

What About the Eunuch?

Percy Pascoe

(Thanks to Percy Pascoe of Cuba, Missouri, percypub@fidnet.com , for these simple questions about the Eunuch's conversion which may disturb some of your previous concepts. CH)

Dear Brother Cecil,

Your recent article on Paul's conversion and ultimate immersion is needed for those who want to argue for less obedience than the entire writings of the new covenant clearly require, in obedience, not as a work of a man. I am sending you some thoughts I had on the same person.

What About the Eunuch?

These are some thoughts that came to me regarding this incident found in Acts 8:26-39.

Did Phillip preach the complete gospel to the eunuch?

- What Scriptures were available to the eunuch?
- Was the eunuch saved?
- What church was he added to?
- What was the name of that church?

What can be inferred from the question that the eunuch asked Philip: "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

- That, "beginning from this Scripture he (Philip) preached Jesus to him," that:
- Jesus is the Messiah spoken of in Isaiah;
- Jesus is the Son of God;
- Jesus died on a cross as a sacrifice to enable men to obtain forgiveness of their sins and to be reconciled to God;
- Jesus was raised the third day by God's power over death;
- Jesus lives in heaven where He is the mediator between man and God;
- The eunuch was buried with Christ in immersion; and he arose out of that watery grave, a child of God and a joint-heir with Jesus.

What can be reasonably inferred from the words, "(He) went on his way rejoicing"?

- That the eunuch told others when he arrived back in Ethiopia of the great news Philip had revealed to him;
- That many responded to this message as the eunuch had.

- That the eunuch baptized them;
- That in their great joy, these new disciples assembled together to learn more about Jesus from the same Scriptures the eunuch had been reading at the appearance of Philip.

What else can we deduct from these few verses?

- >>> That the eunuch had no New Testament to study from, to argue about, or to divide over different understandings of the scriptures as we do today.
- >>> That the eunuch knew nothing of our divisions over such opposing doctrines as:
 - >>> Sunday School
 - >>> Communion
 - >>> Bible study with use of commercially printed study books
 - >>> One-cup/multiple cups
 - >>> Grape juice or fermented wine
 - >>> Translations of the New Testament scriptures,
 - >>> No expensive, mortgage-laden meetinghouses
 - >>> Congregational support for orphanage homes
 - >>> Missionary societies
 - >>> Kitchens in the meeting house
 - >>> Women speaking, praying, or teaching in the meeting
 - >>> Assembling every time the meetinghouse doors are open
 - >>> Church treasury
 - >>> Giving as prospered every Sunday
 - >>> Paid pulpit preachers
 - >>> Music in formal worship

There are many more divisive issues than these, according to some statisticians. Do not presume where I stand on each of the above items; you likely would be wrong; I only listed them as some of the positions that divide Christianity, even if you only consider the churches that are closest to the reformation that occurred in the 1800s.

Thank God for those Christians who demand no more than God required of the eunuch. We would do well to learn from this experience and not go beyond this simple understanding of God's wish for all His children to live in harmony with Him and with each other. I continue to study God's word and to learn more of His truths. I can do no less. []

(Let me expand a bit on one point. It is very unlikely that the Secretary of the Treasury of Ethiopia was traveling with only a chariot driver. More likely he had royal body guards, a retinue of associates, and perhaps other tourists who traveled together on such a long and hazardous journey. They would have seen the happenings which included the vanishing of Philip. We can imagine that the eunuch happily explained what that was all about as they traveled along. He might have converted all of them by the time they returned home! CH)

A CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITY

Here is an opportunity for a person, or persons, or a congregation to vastly affect the cause of Christ in the nation of Cameroon. This brother has distributed some of our books already. He seems uniquely qualified to lead our people there by supplying good, in-depth literature. They need literature more than they need our missionaries, and literature is much cheaper and doesn't return to America. You may ask him questions and discuss these things with him directly. He has written:

My dear Brother,

Accept greetings from your brother in this Third World country called Cameroon.

Thank you for the enriching books that you sent at the beginning of 2006, which I received about three weeks ago. All were received in good condition. You are quite aware, my brother, that Brethren in the third world do not have the means and ability to produce your kind of materials so do not feel discouraged if I make more requests.

I need a copy of each or a few copies each of "I Permit Not A Woman' To Remain Shackled" by Robert H. Rowland, "The Second Coming: Mission Accomplished" by Tom Kloske and Steve Kloske, "A Lover's Quarrel" and "The Parousia." Even old copies will do us here a lot of good.

I am planning to start a **Christian News Paper** here and this requires materials and various kinds of equipment. We even intend to do **printing and publishing** in the future. As my own preparation in readiness for this challenge, I am doing studies on the Writing of Non Fiction Books with the Writers Bureau College of Journalism in Britain by correspondence; I am also a student of the International Bible Institute in Cape Town, South Africa.

How can I obtain support in printing and publishing equipment? Do you know some of our liberal or free handed Brethren who can stretch a helping hand? Are you willing to recommend me to them? Are you willing to serve me with names and addresses? We need ordinary Cameras and TV Cameras. As a writer and publisher, my Brethren; you are even more versed with this issue than I am. Remember that I am requesting **materials or equipment** and not money.

My address again is Ndiba Noah Ndifon, Church of Christ, Nkavikeng, P. O. Box 127, Kumbo-Nso, Bui Division, North West Province, Cameroon Africa; email noahndifon@yahoo.com.

May God bless you. Thank you. Yours in Christian love,

Ndiba Noah Ndifon