

June 15, 2019

THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

BIBLE MIRACLES #2

What was the purpose of the miracles recorded in the Bible? The miracles Jesus did were designed to prove His Deity. The book of John tells us, "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31). The miracles of Jesus recorded in the written Word of God are enough to produce faith in Him as the Son of God. It is not necessary for modern miracles to be performed today to create faith in Christ.

Another purpose of Bible miracles was to confirm the message of the gospel before it was completely revealed in its present written form. During the time of the apostles, the New Testament was in the process of being written down by men inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The miracles of the apostles confirmed the truth of their verbal preaching and teaching. The Hebrew writer explains in the words of Hebrews 2:2-4, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and **was confirmed** (note the past tense, JH) to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?" The written Word of God is now complete in the New Testament. It has already been confirmed as truth by signs and miracles of the first century and therefore needs no additional confirmation by the miraculous today.

The argument is made in 1 Corinthians 13 that the miraculous spiritual gifts available in the first century church would come to an end having served their purpose. The miraculous belonged to the infant stage of the church before the New Testament in its written form was complete. Paul described the miraculous as being "in part" but that which would replace the miraculous as "perfect." (complete, mature). What is the "perfect"? James describes the "law of liberty" (the gospel) as "perfect" (James 1:25). The bottom line is that when God's written revelation in the New Testament was complete miracles ceased. "But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away." (1 Corinthians 13:9-10).

Please join us for **VBS June 18-20, 2019**, each evening at 6:30 pm. Classes for all ages including a class for adults will be conducted. Our theme this year is *Steady Faith in Shifting Sands*.