan will not be able to manipulate.

So here's the problem. You and I as believers are faced with an old sin nature that's pouring out loathsome individual acts of sin of which we are capable of at any moment, anytime of the day or night. At the same time, it is producing a deceptive stream of human good. Both of these are rejected by God, and both of these bring unhappiness into our lives and frustrate the plan of God in our experience. Now what on earth are we going to do about it?

Well the answer is summed up in Psalm 119:11: "Thy word have I hidden in mind heart that I might not sin against God." There's only one thing that can keep the old sin nature in a Christian from expressing itself on the one hand in sins and on the other hand in human good. The answer is Bible doctrine understanding in the mind. This gives us the mind of Christ with its divine viewpoint for living and for decision making. Under the status of the filling of the Holy Spirit, Satan's control of the old sin nature is neutralized. Then doctrine can guide us into godly living and into divine good service.

**The Pastor-Teacher**

This is the reason why it is crucial for each believer to have his right pastor-teacher feed him on the Word of God as per 1 Peter 5:2. The pastor-teachers are told to feed the flock of God. "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight of it not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." Every Christian must have this need provided by his right pastor-teacher--the Word of God--if he is to control his old sin nature. Never expect your old sin nature to stop expressing itself. Never view yourself as above gross sins and above producing sweetness-and-light human good. Never proclaim your supposed virtues and think that other people had these supposed virtues. There is nobody who is good, and nobody who can be trusted. There is only what we can trust in ourselves that God produces.

So as long as we learn doctrine daily and we remain filled with the Spirit, we have the basis of stability and of the sound mind that has been promised to us in 2 Timothy 1:7. Therefore, wherever you are at any moment in time geographically, at that geographic location there is one pastor-teacher designed for you. You cannot live in a city of 100,000 people and have six or seven different pastor-teachers who are acceptable to you. It is important that you understand that. God has designed you as a right believer for a right pastor-teacher. The combination has to be brought together for your maximum blessing.

For this reason, if you are in the right church with the right pastor-teacher, and you depart to some other, you have now stepped down to a secondary position in your Christian experience. This is the same thing that people often find who decide that they can't get along with each other in marriage, so they finally have a divorce. That is quite an experience that people can relate to when they discover, "Do you know who my right man was? That guy I couldn't stand that I divorced. He was my right man. I divorced him, and I've left him, and I'm married to somebody else who is not my right man. My right man was that man there."

That's exactly what happens when you leave the pastor-teacher that God has designed for you. You have a certain temperament; you have a certain set of characteristics; you have a certain mental attitude; and, you have certain inclinations, and there is one pastor-teacher who's got the capacity; who's got the characteristics; who's got the qualities; and, who's got the know-how on how to keep you in line, and know how to jerk the rope to keep you in line for your personal blessing. That's what shepherding involves. When you reject that, you have cut yourself adrift, and whatever you may do will be substantially less than what God has planned for you.

So wherever you are geographically is where your pastor-teacher is. He's not at some distant place. This is a grave error that Christians make. You may find somebody who is a great teacher of the Word through whom you benefit greatly. Then you find yourself removed off the scene, and you may think, "My pastor-teacher is way back there where I've been benefited by the Word." No, he isn't. Wherever God has moved you in His providence, that's where your pastor-teacher is. And it is your business to find him. Listening to the wrong pastor-teacher, in short, can be hazardous to one's spiritual health. This is a principle to learn.

What's the effect of failing to learn doctrine daily? There are various terms used for learning the Word: personal devotions; quiet time; or, bible study. Whatever you want to call it, there are certain effects of failing to learn the Word daily. First of all, the old sin nature will have its chance to take control of your soul. When the old sin nature takes control of your soul, there is something that always happens within you, and that is that your emotions take over. Any time the old sin nature runs the soul, emotional domination follows upon it as night must follow day. Now your mentality is directed by your emotions rather than your emotions telling your feelings what to do. Satan will send human viewpoint error up from the old sin nature, and he will poison your emotions. Your emotions, because they are poisoned from toxics from the old sin nature, will then be inclined to perform Satan's will. Satan will send human viewpoint error, and you will respond to it. Satan will use your emotions, and he will serve his ambition to be like God through the creation of religion through you. Satan cannot be stopped by anything else except a mind steeped in the Word of God.

Remember that there are a lot of people going around making exposés about Satan. There are a lot of people who once have been in Satan worship who are telling the thing the way it was. Satan cannot stop exposés about himself. He cannot stop people telling what it was like by their experience. Nor can he stop the exposés of doctrinally oriented people who learn from the Word of God about Satan. What Satan has to do, therefore, is to neutralize what is being said about him in order to maintain his opposition to God. He does this by leading Christians and informed people into a condition where the emotions dominate the soul so that he can poison their emotions with the old sin nature. The tongues practice today, for example, stems from this very thing. You never have tongues in a person whose mentality is steeped in Bible doctrine and controlling his soul. Tongues always exists in people who are dominated emotionally in their soul. You cannot learn very much about God from a person whose emotions dominate his soul.

When you spot a spiritual leader whose emotions dominate his soul, you might as well wash your hands of him because he will not give you very much information of any significance, even if he knows something by experience or even from the Word of God. Anytime Satan can get a person on his emotions, that person is neutralized. His source of information, such as in tongue-speakers today is absolutely nil. You should remember that Satan is the number one promoter of ecstatics and of tongues today. The same Christian who would recoil in horror from thinking of performing any one of these 13 sins will yet embrace Satan in an emotional orgy as Satan comes in through tongues or some other emotional expression through the back door. It is pathetic to see people who could really make a contribution to the understanding of God's people, who are revolted by Satan in his frontal attack, who are completely unaware of him when he comes through the back door. Either way, Satan cleverly secures the aid of sincere people who little realize that they are serving his majesty the devil.

Now, it is Christian leaders who are responsible for the domination of most Christians by the old sin nature. Subsequently, this makes them easy dupes for Satan today. It is Christian leaders who are at fault. If Christian leaders understood this and were doing the job, God's people would not be suckers for Satan. But the problem is that spiritual leaders are ignorant of the New Testament pastor-teacher purpose and the key role that it plays in the church age. They're giving Christians their inspirational and devotional talks, and they're leaving believers to sort of muddle through to doctrinal understanding as best they can.

Christians are deceived by these same leaders into thinking that they can plumb the depths of the revelation of God on their own. But God has provided a divinely ordained technique, and we have been looking at it. But He has also provided a divinely ordained personality. Now this is going to take some explaining. People are rejecting the idea of dependence upon pastor-teacher to unfold the Word of God. So they view themselves as perfectly capable of sitting down and coming up with an understanding of the Word. It is these people who are emotionally dominated in their souls who are gathering together and sitting together in little groups, and meeting with one another over the Word of God. So in the next session, we're going to take up exactly this pastor-teacher gift in some detail.

Here's the system--the HICEE technique. We have an old sin nature which is destructive of everything we want to be as believers, and we are helpless before it unless we follow God's protective measures. The key person for providing that protection is the pastor-teacher. He is the one who is most resisted and most rejected. Consequently, at this point, here is where Satan is throwing his weight. If he cannot get you openly, he will get you indirectly through your emotions. The pastor-teacher can protect you from all that. In the next session, we will explain how.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1973

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