

WHERE ARE THE REAL BAPTISTS?

ROME'S COVER UP OF BAPTIST HISTORY

“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” 1 Cor. 3:13

Next: John 8 and Matthew 23

THE COMPROMISE THAT LED TO THE APOSTATE CHURCH OF OUR DAY

Pastor Del Wray

Jesus Christ mixed words with no one! He preached only what the Father had given to Him. Would we be so trustworthy to preach only what Christ has given to us? Surely that is His command! Jesus spoke with authority and so must we! Men of our day are no different than those of His; they were to adapt to His Words as we are to do and not to change His Words to meet our own way of thinking. Our responsibility is to take those very words and pass them on to those around us! Those exact WORDS! All of those Words! Ditto! And the failure to do so would bring judgment and accountability. That is what makes a Christian, Baptist. We are Bible believing Baptist! We are Bible literalists! I took God at His Word when He saved me some fifty-five years ago and I take God at His Word right now. It is His Word, not mine or yours to manipulate, undermine or take apart. They are life changing Words and when they are tampered with in the least way the power of their effectiveness and life changing ability is gone. May we be truly Bible believing Baptist!

Whenever you find this old preacher using the name "BAPTISTS" throughout any of his works or writings it always is being used in its truest historic sense. The Modernists of our day who cling to the name "BAPTIST," yet deny HIS WORD, are no more Baptists than many who cling to the name "CHRISTIAN" and have never been "born again" knowing nothing of the saving grace of our Lord. Take the word "Bishop" as used by most people today, one who has authority over a group of churches and preachers is not the true meaning of the word in the New Testament. The "Bishop" in the New Testament is the pastor of a local, individual church. Again let me repeat, I use the name "BAPTISTS" in the historic sense. The man God sent to make ready a people out of whom the Lord Jesus organized His church was called by God Himself "THE BAPTIST" John the Baptist. Do you know why?

Do you know why you are a Baptist? Do you know what it means to be a Baptist biblically? The greatest place to go to find out is the Bible, Everything one needs to know about his ancestry and why we Baptist are called Baptist is in the Bible. In fact, if you really want to know anything about yourself it's in the Book, it's all there. Jesus called us Baptist. To learn about our beginnings we must start with the Book, the book of Acts, the actions and lives of the First Century Christians, for it is the history of the Baptist Church and its Origin. As the orphan longs to know his background and where he came from so too we Bible believer's must desire to know

our history and where we came from. Without which we can never be whole nor can we ever be complete. It is the "Bible" that makes the Christian a Baptist!

The Lord Jesus used the word ekklesia twenty-three times, three times in Matthew and twenty times in Revelation. In every instance, He used it of a local church. Whenever He spoke of a larger group than the members of the local church, He always said churches. The Baptist Church is the only body of which Christ is the head, the founder. Christ was a Baptist! He was the very first Baptist, God a Baptist! Yes! Others may try and convince you that their church is but just trace their church back to its founder. I know Jesus came as a Jew, but He taught us Baptist theology. God chose the Jewish family to introduce His Son to fallen mankind, but He lived and spoke as a Baptist. That's why they crucified Him. God the Father and God the Son knew the Jews would be in rejection of their King. So God called His Son's for runner "the Baptist" and by John, God chose a people to make up His Church, His Bride. Had the Jews not rejected their Messiah, things may have been different. Still as the Bible prophetically promises there will be a Jewish people living as Baptist during the Millennium, through which God will bless the nations. The Jews may be God's earthly people but when a Jew gets saved he or she becomes a Baptist. We today owe the Baptist our very existence.

The Apostle Peter told us "to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" 1 Pet. 3:15. That is a good reason why every Baptist ought to be able to tell why he is a Baptist. Every Baptist ought to be able at any time to give his reasons for being a Baptist: and contrariwise, since the Master never established but one church, every man, who isn't a Baptist, ought to be able to give reasons, good and sufficient to satisfy the Lord Jesus at the judgment, why he is not a Baptist. For if the church that Jesus built was a Baptist church, then no churches but Baptist churches are churches of Christ and every man will have to face the Lord Jesus at the judgment and tell Him why he joined some church founded by an uninspired man, instead of the one founded by the Lord Jesus Himself. There is much talk nowadays about the Fellowship church. Why should not Baptists, go in with all others and organize a Fellowship church in every community? If it were left to us nothing would be more delightful. We like to agree and get along with other people. But it isn't left to us and to our consciences. The Master's plain command to the first church was "to teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

Church membership is not left to your consciences or your whims or your reasoning's; it is a matter of loyalty and obedience to Jesus Christ who bought us and saved us with His own precious blood. Conscience is not a standard of right or wrong for any man, for conscience is a creature of education and needs teaching. The conscience of the ignorant or uninformed would say one church is right or none and the conscience of the man who is taught would say another. So you see conscience cannot be a standard by which men are to regulate their church membership. A standard must be that to which all men can come, and which when submitted to will make all men do what the Lord, Himself, says do. That is why Jesus said, "teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." The Bible is the standard and men's consciences never get right until they get right with the Bible and then they all agree. The fundamental and distinguishing Baptist doctrines and the one underlying all other Baptist doctrines are this: "The Bible, the Bible alone, is our only and all-sufficient rules of faith and practice." If you can't find it in the Bible it isn't Baptist doctrine; if it is Baptist doctrine you can

find it in the Bible. That is the pinnacle of my message here. Our authority for making this our distinguishing teaching is our marching orders, given us by the Lord Jesus, the Head, and Founder of the first Baptist church.

The Bible is the “Baptist Book.” Jesus Christ is the head of the Baptist Church; Christ is the head of a Baptist church in the sense that He is the founder of the first Baptist church. He is the head of each Baptist church in the sense that He is their only Lord and Master. He is the head of each Baptist church in that there is a oneness of life between Him and them. He is the head of each Baptist church in that His will dominate them just as your head dominates your body. He is the head of each Baptist church in that He is head over all things to each Baptist church. His Word is their supreme law. He is their all and in all to them. That is not true of any other church in the world except a Baptist church. When Alexander Campbell went to England he carried a letter from Henry Clay, introducing him as the head and founder of the church which he organized. John Wesley was the head and founder of the Methodist Church. Calvin was the head and founder of the Presbyterian Church. Joe Smith was the head and founder of the Mormon Church. Henry the Eighth was the head and founder of the Episcopal Church. Constantine was the head and founder of the Catholic Church. Mrs. Eddy was the head and founder of the Christian Science Church. The only church of which Jesus was head and founder is the Baptist church: and the only church therefore which is a body of Christ is a Baptist church. The relationship between Him and each Baptist church is as vital, as living, as real and as close as that between the head and the body or between a vine and the branches. This mark of a Baptist church differentiates it from all other churches.

The Baptist people, the Baptist sect has always had a fence built around her by Rome, by the world and its religious crowds. Fence sign “Danger, High Voltage” mounted by their lies. Their trail of blood and their history has been hidden through the ages. Their Book the Bible decimated, maligned and stripped of its power and still the King’s standard, the Bible stands alone on the mountain top teaching we are to “test all teachings” I John 4:1,6, expose those teachings that are false Eph. 5:11, confront and rebuke the false teachers Titus 1:9,13, and then separate from those who persist in false teaching Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10, lest in the end, we are disqualified for service 2 Tim. 2:20-21, or worse yet, we are identified with the false teachings and the false teachers themselves 2 John 10,11. But many Baptist has chosen rather than separate, they have instead chosen to identify themselves with a wide range of false teachings and false teachers. The Church has undone its own true autonomy through “Inclusivism.” Where is the real Baptist today? America is called the melting pot of the world, and through inclusion she has placed herself on the path of destruction. So to the Baptist people have succumbed to this same blunder and have lost their identity. I can remember as a young preacher the war that was being fought amongst Baptist was the “war over Inclusivism” a dirty war that has solidified the Apostate Church and the end days Laodicean Period. What has happened to the Baptist?

The book of Acts understood properly will be alive and make the serious student of the Word of God a genuine Bible-Believing Baptist; the Bible makes men Baptist and “rightly divided” it can make him nothing else. Approaching it any other way leaves the Book dry and lifeless. If it is approached as most do with the mindset of republishing or making it better then you will leave the Book as most do today only with a “conditional reaction.” Let me illustrate it this way, if I study American history from Protestant eyes then American history doesn’t contain any

persecution of Christians in the colonies because the protestants weren't persecuted, but rather they were the ones doing the persecution. Only until I study American history through Baptist eyes do I understand that there were only three colonies that strong persecution against Baptists did not exist; Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Just as my understanding of history is determined by the point of view I study it from, so my understanding of the book of Acts is also going to be determined from my standpoint. I know most people say that all they need to read the book of Acts is the Holy Spirit. I know that without the Holy Spirit's guidance and help the Word of God becomes a textbook with no life-giving, life-changing power, but because we model ourselves after Fundamental Protestants instead of Bible Believing Baptists we put an emphasis on what the Protestants claims to be the most important thing. We need to understand our heritage and how our Baptist heritage has been infested with Protestant and Fundamental views. Our true heritage has been over-run with that which is not Baptist but that which is whorish from mother Rome. We've swallowed the Devil's lie.

Pastor Jim Altar wrote a book "Why Baptist" which I highly recommend, from it I quote: "The Evangelical Alliance was formed in late 1800's to fight the wave of liberalism and higher criticism that was coming to America from Germany. From this Union of Protestants came the Fundamentalist movement. From the Fundamentalist movement, which at its beginning was expressly protestant, came the Union revivals and the large city campaigns that we have heard about with D. L. Moody, R. A. Torrey, Billy Sunday, J. Wilbur Chapman and H. A. Ironsides. The Baptists, who joined in the Union revivals of the early 20th century, dropped they're distinctive to run with the Protestants all for the sake of "souls". As time went on not only were our Baptist distinctive lost but we started modeling ourselves after the Protestants because after all they had the bigger crowds. Now when we look back on the Union revivals and meetings and the churches of those days and we feel we are imitating old-time fundamentalism and we are but at the same time we are seeing a watering down of Baptists and what we stood for and the reality of the matter is we are imitating Fundamentalism but not our Baptist pattern. Baptists have an Ancient Baptist heritage that goes back 1800 years before fundamentalism. This is very important to understand so you can see where our present "perspective" comes from and why in many cases we interpret the Bible as Protestants instead of Bible believing Baptists. From union crusade evangelism in the late 1800's to the modern church-growth methodology of today, every possible doctrinal and theological subtlety has served to diminish local church principles. Jesus charged the local church with the responsibility to "preach the gospel to every creature." This institution would be visible, physical, organized, empowered and carefully disciplined, God's only vehicle of expression in our time. But instead of trusting God's plan and pattern, religious empire-builders have found it expedient to ignore biblical, ecclesiastical principles in order to "reach people." As a result, the most common charge against those who sound the alarm in opposition to compromise is "they are ant-mission; they think they are the only Christians, they are against soul winning." Once this charge is leveled, courage is lost and the advocates for right principles flee, cringing in the shadows. Unfortunately, even well-meaning, independent Baptist churches will often embrace the kinds of lifeless practices that lead to full-scale apostasy. Though still "conservative" in style, the lack of connection to our awareness of our historical and theological roots will eventually destroy our churches."

James R. Beller has illustrated this repeatedly in his works. He quotes Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn who said, "To destroy a people you must first sever their roots." Such destruction is exactly what

has happened to the independent Baptist. He has been cut off from his actual lineage: John Clarke, Obadiah Holmes, Thomas Gould, John Gano, Shubal Stearns, Samuel Harriss, Thomas Armitage, J.R. Graves, while others have taken up with Calvin, Luther, Moody, and Chapman, Morgan, Sunday, Jones. **When you leave Baptist principles, you leave the New Testament pattern for local church faith and practice!** At this point, a Fundamentalist will have nothing but style preferences and time to keep him and his ministry from apostasy. Men like Thomas Armitage and J. R. Graves opposed unionism, warning that such accommodations would weaken the true church. At the same time, the woeful plague of German Rationalism and Higher Criticism was drawing American seminaries into Modernism. Such union work as personified in the Evangelical Alliance was tainted by the kind of Liberalism that Baptist principles are supposed to prevent, and precisely why the wise Baptists of that day never took up causes with such Congregational campaigners as E. P. Hammond and D. L. Moody.

Here is where it gets a little rough. Most understand the Fundamentalist to be of a completely different ecclesiastical substance than the Evangelical; when actually, they have the same heritage. At one time, the terms referred to the same people. During the late 19th Century, thousands of people, struggling with Modernism, left their denominations to form separate churches; however, most remained in order to clean up their institutions. As is always the case, the liberal majority eventually won the battle of numbers against the Fundamentalist minority, and separation was inevitable. The conflict is in this fact: even in a separatist position, the historic Fundamentalist was a Protestant child who wanted to separate over as little as possible. How else can you explain Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Methodists, Lutherans, Christian Reformers and Baptists unified in the same group or fellowship? A lot of important things would have to be overlooked. Because of our Fundamental heritage that has overtaken our Baptist heritage we have always been taught that this was alright because they were separated like we were back then and there wasn't really a difference between them and us. I guess if everyone is compromising to come together then they are all a lot alike. Take Douglas A. Sweeney's explanation of where the Fundamentalist surge originated. About the Protestant struggle to purify the denominations he said, "By the early 1910's they formed a massive, cross-denominational movement for reform based on a common acclamation of the "fundamental" or cardinal doctrines of Christianity." Douglas A. Sweeney, "Who Were the Fundamentalists?" The very word "fundamental" should indicate an attempt to unite with as many as possible without absolutely denying the faith. A firm Baptist would see such efforts as tantamount to compromise. Sweeney further illustrates the nature of ecumenical union by indicating that the early Fundamentalists, A. C. Dixon, R. A. Torrey, etc. "rallied people from different Protestant traditions to a least-common-denominator flag of orthodoxy." Baptists would play a role in this union, as men like A. J. Gordon entered the fray, proving the point of the strenuous Baptists like Graves and Armitage: if you drift from New Testament principles, your denominational entanglements will place your beliefs in jeopardy. A Baptist who is in the "fight for the fundamentals" should have never been in such a compromising position. His principles should have prevented any compromise with Protestants like Moody, Torrey, Morgan, and the like. Great men as they were still compromiser's weaken the foundation of the local church and placing it on the road to apostasy. These men only holding to five fundamentals:

Inerrancy, Virgin Birth, Substitutional Atonement, Bodily Resurrection and the Authenticity of miracles or the Second coming of Christ. These are the five Fundamentals, identified by the 1910, General Assembly of the Northern Presbyterian Church.

WHY CAN'T BAPTIST JUST BE BAPTIST?

We Bible Believing Baptist hold to the entire Bible, all Bible principles along with all the Fundamental Distinctions: The Bible is our Sole Authority, Autonomy of the Local Church, Priesthood of the Believer, Two Ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper, Individual Soul Liberty, a Saved, Baptized, Church Membership, Two Offices: Pastor and Deacon, Separation of Church and State, Inerrancy, the Virgin birth, Substitutional Atonement, Bodily resurrection, The authenticity of miracles and the Second coming of Christ by way of the Rapture and Revelation, to all!

The results of these entanglements are due to severed roots and a forgotten heritage was schooled in institutions such as Moody Bible Institute, Bob Jones University, Wheaton College and Dallas Theological Seminary. None of these new schools were Baptist. They were formed with the Evangelical Alliance in mind. Their testimony was E. P. Hammond, D. L. Moody, Sam Jones, J. Wilbur Chapman, Billy Sunday and Bob Jones. When Bible-believing Baptist pastors sent their young preachers to be trained, they sent them to non-denominational schools which had the Evangelical Alliance as their testimony and heritage. It is not enough to be conservative. It is not enough to be committed to the fundamentals. It is not enough to be militant in one's stand against Modernism. This much should be expected. It is essential to the future of the cause of Christ that the principles of the New Testament Church, as delivered to us by its founder the Lord Jesus Christ, be honored in our faith and practice; and uniting with baby-sprinkling Reformers allows no such honor. This would preclude any entanglement with Protestantism, even really conservative Protestants from other countries. One notable Fundamentalist Baptist pastor said, "I am a Fundamentalist before I am a Baptist." This sad reality is usually clear by a person's associations, preaching, and methodology. I am a Baptist first bearing the name fundamentalists.

The term "Fundamentalist" implies that a person is on the militant, conservative side of a "movement" or group. Baptists have no such affiliation if they are true to their principles. Baptists are "called out" and autonomous. The term Fundamentalist became a reference to the militant, separatist wing of Evangelicalism when other evangelicals refused to distance themselves from Modernists back in the day. In time, the two terms Fundamentalist and Evangelical began to refer to two different groups. The reality that these two terms were once referring to the same group of people is evidenced by the fact that Bob Jones, Sr. and John R. Rice were among the earliest members of the National Association of Evangelicals. At that time at least, they did not view the term "evangelical" as being objectionable. The problem lies with the fact that a Protestant Fundamentalist is still absolutely wrong on the doctrine of the church. They are still the group that once persecuted the Baptists. They have a totally different eschatology or prophetic interpretation. When their post-millennialism is married to their ecclesiology, the material of the covenant Reformers is what emerges. These men were as severe toward our forebears as any papist. The result is the substance of a church-state "theocracy,"

which is only steps away from forfeiting the liberty for which men like Hubmaeir, Blaurock and Wightman died.

Baptists have always stood alone in their duty "Bearing the Testimony of Jesus Christ and the Word of God." Where are the real Baptists today? The proof is in the pudding, no, the proof is in the Bible and if you ever come upon a real Baptist, you'll know him by his Bible magnetism.

The proof is abundant that if it is Baptist doctrine, you can find it in the Bible. Why ought you to be a Baptist then? You ought not to be unless you take the Bible as your only and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. If you should be a Baptist for any other reason than that, you would be a hypocrite. **Love to Christ and love for the Bible are the only reasons why anybody should be a Baptist.** The mightiest preacher of the ages said: "If any man loves not the Lord Jesus Christ let him be accursed when Jesus comes." If he has been born again he will love the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus Himself said:

"If you love me, keep my commandments" John 14:15.

You cannot keep His commandments without being a Baptist. That is why you ought to be a Baptist. Love for the Lord Jesus and love for the truth will make every born again man in the world a Baptist if he will obey the Book. That has been tried in every country in this world today, where the Bible is read and loved and obeyed. In India and Burma and Germany and Russia and Persia and Bulgaria and Brazil and Cuba and any number of other countries around this world, before there were any Baptists in those lands, the reading of God's Word made Baptists out of folks who were not Baptists, and they went sometimes half way around the world to get Baptist baptism. In that, they are following their Lord.

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him." Matthew 3:13

He walked sixty miles or more to get Baptist baptism. Right now in Peru, where there are no Baptists, two different groups of believers, made believers through the distribution of Bibles by the salesmen of the British and Foreign Bible Society; right now I say these two groups of believers, widely scattered, are waiting and begging for some Baptist missionary to come and give them New Testament baptism. The New Testament was written to make men disciples and then make them Baptists. You can't obey the Book without being a Baptist: and you can't be an informed and obedient Baptist without being a Missionary Baptist. Love to Christ and loyalty to His Word will make every saved man in the world a Baptist. That is why you ought to be a Baptist.

WILL YOU BE A BAPTIST?