

Cor.
Middle

Difficult Scriptures

I. Scripture: Matthew 3:11

II. How This Verse Is Misused By Some

Some point to this verse to say we should seek the "baptism of fire" mentioned here.

III. True Explanation

- A. Notice the context: John was not speaking to Christians. He was reproofing the Pharisees and Sadducees for their self-righteous attitudes (verses 7-9). He told them to bring forth fruits meet for repentance (verse 8).
- B. John explained that he was baptizing with water unto repentance (verse 11), but Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
- C. Notice verse 12. This fire is described as an unquenchable fire that would burn up the chaff.
- D. Malachi 4:3 describes the results of this same fire. The wicked are to be ashes -- completely burned up -- under the feet of the righteous. This is speaking of the second death, as described in Revelation 20:14-15.

