

4 May 2009

Dear Friends,

Greetings from stormy Georgia!

This short bulletin is to let you know about two new learning opportunities. One is a DVD of a lesson I recently presented at the University of Georgia. The topic: **Baptism: The Water that Divides**. It was filmed professionally (appropriately, give the theme of water, by a videographer who works with the Cousteau family, of underwater fame). The second is an online course in **Early Church History** -- the first 300 years, before the church embraced the ways of the world. Prepare to be challenged!

Yours sincerely,
Douglas

BAPTISM: THE WATER THAT DIVIDES (DVD)

These days the doctrine of baptism is so misunderstood, and is such an area of controversy, that it has been called "the water that divides." Yet why should Christians be divided on this essential matter (Ephesians 4)? Is baptism really so difficult to understand?

No, it is not. Learn the truth about the variety of modern beliefs on this subject, what the New Testament teaches, what the original Greek really says, and how the apostolic teaching evolved into something very different from the New Testament doctrine. We hope you enjoy the 60-minute DVD, recorded live on 1 April 2009 at the University of Georgia. You can find it at ipibooks.com.

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY ONLINE LEARNING

A weekend seminar on Patristics, the study of the early church Fathers, was held September 19-21, 2008. Our guest speaker (three lessons) was author David Berçot (of *Will the Real Heretics Please Stand Up?*). Other teachers included Douglas Jacoby, Joey Harris, and Steve Staten. Lectures include *The World of the Patristic Writers*, *The Evolution of Early Christianity*, *1 Clement*, *Ignatius*, *Irenaeus*, *The Spirit of Sectarianism*, and *The Church and the World*. There is also a Question and Answer session with all four teachers. Stimulating and very challenging!

The online course includes about 7 hours of teaching, 60 pages of notes, and an examination. If

you're interested, please splice aimdistance.org/courses/course/category.php?id=17 into your browser.

ASSORTED REMINDERS (please check)

* **PODCASTS:** Have you explored the new website? Podcasts uploaded (second website) in 2009 include not only a Response to the Global Financial Crisis, but also: Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Lot, Isaac, Ishmael, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob, Rachel & Leah, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Balaam, and Phinehas. Next week: Joshua!

* **PREJUDICE IN THE CHURCH:** Registration is now open for the August seminar on *Prejudice in the Church*. Program at main website. Includes messages by prominent black, white, and Arab speakers, a racial case study on the Atlanta congregations, and visit to Martin Luther King Center. 10% off for all signing up before July. And churches sending 10+ participants save 50%!

* **ROME:** There are still spaces available for the October 2009 Biblical Study Tour. Complete info at main website.