

### Why the Difference?

#### Answered Prayer

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh receiveth..." (Matthew 7:7,8).

#### Unanswered Prayer

"For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee..." (2 Cor-inthians 12:8,9).

*If "every one that asketh receiveth," why didn't the Apostle Paul receive what he had asked for three times over?*

### Did Paul Have A Different Gospel?

"And He [Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel..." (Mark 16:15).

"And I [Paul] communicated unto them THAT GOSPEL WHICH I PREACH AMONG THE GENTILES" (Galatians 2:2).

*Three times Paul speaks of "my gospel," and many times he uses phraseology like the above. Can you explain this?*

### What Happened to the Pentecostal Believers?

#### A.D. 33

"Neither was there any among them that lacked" (Acts 4:34).

#### A.D. 60

"a...contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem" (Romans 15:16).

*Can you explain why poverty overtook these believers in Christ?*

### What's the Difference?

#### Peter—A.D. 33

"REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED EVERY ONE OF YOU in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

#### Paul—A.D. 65

"NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5).

*Can you explain this seeming contradiction in the Bible?*

### What's the Difference?

#### John the Baptist and Israel

"And I [John the Baptist] knew Him [Christ] not, but that He should be made manifest to Israel; THEREFORE AM I COME BAPTIZING WITH WATER" (John 1:31).

#### Paul and the Church Today

"For BY ONE SPIRIT ARE WE ALL BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY, whether we be Jews or Gentiles" (1 Corinthians 12:13). "THERE IS ONE BODY AND...ONE BAPTISM" (Ephesians 4:4,5).

*If there is but one baptism in God's program for our day, which one is it?*

### What's the Difference?

#### A Kingdom on Earth

"Fear not, little flock; for it is YOUR FATHER'S GOOD PLEASURE TO GIVE YOU THE KINGDOM. Sell that ye have, and give alms..." (Luke 12:32,33).

### Blessings in Heaven

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, WHO HATH BLESSED US WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST" (Ephesians 1:3).

*Do you know why Christ promised His followers a kingdom on earth, but later sent Paul to proclaim spiritual blessings "in heav-enly places"?*

### What's the Difference?

#### Subjection to Moses

"The Scribe and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: ALL THEREFORE, WHATSOEVER THEY BID YOU OBSERVE, THAT OBSERVE AND DO" (Matthew 23:2,3).

#### Liberty in Christ

"STAND FAST THEREFORE IN THE LIBERTY WHEREWITH CHRIST HATH MADE US FREE, AND BE NOT ENTANGLED AGAIN WITH THE YOKE OF BONDAGE" (Galatians 5:1).

*Can you reconcile this seeming contradiction in the Bible?*

### What's the Difference?

#### Christ to Israel

"Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision [the Jewish nation]" (Romans 15:8).

#### Paul to the Gentiles

"That I [Paul] should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles" (Romans 15:16).

*Can you explain this vital difference in the ministries of Christ on earth and the Apostle Paul years later?*

### What's the Difference?

#### The Kingdom Program: Prophecy Fulfilled

"...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, THE TIME IS FULFILLED, AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND; REPENT YE, AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL" (Mark 1:14,15).

#### The Dispensation of Grace: A Secret Revealed

"For this cause, I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD, which is given me to you-ward how that BY REVELATION HE MADE KNOWN UNTO ME THE MYSTERY [Lit., SECRET]" (Ephesians 3:1-3).

*Do you know the difference between prophecy and that great body of truth which Paul, by divine inspiration, called "the mystery"?*

### What's the Difference?

#### Whatsoever Ye Shall Ask

"And ALL THINGS, WHATSOEVER YE SHALL ASK IN PRAYER, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

#### We Know Not What to Pray For

"...WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE SHOULD PRAY FOR AS WE OUGHT, but the Spirit...maketh intercession..." (Romans 8:26).

*The former statement was made by Christ on earth; the latter by Christ through Paul, years later. Can you explain?*

—(From *Puzzles and Paradoxes* by C. R. Stam)