

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XVI

February 4, 2007

No. 5

“With Due Diligence”

Larry Baulch

This phrase is used in the legal and the financial communities. It is the process by which confidential information is exchanged, reviewed, and appraised by either side of the legal or financial effort or transaction that is under consideration. “*With due diligence*” is done to avoid any surprise situations that could be construed as inappropriate for or to the transaction. The Merriam – Webster dictionary’s definition is; *the care that a reasonable person exercises under the circumstances to avoid harm to other persons or their property.*

For instance, if we were to use the Bible as our sole source of information because of its inspired written authority, and baptism was going to be the focus of our due diligence, we could start by listing all available scriptures detailing either the word or the act of baptism. In using an on line search of the words baptism, baptize, and baptized we find these words listed at least seventy-one times in the New American Standard version of the New Testament. The list starts in Mathew 3:6 and continues to Galatians 3:27. After the review of these scriptures we could then note the

reason or reasons that these acts of baptism were being done. We could also respond with a list of the pros and cons of baptism and the consequences of being or not being baptized. We would attempt to find any and all information pertaining to the act of baptism and any revelations concerning the said act. We could then formulate the information into an acceptable and palatable format for those requiring the information.

As was stated earlier, *due diligence* is the appraisal of information to avoid surprise conclusions and consequences. The information and suggested instructions found in the following passages, will demonstrate our due diligence in the matter of baptism. In *Mark 16:16* it states, *He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned (NAS)*. Indicating that being saved is conditioned upon one believing and being baptized. And in *Galatians 3:27* the writer tells us, *for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ (NAS)*. The indication is that with baptism there is a bond with Christ, which one does not have before baptism, and in baptism one enters into a

spiritual relationship with Christ.

Although these are but a few of the passages found in our search, I feel comfortable in using these last two to complete our review and appraisal to insure the care that a reasonable person would exercise under the circumstances to avoid harm to others. In Acts 2:38, Peter said to them, *repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (NAS)*. And lastly, in *Ephesians 4:5* the writer simply states for our consideration that there is: *one Lord, one faith, one baptism*. These scriptures are direct instruction and reasoning as to the uniqueness and necessity of baptism in God’s plan of saving man from his sins.

We have done our “*due diligence*” with regards to baptism. To avoid the surprise and harm of indifference, remember what the writer of *Acts 22:16*, instructs us through Ananias’ plea: *now why do you delay (NAS)?* Then, carry out the instructions for yourself that were given to Saul: *Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name (NAS)*.