

A lit candle on an open book. The candle is yellow and has a bright flame. The book is open, and the pages are visible. The background is dark and textured.

More Reasons For Religious Divisions

John 17:20-21

I. Speculation On Bible Passages

Faithfulness

A. On What The Bible Doesn't Say

- Many things Bible believers agree that the Bible does teach *Jn.3:1-8* and *2 Cor.12:7*
 - Why did Nicodemus go to Jesus by night?
 - What was Paul's thorn in the flesh?
- Many spend their time "speculating" on what the Bible does *not* say
 - Make application to New Testament concepts on what God has spoken

A. On What The Bible Doesn't Say

- Zacharias learned about questioning God's wisdom and power *Lk.1:59-64*

63 And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "**His name is John.**" So they all marveled. *Lk.1*

- Would it have been alright to call the child "Zacharias John?"
- When our Lord speaks does changing His words, just a little, really matter?

A. On What The Bible Doesn't Say

B. Some Bible Passages Aren't As Clear

- What is our attitude toward reading and listening to difficult issues? *2 Pet.3:16-17*

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,**

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy, **having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, *1 Tim.4***

A. On What The Bible Doesn't Say

B. Some Bible Passages Aren't As Clear

- What is our attitude toward reading and listening to difficult issues? *2 Pet.3:16-17*

3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. *1 Tim.4*

- “Since no one can be sure about the Bible then no one can judge anyone as wrong!”



II. Refuse To Properly Apply Scripture

A. How Did Jesus Answer Questions?

- Our Lord answers spiritual questions with God's Word *Lk.10:25-29 and Matt.12:28-34*

28 And He said to him, “**You have answered rightly**; do this and you will live.”

29 But he, **wanting to justify himself**, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” *Lk.10*

A. How Did Jesus Answer Questions?

- Our Lord answers spiritual questions with God's Word *Lk.10:25-29 and Mk.12:28-34*

32 So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He.” *Mk.12*

- Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” *Mk.12:34*
- Why could one Jewish teacher understand while the other could not?

A. How Did Jesus Answer Questions?

B. Some Don't Truly Respect God's Word

- Bible commentators and scholars sometimes show their bias / *Thess.2:13*
- Some religious people have attitudes that prevent them from seeing *2 Thess.2:9-12*
- Others read and listen with a true love and desire for the Truth *2 Thess.2:15*
- We live in a time of religious correctness but Jesus did as well *Matt.15:12-14*



**III. Some Believe They
Can't Understand**

A. One Must Trust The Experts

- Consider how Jesus responded to the numerous Jewish sects *Matt.23:2-3*

2 Saying: “**The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat.**

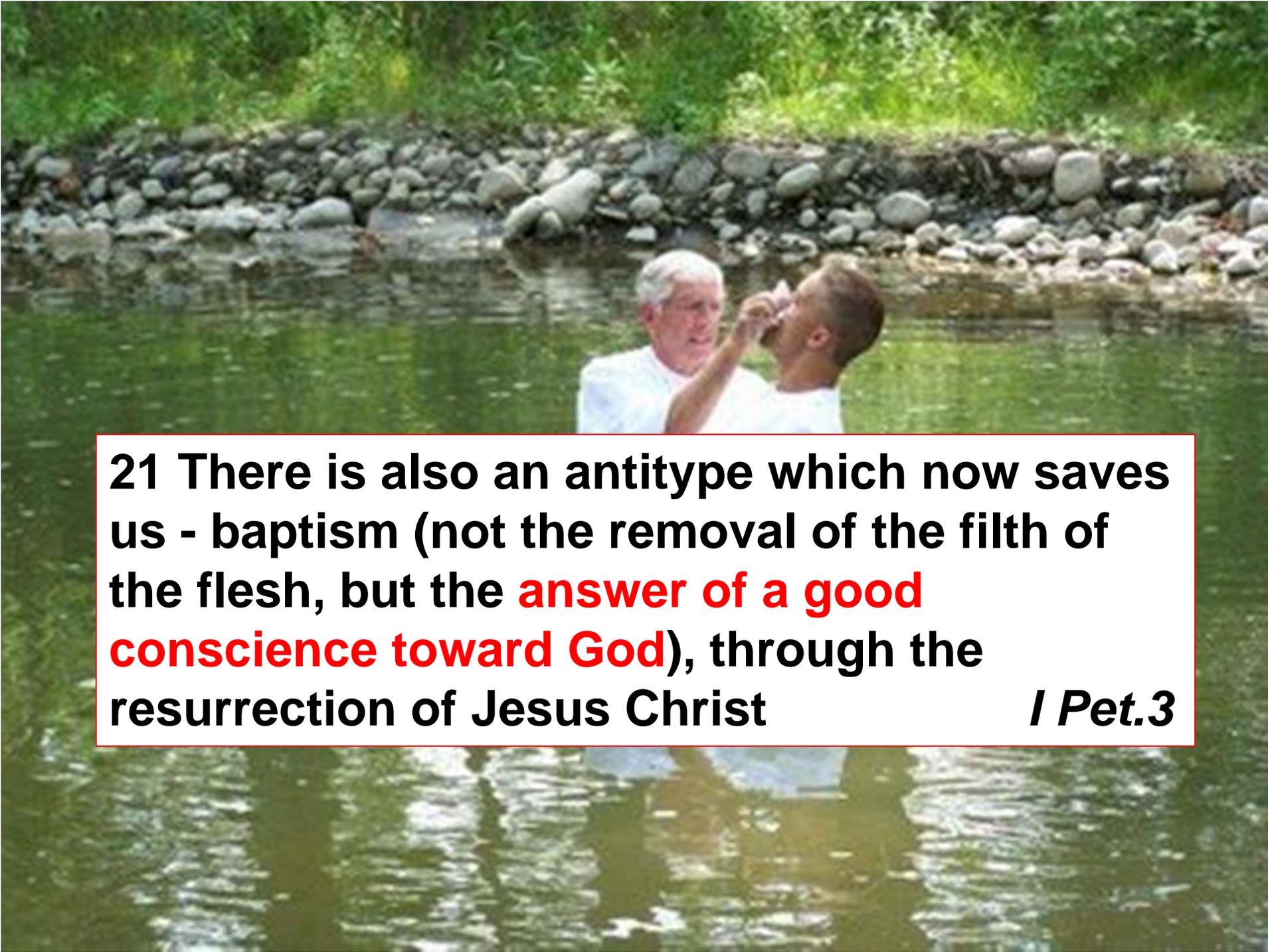
3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, **but do not do according to their works**; for they say, and do not do.” *Matt.23*

- Don't listen to any teacher unless he can show teaching from the Bible *Jn.7:45-48*

A. One Must Trust The Experts

B. Are We Miraculously Given Truth?

- Only that it was miraculously given to men who wrote it down for all men *Eph.3:8-9*
 - Never doubt that you can understand the gospel's message *Jn.7:17*
 - God calls all to salvation! *2 Thess.3:13-14*
 - Rejoicing doesn't cause salvation; salvation creates rejoicing *Acts 8:38-39*



21 There is also an antitype which now saves us - baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the **answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ *1 Pet.3***