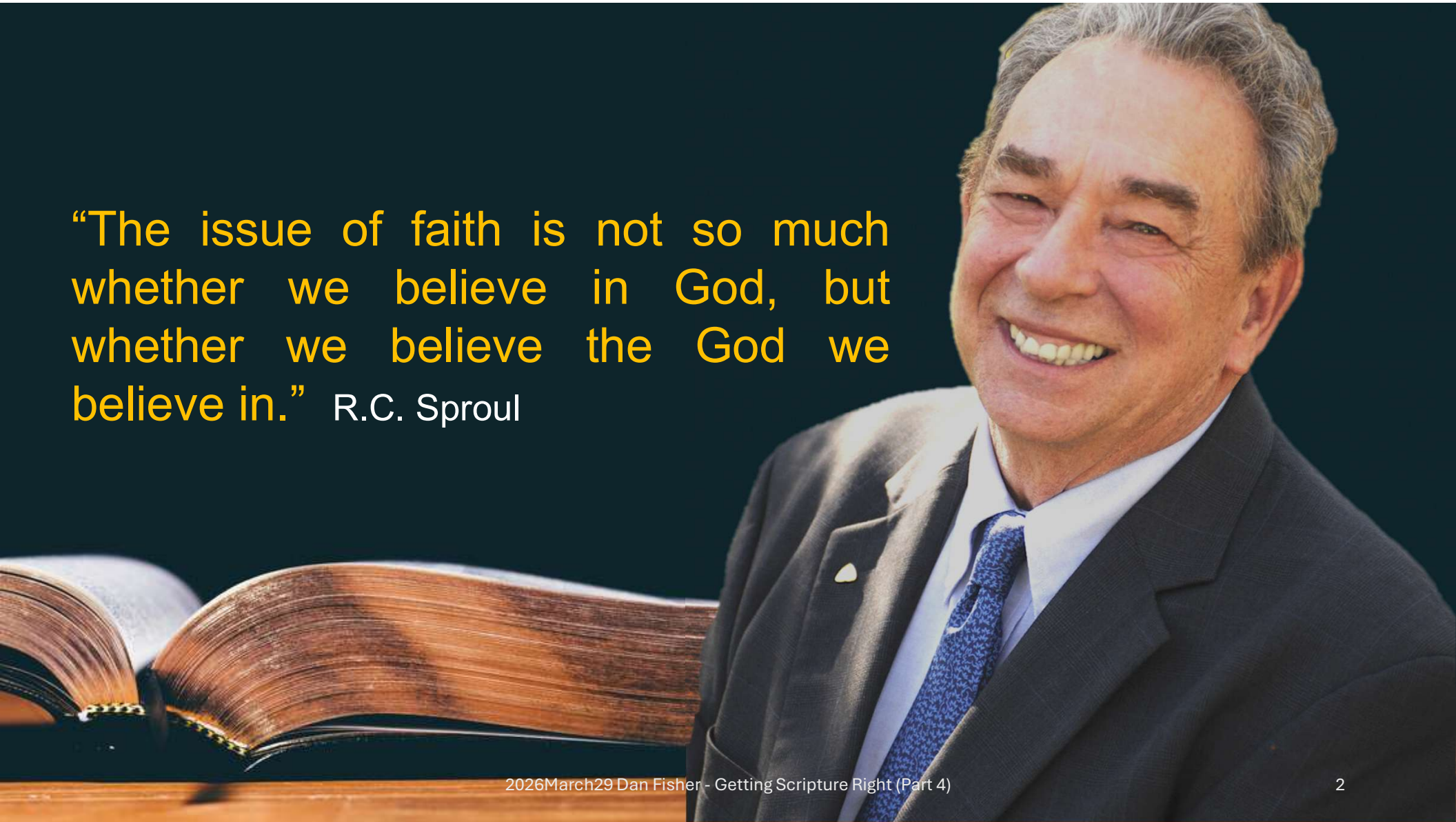


Getting Scripture Right

Pt 4: Let's use Hermeneutics to solve some Scriptural dilemmas



“The issue of faith is not so much whether we believe in God, but whether we believe the God we believe in.” R.C. Sproul



The 3 primary laws/rules of Hermeneutics:

1. **Analogy of Faith**
2. **Literal Interpretation & Genre Analysis**
3. **Grammatico-Historical Method**



“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for** the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ **Acts 2:38**”

Does this passage teach baptismal regeneration?



“for” can be interpreted as
“in order that” or “because of”

First, we must point out that it is common for some to confuse the “importance” of baptism with the “necessity” of baptism.



Let's suppose a person ...

- confesses his sin
- cries out in repentance to the Lord
- receives Jesus as Savior
- then walks across the street to get baptized at a local church



In the road, he gets hit by a bus and is killed.

Does he go to heaven or hell?

If he goes to heaven, then baptism is not necessary for salvation.

If he goes to hell, then trusting in Jesus by faith is not enough for salvation.



1. Scripture does not mention baptism when it defines the Gospel



1 Cor 15:1-4 – Paul’s explanation of the Gospel doesn’t list baptism

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who **believes**” Rom 1:16

“if you **confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Rom 10:9

“everyone who **calls on the name of the Lord** will be saved.” Rom 10:13



2. This is consistent with what Jesus says to the thief on the cross

And he [Jesus] said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Lk 23:43



3. Scripture says that salvation comes by ...

- the blood

“Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.” [Rom 5:9](#)

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,” [Eph 1:7](#)



“he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” **Titus 3:5-7**

“how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” **Heb 9:14**



“And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ... ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,” **Heb 10:10,19**

“knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” **1 Pet 1:18-19**



- **faith**

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” **Rom 5:1**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Eph 2:8-9



For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.' ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness," **Rom 4:2-5**

4. Scripture teaches that salvation precedes baptism



“While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ ‘Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Acts 10:44,47-48

“And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’ ³⁷ Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’”

Acts 8:36-37



“How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. ¹¹ He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.” **Rom 4:10-11**

5. Baptism is a symbol of salvation – not salvation itself



“In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.”

Col 2:11-12

“For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.”

Rom 2:28-29



“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” **1 Pet 3:18-21**

Matt Slick, Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry:

“The keyword in this section is the Greek *antitupon*. It means ‘copy,’ ‘type,’ ‘corresponding to,’ ‘a thing resembling another,’ ‘its counterpart,’ etc. Baptism is a representation, a copy, a type of something else. The question is ‘Of what is it a type?’ or ‘Baptism corresponds to what?’



The answer is found in the previous verse, verse 20: “who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. ²¹ And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you” (NASB).

“Is baptism necessary for salvation?” Nov 22, 2008,
<https://carm.org/is-baptism-necessary-for-salvation>



Baptism represents:

- the death of the person ([Rom 6:3-5](#))
- the union of that person with Christ ([Gal 3:27](#))
- the cleansing of that person's sins ([Acts 22:16](#))
- the identification with the one "baptized into" as when the Israelites were baptized into Moses ([1 Cor 10:2](#))
- being united in one church ([1 Cor 12:13](#))



1 Cor 10:2 = Gal 3:27

all were baptized into Moses in the cloud & in the sea = those baptized into Christ have put on Christ



“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for** the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” *Acts 2:38*

“for” = “because of”

