

COLD WATER to a THIRSTY SOUL

A CATECHISM OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE COMMONLY TAUGHT BY
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCHES OF CHRIST.

Study To shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

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Gallatin, Tennessee

TO BAPTIST CHURCHES OF CHRIST EVERYWHERE

Upon realizing the need to supply new converts (newborn babes) with the basic teaching of the Bible, (the sincere milk of the Word) that they might be properly nourished; Longview Missionary Baptist Church of Gallatin, Tennessee appointed a committee to compile this work and to present it for the approval of the Church.

April 24, 1968, the Church gave its vote of approval and does now submit it for the use of Sister Churches everywhere, for the purpose of helping to train young Christians in the work of the Lord.

Longview Church sincerely believes that too many Baptist have had their growth stunted by a lack of Spiritual food. Whether the responsibility for this lies on the quality of the food supplied by the Churches or the Christian's lack of appetite, it deserves our immediate attention. As a baby must be encouraged to eat nourishing food by its parents, so must the young convert be encouraged, by the Church, to study the Word of God.

We feel that a conscientious study of this book will help a church to avoid such conditions as the writer tells us about in Hebrews 5:12-14. "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God: and are become such as have need of milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

AS COLD WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL,

SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY.

(Proverbs 25:25)

INTRODUCTION

This book was written primarily with the young Baptist, or young Christian, in mind. It is for the purpose of helping every saved person to, “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and 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.” (I Peter 3:15) Whether a new convert is eight or eighty, he needs to be taught about the Lord’s Church and the principles for which it stands. It becomes increasingly important as education advances that the Church promote the teaching of God’s Word and try to prepare all Baptist to stand firmly for the doctrines which have been handed down through the years.

Even though these pages were written with the “Babe in Christ” in mind, we feel that most older Baptists might very likely gain something from a study of the things contained herein. We at least ask that older Baptists read it and encourage some young Christians to study it. It is our sincere hope and prayer that Baptist will awake from their sleep and when they have - awaken someone else.

Since these writings are intended for the young person, we take for granted that they could not easily locate and understand the references from the Bible which would ordinarily be given in such a study. It is for this reason that we limited the Scripture references to a minimum and located these at the end of each answer. If there should be any question concerning these teaching, we encourage you to use the references given and more if you desire.

We have chosen the catechism (question and answer) form of writing, because we believe it will be more appealing and more easily understood by young people. You will notice that we have attempted to eliminate all unnecessary large words and have tried to speak as clearly and briefly on each subject as possible.

It is our desire that a study of this book may be a stepping stone to a better understanding of Christian Doctrines and that each student might develop a zeal in the work of the Lord which will lead to a great and lasting revival among God's people.

As "Cold Water to a Thirsty Soul" is welcomed-may this book be accepted by Christ's Churches and full use be made of it. We feel certain that the thirst for knowledge is prevalent among God's people, but some effort must be put forth by individuals and by independent Church bodies to supply the teaching necessary to quench this thirst.

Preparing and publishing this book has been a great blessing to Longview Church and we are humbly grateful to the Lord for making use of us in this manner. This is God's work- He chose our hands to put it in print for Him, and we can't thank Him enough for all His goodness toward us.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER
RIGHTEOUSNESS: FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED. (Matt. 5:6)

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CHAPTER 1 THE GODHEAD

1. **What is God?** God is a spirit.

John 4:24

2. **Where did God come from?** God has always been in existence. He had no beginning and He will never end.¹ This is hard for our minds to understand, but we must believe it because God teaches it and we know that everything He says is true.²

¹Rev. 1:8, Psa. 90:2, ²Titus 1:2

3. **What else do we know about God?** God created every-thing in the heavens and on the earth.¹ He has more power than we can begin to imagine-His power is completely unlimited.²

¹Gen. 1:1; Col. 1:16; ²Rom. 13:1; Matt. 19:26

4. **Is God wise?** Yes, His wisdom and understanding are also unlimited.¹ He is a merciful and longsuffering God, and we can expect Him to understand anything we think or do whether we, ourselves, understand it or not.²

¹Psa. 147:5; I Tim. 1:17; ²II Peter 3:9; II Cor. 1:3; Psa. 139:2, 3

5. **What do we owe God?** God is so wonderful, perfect, magnificent, and holy; there are just no words to describe Him. Therefore, we owe Him all the glory and honor we can possibly give Him. We should spend our lives praising, loving, and working for Him because of His goodness and love toward us.

Prov. 3:9; Mark 12:30; I Cor. 6:20; John 3:16

6. **Should we allow God to rule our lives?** Yes, we should turn our lives over to Him after we have been saved, and let Him have His way in everything we do.¹ We can never escape the presence of God, no matter how hard we try.²

¹Pro. 3:6; James 4:7; Acts 17:28; ²Jer. 23:23, 24; Pro. 15:3

7. Does God punish us, as His children, when we disobey Him? Yes, in one way or another we, as God's children suffer for the wrong we do.

Rev. 3:19; Heb 12:6-11; Pro. 3:11

8. **Does God have a name?** Yes, His name is Jehovah.

Ex. 6:3; Psa. 83:18

9. **Where is God?** The Godhead is made up of three personalities.¹ They are: the Father (the part most commonly referred to as God), who is in heaven;² the Son (Jesus Christ, the Son of God), who is also in heaven at this time;³ and the Holy Ghost (the Spirit of God), who is in the World.⁴ These three always work in perfect harmony with one another even though they have different offices.⁵ You will understand their separate works better as you study the remainder of this book, and as you study the Bible and grow in the knowledge of God.⁶

¹I John 5:7; ²Matt. 6:9; ³Col. 3:1; I Tim. 2:5; ⁴John 15:26; Acts 9:31; ⁵ICor. 12:4-6; John 15:26; ⁶Col. 1:10; II Peter 1:2; James 1:5

10. **Does this mean there are three different Gods?** No, there is only one true and living God.¹ These three go to make up the one Godhead.² This is another fact which we must accept by faith, because our minds cannot understand it completely.³

¹Isa.44:6; John 6:57; ²I John 5:7; ³Rom. 11:33; II Cor. 5:7

CHAPTER II THE SCRIPTURES

1. **Who is the author of the Bible?** God is the author of the Bible.

II Tim. 3:16

2. **Did God write it Himself?** God, through the aid of the Holy Spirit, inspired men to write the Scriptures as it pleased Him. In other words-God made it known to these men the things they should write.

II Pet. 1:20,21; II Tim. 3:16,17

3. **Did God talk to these men as we talk to one another today?** Probably not, He speaks to His people in various ways, but not usually in an oral voice.

Heb. 1:1,2; II Peter 1:20,21

4. **What is contained in the Bible, and what is the purpose of it?** The Bible is a religious history of the world and the things therein. It gives us many stories of God's people and their actions through the years. Some of these stories are meant as examples for us to follow and some are recorded to show us things that we are not to do.¹ The Bible is God's message to mankind, a guide for this life, tells about the life to come and how to prepare for it.²

¹Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:11; ²Matt. 25:46; II Tim. 3:15-17; Psa. 119:105

5. **Is the Bible a perfect guide for our lives?** Yes, in one way or another, it teaches us the things that God would have us do under any circumstance.

Psa. 19:7; II Tim. 3:14,15; II Tim. 3:17; Psa 48:14

6. **Does this mean that we should disobey the laws of our country?** No, not necessarily. The laws of our country should and usually do agree with the Bible. God teaches us to obey the laws of the land.¹ However, if the law of the land should ever instructs to do something that is against the Bible, we are taught to obey God rather than man.²

¹Rom. 13:1-7; Titus 3:1,2; I Peter 2:13-15; Rom. 12:18; ²Acts 5:29

7. **What if we don't always understand what the Bible teaches?** If we have been saved, we have God's Spirit to guide us.¹ We can call on this Spirit to help us understand the Bible any time. **STUDY AND PRAYER SHOULD ALWAYS GO HAND IN HAND.** It is because people have studied the Bible without the aid of the Spirit that there is so much misunderstanding in the Church and in the world.²

¹Rom. 8-9; ²Rom 8:26; 1 Cor. 2:10-16

8. **Do we have the right to form our own opinions as to what the Bible teaches?** No, God did not give us any such right. People having their own opinion has caused the differences of beliefs in the world today.¹ If people had always prayed for the leadership of the Spirit of God to help them form their opinions, there would still be only one religious group in the world; and it would be the true Church of Jesus Christ.² God teaches in the Bible that our thoughts are not His thoughts nor our ways His ways.³ Therefore, we have no right to our own opinion about the Bible, but should try very hard to find what God's opinion is on the matter.⁴

¹Prov. 14:12; ²1 Cor. 1:10, ³Isa. 55:8,9, ⁴Phil.2:2

9. **Is the Bible completely true?** Yes, the Bible as it was first inspired and written is completely true. And even though it has been translated many times since then, we believe that God has watched over the work and preserved His truth for us. The mistakes made by the translators are usually slight and can be detected by men of God who study the Bible with the leadership of the Spirit.¹ We need to keep in mind that all the Bible is not to be taken literally, but some of it is figurative and has hidden meanings.² **AGAIN THE BEST WAY TO TELL THESE APART IS STUDY AND PRAYER.**³ If the Bible seems to contradict itself on something, we are not rightly dividing (understanding) the Word, and should not criticize the Bible.⁴

¹Psa. 119:160; John 17:17; ²Col. 2:16,17; Heb 8:5; ³II Tim. 2:15; ⁴ICor. 14:33

10. Does science contradict the Bible? True science does not. Our Bible is a religious history and not a science book. Therefore, it does not go into detail about the methods used by God to bring about things. To a large extent, scientists are just uncovering and understanding facts which God has known about all the time. God's people should not be narrow minded about the things of science which are true and do not contradict the teachings of the Bible. We should, however, stand firmly against any claim, scientific or otherwise, which does not harmonize with God's Word.

Pro. 21:30; I Tim. 6:20,21; I Cor. 3:19; II John 10

11. Does the theory of evolution contradict the Bible? Yes, if it is taught to the extent that man evolved from beast. God teaches that He made each creature after his kind, meaning that there was a distinct separation from one kind to another.¹ Man is the only one of His creatures which He gave a soul (inward man), and this makes him completely different from any beast.² No doubt both man and beast have changed some in appearance since God created them, but each one changes within his own kind, and that barrier has never been crossed from beast to man. It is very important for God's people to stand against such teachings, and to do it with a good sound, Bible explanation.³

¹Gen. 1:25-28; I Cor. 15:38,39; ²Gen. 2:7; II Cor. 4:16; Rom. 7:22; ³I Thess. 5:21; Col.2:8

12. Does it make any difference if I don't understand some of the Bible correctly? Yes, we will all be judged after this life is over and we will be judged by the things the Bible truly teaches and not according to our interpretation of it.¹ God will not change His rules, or laws, for us simply because we don't understand them. This fact, again, points up the importance of STUDY AND PRAYER.²

¹Rom. 2:16; Rev. 20:12,13; ²Eph. 5:17; II Tim. 2:15

13. What is the best way to study the Bible? We should approach the Bible with an open mind and a willingness to let God speak to us through the Inspired Word. We should strive with all our might to understand the message of God and not try to make it fit any preconceived ideas that we may have.¹ The Holy Spirit is the best help available, and we should ask for his help and be willing to accept it.² It is not safe to take a verse of Scripture out of its context (the verses surrounding it) and use it to prove a point. It is best to understand who is doing the writing, who is doing the talking, to whom he is talking, and under what circumstance. It is not always possible to know all these things, but the better informed we are about this, the easier it will be to understand the Bible.

¹Rom. 12:2; ²John 16:13; I Cor. 2:13

14. **Are there any other books which would help me in studying the Bible?** Yes, we believe that God has given some people the ability to commit to writing, a portion of the knowledge they have gained so other people might learn from it. Some reference books and Bible study aids are very reliable; however, we must remember that they are compiled by men, and men are always subject to mistakes. Some of these books could be: a Bible dictionary, Concordance, Bible Atlas, and many others.¹ Commentaries can be helpful, but must be used with great care. It is best to know who wrote the commentary, and whether he teaches sound doctrine. Since we believe Baptist doctrine is Bible doctrine, we like to read after Baptist writers, but this does not necessarily make them sound either. We sincerely believe it is best to study the Bible, with the help of the Spirit first, and then it is safer to read someone else's comments. It could be a great hindrance in studying the Bible, and a great hindrance to the cause of God, if too much confidence were placed in reference books and study aids.²

¹IITim. 2:2, ²I Thess. 5:21

CHAPTER III

THE FALL OF MAN

1. **Where did people come from?** God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul, thousands of years ago.¹ God then took a rib from the man and made woman.² All human beings are descendants of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve.³

¹Gen. 2:7; ²Gen. 2:21,22; ³Gen 3:20

2. **Was man good when God created him?** Yes, God created him in His own image¹ and he was very good.²

¹Gen. 1:27; ²Gen. 1:31

3. **Are we, as descendants of Adam and Eve, still very good?** No, God gave man a choice between good and evil; and Adam, the first man, chose to be evil rather than good. He made this choice when he disobeyed the command of God and ate the fruit of the tree which God had told him not to eat.¹ All mankind fell when Adam sinned, and since that time people have been born into the world of a sinful nature instead of the perfect nature which Adam had when God created him. It is for this reason that everyone needs to be saved when they reach the time in life when they realize they are separated and away from God.²

¹Gen. 3:1-6, ²I Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 3:23

4. **Why did Adam choose to sin?** He allowed Satan (the devil; the evil spirit which is in the world working against God) to tempt him, through Eve.¹ Satan is the cause of all sin and evil in the world.² However, Satan works through people and he has no power except that which is allowed him by God, and that which people are willing for him to have.³

¹Gen. 3:1; Gen. 3:17; I Tim. 2:14; ²Acts 5:3; John 8:44; ³Job 1:9-12; Luke 22:31,32; John 19:11

5. **Do we still have a choice between good and evil?** Yes, but our choice is not the same as Adam's. He was good and chose to be evil; we are born of a sinful nature¹ and we choose whether we stay in this state or become acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.² This choice is ours to make when the Holy Spirit reproves us and lets us know that we are lost and away from God.³

¹Psa. 51-5; ²Rom. 5:17-19; John 7:37,38; John 3:16; ³John 16:8; Matt. 18:11

6. **Is the devil still trying to keep people from choosing Jesus?** Yes, he will do his best to keep people from being saved.¹ As long as we are evil, we are serving Satan rather than God, and the devil likes it that way.² If people allow the devil to keep them from being saved as long as they live on earth, they will go to be with the devil in eternal punishment when this life is over.³

¹II Cor. 4:4; John 12:40; I Peter 5:8; ²John 8:44; Eph. 2:2,3; ³Rev. 20:10; Rev. 20:14,15

7. **Why should we suffer because of Adam's sin?** Since the fall, or sin, of Adam, every human being has been born without the holiness that God requires of him.¹ This fact cannot be changed: but we still have the choice to make for ourselves. God has freely given us a way to get back to Him;² so in the long-run, we suffer because of the choice we, ourselves, make.³

¹Rom. 5:12; Rom. 3:23; ²John 3:16; Rom 5:16,17; ³Gal. 6:7,8; Rom. 2:2-6

8. **Can't we just live a good, clean life and never become sinful?** No, this is utterly impossible, because we are evil by nature.¹ Without the help of God, we are not able, within ourselves, to be good enough to please God.

¹Rom. 3:23; Rom. 3:10; II Cor. 1:9-10; ²Heb. 11:6; Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5

CHAPTER IV

THE WAY OF SALVATION

1. **What is salvation?** It is deliverance from sin,¹ death,² and eternal punishment.³

¹ I John 3:8,9; ² Psa. 116:8; John 5:24; II Cor. 1:9,10; ³ Rev. 21:8; Rev 2:11

2. **Does this mean that a saved person will never die?** In order to explain this, we must explain the two-fold man. Every person is made up of two parts, the outward man (physical) and the inward man (spiritual).¹ To understand salvation, we must get a clear picture of the two parts of an individual. It is the inward man which is saved, and therefore, it is the inward man which cannot sin again and will never die.² This outward body will continue to sin as long as it lives (even though it is our duty to keep it under subjection to God as much as possible),³ and this outward body will die a natural death and go back to the dust of the earth from whence it came.⁴ At the resurrection the body will be raised (a spiritual body) and then salvation is complete, both soul and body.⁵

¹ John 3:6; ² I Pet. 1:23-25; I John 3:9; II Cor., 4:16; ³ Rom. 7:25; Eph. 3:16; ⁴ Ecc. 12:7; ⁵ I Sam. 2:6; I Cor. 15:42-57; Rom. 8:23; Rom. 13-11

3. **What makes it possible for a person to be saved?** It is the free and unearned favor of God, called grace.¹ It is completely by the goodness and grace of God that we are saved.²

¹ Eph. 2:8; Rom. 3:24; ² Titus 3:5,6

4. **What makes this grace available to us?** This grace is available to us through faith.¹ We must believe that God loved mankind so much that He sent His only begotten Son into the world to pay the price for our salvation.² His Son, Jesus Christ, paid this price with His death and the shedding of His blood. He had no sin of His own and that is the reason He could be offered for the sins of others.³

¹ Eph. 2:8; ² John 3:16; ³ Isa. 53:4,5; II Cor. 5:21; I Peter. 2:21-24

5. **Where is Jesus now, and what is He doing?** He arose from the dead¹ and ascended back to heaven to be with His father, God.² He is now in the presence of God, serving as mediator between God and man.³ It is through Jesus that we pray and are able to reach God.⁴

¹ Luke 24:5,6; ² Acts 1:9; Heb. 4:14-16; ³ I John 2:1; ⁴ I Tim. 2:5

6. **Was the price that Jesus paid enough to save everyone?** Yes, He paid the full price necessary to save every soul that has ever lived and every one that will ever be born into the world.

II Cor. 5:15, I Tim. 2:4-6; Titus 2:14; Eph. 1:7; Psa. 90:2

7. **Do all religious groups believe in Jesus as their savior?** No, some people and some groups have completely rejected Jesus as the Son of God. Some groups say

they believe in Jesus, but do not teach the true plan of salvation, and therefore, reject Him also.

II Pet. 2:1,2; II Tim. 3:1-5; Jude 4

CHAPTER V

HOW TO BE SAVED

1. **Who needs to be saved?** Anyone who feels the Spirit of God reproving him and letting him know that he is lost.

Luke 19:10; Matt. 9-13; John 16:7,8; John 6:44

2. **What must a lost person do to be saved?** He must hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, and believe it to the extent that he starts seeking the Lord.¹ He must then repent toward God and have faith in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.²

¹Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6; Eph. 1:13; ²Acts 17:30; Acts 20:21

3. **What is meant by “Repent toward God”?** The carnal mind, which is the normal mind of fallen man, is enmity (hate) against God, not subject to His law, neither indeed can be. To be carnally-minded is death, but to be spiritually-minded is life and peace.¹ When a person is convicted (deeply convinced) of his sin, a Godly sorrow sets up, which works repentance unto salvation.² This Godly sorrow or contrite spirit precedes true repentance (a change of mind toward God), which takes place inwardly with the help of the Spirit. Repentance is not, as many religious groups teach, simply a decision, with the carnal mind, to turn away from sin and live a better life.³ Many of these groups attempt the teaching of repentance and never mention the necessity of Godly sorrow or the working of the Holy Spirit. The teaching of true repentance is a fundamental doctrine of the Bible, which should be defended at all cost.⁴

¹Rom. 8:6,7 I Cor. 2:14; ²II Cor. 7:10; Psa. 34:18; James 4:6-10; ³John 6:44; Rom. 8:6,7; Rom. 3:28; ⁴II John 9

4. **What is meant by “Have faith in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ”?** Since Jesus is the one who paid the price for our salvation., He is the only one through whom it can possibly be obtained.¹ When we call upon Him, believing with all our heart that He can and will save us, God grants us the faith that we need to be saved.²

Repentance and faith are inseparable graces brought about by the working of the Holy Ghost in our soul. We cannot over-emphasize this point because these two graces place us in the condition which makes it possible for God to grant us salvation. These are prerequisite to salvation, and are not to be confused with it. As repentance is not a decision (with the carnal mind) to live better, unite with a

religious group and be baptized; faith is not merely accepting Christ of believing with the carnal mind. People are often misled by being instructed to do these things as well as being asked to read and sign a confession of faith or by quoting a creed. These things only tend to satisfy us to the extent that we settle for something less than true salvation.³

¹I Pet. 1:18,19; John 14:6; ²Rom. 10:13; John 3:18; Acts 8:37; John 1-12; 1Pet.1:9; Rom 3:28; ³Eph. 2:8,9; Rom 8:7; John 15:16, Matt. 15:8,9

5. **Can a person know for sure when he has received salvation?** Yes, the Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit and lets us know that we are children of God.¹ When regeneration, or salvation, takes place, it is not a gradual process which is brought about slowly by our good words, or by growing into salvation. It is complete regeneration of the inward man, done solely the working of the Holy Ghost.² This great change is accompanied by a feeling of great joy to some, while only a feeling of contentment and peace to other.³ In any case, the inward man has died to sin and has become a new creature in Jesus Christ.⁴ Salvation is a very personal thing, and is a matter which is settled between the individual and the Lord. A person should never trust anyone else to tell him when he is saved.⁵

¹Rom. 8:16; I John 5:10; John 10:14, 27, 28; ²Titus 3:5; ³Rom. 14:17; Rom, 5:1; ⁴John 5:24; II Cor. 5:17; ⁵Rom. 8:9; Rom. 8:14; Matt. 16:17; John 14:17

6. **How does salvation change a person?** Salvation takes place in the inward man.¹ The outward man will only be affected to the extent that he allows the inward man to be lead his actions. The soul (inward man) is now ruled by the Lord, but the body (outward man) is still sinful and must be brought under subjection of the Spirit.² It is possible for a person to be saved and the people around him not know it for a long time. But usually, when the Lord saves a person, he follows the leadership of God to the extent that there is a change in the way he acts and lives.³

¹Rom. 8:10; I Cor. 2:14-16; Heb. 10:14-17; ²Gal. 5:17; Heb. 12:9; Col. 3:1-4; James 1:12-15; I Cor. 6:20; ³I John 3:10; Gal. 5:22-25; Matt. 7:20

7. **Is it possible for a person to become confused about his salvation after he has been saved?** Yes, the devil doesn't stop his work on a person when the soul is saved. He has lost a battle as far as the soul is concerned, but he still tries to win the influence of the individual. It is possible for the devil to cause a child of God to doubt whether he has actually been saved.¹ Of course the devil would like to keep us in that condition, but all a saved person must do to find peace of mind is to ask the Lord to show him where he stands. Once a person is saved, he has an advocate (friend) in the presence of God, who is willing to help him at all times.²

¹II Peter 1:9; Matt. 26:41; II Cor. 2:11; ²I John 2:1; James 4:7

CHAPTER VI

THE CHRISTIAN'S DUTY TO GOD

1. List some of our duties to God after He has saved us.

OBEDIENCE – We owe God perfect obedience in everything He teaches us to do.

Acts 5:29; Ecc. 12:13

UNITE WITH CHRIST'S CHURCH- One of the first things He tells us to do is to follow Christ in baptism and become a member of His Church. We should not choose a Church because of the influence it might have in our business or our social life. We should not even choose a Church because it is pleasing to our family or friends. But, we should pray over the matter very carefully and allow the Spirit of God to lead us to the Church with which He would have us unite. We hear the expression "the church of your choice" quite often, but we, as children of God, should not even consider making our own choice when the Spirit is available to us for guidance in such things.

Rev.1:20; Matt. 5:15; Acts 10:47,48; Rom. 8:14

SUPPORT THE CHURCH-The Church belongs to Christ and is on earth to carry his work forward in the world. As individual members of his Church, we have a responsibility to see that this work is done according to His will. We should support the Church in the following ways:

Matt.28:19,20

- a) *We should pray* for the advancement of His Church. This should be one of the things that is constantly on the mind of a Church member.

1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18

- b) *We should attend* Church services when possible. When we attend, we should do so with the sincere desire that each service be carried on in a way that is pleasing to God.

Heb. 10:25; Rom. 12:1

- c) *We should work* for the advancement of the Church in any way we are able. There is much work to be done in the Church, and it should be shared by all the members.

John 12:26; Eph. 2:10; Eph. 2:19-22

- d) *We should give* of our financial means to further the cause of God. The Bible teaches a man to give as he purposes in his heart. Each child of God should earnestly inquire of the Lord about this matter, and should ask with a willingness to follow His leadership. Whether He would tell you to give a tenth of your income, or some other amount, we cannot say; but it is very doubtful that He would lead you to wait and see what you can spare, and give that. He has always required the first-fruit from His people, and He will not settle for leftovers now.

II Cor. 9:7; Matt. 23:23; Pro. 3:9; Luke 6:38

SANCTIFICATION- To sanctify is to make holy, or to set apart. At the time a person is born again (saved) his soul (inward man) is sanctified or made holy, and is set apart by and for God. Sanctification of the outward man then becomes the duty of a saved person. God expects us to work toward this through prayer, study, self-examination, self-denial, faith, patience, love, and a willingness to follow the leadership of the Spirit. If we are working toward this, we will feel an increasing hatred for sin and our thoughts and desires will be centered on things of God rather than things of the world. It is not possible for us to completely sanctify the body. Some sin will remain in the carnal body as long as it lives; but the closer we stay to God, the better we will be able to resist the devil and the desires of the flesh.

I Cor. 6:11; Heb. 10:10; I Thess. 5:23; I Pet. 3:15; II Tim. 2:21; John 17:17; James 4:7

STUDY-We should study His Word so we will know His will for us, as individuals, and for His Church. His commands are in the Bible for us to study and it is our responsibility to know them.

II Tim. 2:15; II Tim. 3:16,17; Pro. 1:5; Matt. 22:29

SUBMISSION-We must strive, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to submit (give in) to God's leadership in making plans for our lives, and should want His will to be done more than our own. If He shows us that we are not acting or thinking in a way that is pleasing to Him we should be willing to forsake our own ways and thoughts and try harder to understand His will for us.

James 4:7; Heb. 12:9; Rom. 12:1,2; Eph. 5:17; Pro. 3:6

REVEERENCE-We should have a deep feeling of respect, love, and esteem for God after He has saved us. We should feel very humble knowing that we are loved by such an all-wise, all-powerful and all-seeing God. We also owe Him a thankful heart for all He has done, is doing, and has promised to do for us.

Heb. 12:28; James 4:6; Heb. 13:15; John 3:16

WITNESS FOR HIM-We are told to be a witness for the Lord. After we have been saved, we are able to lead others to God, through Christ. It is our duty to let the light of the Lord shine through our lives in such a way that others will be led to Christ through our influence. We can do this with words, but we should be careful to support our words with our every-day lives.¹ We cannot expect to win souls to Christ if we live and act like the unsaved people of the world. We must establish our faith in God and let this be manifest in our lives.²

For most people, the tongue is the most unruly member of the body, and the hardest to bring under subjection.³ Our conversations should be that which is becoming to a Christian person.⁴ If we have the habit of using foul or obscene language, it should be stopped immediately. It is not only the words we use, but the implications we make which we are responsible for. Remember, God not only hears our words, but he knows our thoughts also.⁵

A Christian should also make manifest to the world that he has the peace and joy which came into his heart as a result of salvation. If we grumble, complain, and find fault with everything, we do not show to lost people that salvation is anything to be desired. A Christian person should search out and promote good in others. We need to be sure that lost people cannot look at our lives and say, "I am just as well off in my sin as he is, and he claims to be a Christian".⁶

¹Acts 1:8; Matt. 5:16; Eph. 5:8; Col. 2:6; James 1:22-24; ²Matt. 5:16; ³James 3:8; ⁴I Tim. 4:12; I Peter 1:15; ⁵Mark 7:20-23; Eph. 4:22-32; Psa. 139:2,3; ⁶Matt. 6:21; Gal. 5:22-26; I Cor. 15:58; II Tim. 2:21; Gal 5:13

FEAR-We are taught to serve God with a Godly fear. He promises that his chastening hand will fall upon His disobedient children. We should keep in mind that we must give account to the Lord for everything we do in this life.

Pro. 9:10; Ecc. 12:13; Heb. 12:28,29; Heb. 10:30,31; Rom. 14:12; Matt. 12:36,37

SERVE GOD EVERYWHERE-We should serve God to the extent that people we come into contact with might see that we are children of God. If we should move far enough away from our Church that we cannot attend its services, we should locate a true Church in the vicinity as soon as possible. Again, the Spirit should be the guide in this. And should the Spirit direct us to move our membership to that place, we should do that immediately (Baptist Churches grant letters of recommendation to members, recommending them to the fellowship of other Churches of like faith, upon their request.)

Matt. 5:16; Rom. 12:1; Heb. 10:25; I Cor. 15:58; I Cor. 14:40; Acts 9:26,27

MANY OTHERS-We could not possible list all the duties of a Christian to God. This is one of the main reasons we are taught in the Bible to attend Church services, listen to the man of God (preacher), study our Bible and try our best to

learn all our duties and obligations to God. When we have done all that God has commanded us to do, we still have nothing to boast about—we have only done that which was our duty to do.

Ecc. 12:13; Luke 17:10

CHAPTER VII

THE GOSPEL CHURCH

1. **What is a gospel Church?** A gospel Church is a local, visible, independent body of Christ's, Scripturally, baptized believers (saved people), united in the belief of what He has said, and striving to do what He has commanded. (The Church is made up of people, and not the Church Building, as is sometimes mistakenly implied.)

II Thess. 1:4; Rom. 12:4,5; Phil. 2:2, I Cor. 15:58

2. **Who set up the Church?** Jesus Christ set up His Church when He was on earth.¹ He set it up to carry on His work and preach His gospel to the world.²

¹Dan. 2:44; Luke 22:29; John 17:4; ²Matt. 28:19,20; Col. 1:18; Col. 1:24; Eph. 2:19-22

3. **Is the Church today the same on that Jesus set up?** Yes, it is the same Church, even though it is not made up of the same members. People have continued to unite with the Church through the years and it has continued to this time. Some people (through the influence of the devil) say that Christ's Church went out of existence at one time in history and had to be re-established by some man. We know this cannot be true because the Bible promises that it will never go out of existence.

Dan. 7:14; Dan. 2:44; Luke 22:29; Matt. 16:18; Matt. 28:20; Heb. 12:27,28

4. **How does the Church know what Jesus wants it to do now that He is in heaven?** Jesus gave instructions to His disciples and they are now recorded in the New Testament for our use.¹ The Holy Spirit was sent to earth to lead God's people according to His will, and He is aiding the Church in its work.²

¹Matt. 28:20; John 21:24,25; Luke 1:1-4; II Thess. 2:15; Rev. 1:11; Rev. 1:19;
²John 14:26; John 16:13-15

5. **Why does His Church need to study this book if the New Testament is their guide?** This book is by no means meant to replace the Bible, but only to make it easier and quicker for a person to learn about the basic doctrines therein. This book will only teach ideas that are taught in the Bible. We do not attempt to cover

everything taught in it, and for this reason, you should go on studying the Bible after you have finished this book. In this, as well as any other study of God's word, a Christian, should ask for the leadership of the Spirit of God so they might understand His word in a way that would be pleasing to Him. **STUDY AND PRAYER SHOULD GO HAND IN HAND.**

II Pet. 3:16; I Cor. 2:13

6. **Are all the religious denominations around us a part of that Church which Jesus set up?** No, only the ones which teach the things that Jesus and the New Testament teach are true Churches. The denominations around us were started by some man and do not teach the whole truth of God's Word.

Eph. 4:4; Rom. 10:1-3; II Pet. 2:1,2; II Tim. 3:1-5; Jude 4; Mark 7:7; Gal. 1:7-9

7. **Did Jesus set up more than one Church?** No, He only set up one Church. He gave this Church the command to go and teach all nations. This brought about the establishment of many independent bodies of the true Church in different localities. When the Bible refers to Churches, it does not mean organizations of different beliefs; but local, independent bodies of the same Church. All these bodies go to make up the true Church Kingdom of Jesus Christ, which He established.

I Cor. 3:11; Eph. 4:3-5; I Cor. 12:12,13; Matt. 28:19; John 15:1,2

8. **How can we tell Christ's Church from the other organizations of the world?** By praying for the Spirit to lead and by studying the Bible to see what it really teaches. If we have been saved, we have the Spirit of God to lead us and we can ask for that leadership any time we need it. If we know the Spirit of God has led us to a Church, we may be sure it is a true Church.

John 8:31, 32; Rom. 8:14; Matt. 7:15,16

9. **What are some of the marks of a true church of Jesus Christ?** It would be hard to list all the marks of a true Church, but we will give you a list of ten fundamental ones. You probably won't understand all of them now, but you will understand them better as this study advances.

- 1) A Spiritual Church, Christ its founder, its only head and law giver.

John 4:24; Col. 1:18; Jas. 4:12

- 2) Its ordinances, only two, baptism and the Lord's Supper – they are typical and memorial, not saving.

Acts: 2:41,42; I Cor. 11:23-26

- 3) Its ordained officers, only two, bishops (pastors) and deacons; they being servants of the Church only.

Phil. 1:1; Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:3

- 4) Its government, a democracy, and that executive only, never legislative.

James 4:12; Eph. 2:19; I Pet. 5:1-4; Rom. 14:19

- 5) Its laws and doctrines; Christ's teachings, as recorded in the Bible.

John 7:16-18; II John 9:10

- 6) Its members, baptized believers only, they saved by grace through faith, not by works.

Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5; Matt. 28:19, 20; Rom. 5:1, 2

- 7) Its requirements, obedience and loyalty to all New Testament teachings.

Matt. 28:19, 20; John 14:21

- 8) The various local bodies, separate and independent in their execution of laws and discipline and in responsibilities to God, but cooperative in work.

I Cor. 5:4, 5; Rev. 1:4; II Cor. 8:18, 19

- 9) Separation of Church and State.

Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1,2

- 10) Absolute Religions Liberty for all.

Gal. 5:13; Phil. 1:15; Mark 9:39, 40; Luke 9:49, 50

10. **Why are there so many different religious denominations?** Soon after Jesus established His Church, men started to drift away from God and the teachings of Jesus. People began to interpret the Bible and the teachings of the apostles as it pleased them rather than the way Christ intended. This difference of beliefs caused men to leave the true Church and start organizations of their own (which they called churches), so they could teach as they believed.¹ It would seem to the world that some of these groups are doing good works. No doubt, some of the people in them are living very good moral lives, but this is a work of the flesh and not acceptable to God. These groups, while outwardly living a good life, are misusing the Scriptures to the extent that people are being deceived and

completely missing the salvation of their soul. It does absolutely no good, as far as God is concerned, to clean up the outside of a person and leave the inward man in sin.² We believe most of the Churches that wear the name Missionary Baptist today are still teaching the Bible as Jesus intended.

¹I Tim. 4:1,2; Matt. 14:8,9; II Pet. 2:1, 2; I John 4:1; ²Matt. 23:25-88; Matt. 7:21-23; Rom. 10:2,3

11. **What name did Jesus give His Church?** As far as we know, He gave it no name other than “Church”.

Matt. 16:18; Matt. 18:17

12. **Why is it necessary for the Church to have any other name than “Church” today?** As long as only the true Church was in existence, there was no need for any other name. When other organizations began to claim the right to use the name “Church”, it became necessary for the same distinction to be made between the groups. The true Church has gone by different name throughout history. Some years ago, the name “Baptist” was attached to the true Church of Jesus Christ, and we still wear it today. We do not object to the name, but are proud of the heritage our Baptist forefathers have left us, and feel it an honor to wear the name. In recent years a man-made organization has claimed the name, “Church of God”, and another, “Church of Christ.” This has caused some Baptists to shy away from using these terms when having reference to the true Church. These are both New Testament terms used in reference to the Christ’s Church and no one really has a right to their use except the true Church. It is the practice of the Church that makes it a true Church, and not the name it wears.

II Cor. 6:14-18; Acts 20:28; Rom. 16:16

13. **Are all Baptist Churches true Churches?** No, some groups have departed from the things taught in the New Testament, but still claim the name Baptist. It is for this reason that we now call ourselves Missionary Baptist (to distinguish us from those who do not believe in missions). We sometimes refer to ourselves as Old-Fashioned Missionary Baptist. This is because some Missionary Baptist Churches are drifting away from the true teachings concerning salvation and we wish to be distinguished from them also.

II Cor. 6:14

14. **We often hear the term “modernism” used in reference to Churches, what does it mean?** The word modernism is used to define any of a number of movements attempting to redefine Bible teachings and doctrines to conform with modern theories of science, modern ideas in morals, or to define Bible doctrine in a way that is more acceptable to our carnal (sinful) way of thinking.

The word *modernism* should only be used in reference to the doctrine of a Church and not in reference to the Church building, or the means a Church might use to teach or to carry the gospel. The word is often misused by completely well-meaning individuals, who have not stopped to consider the weight of their statement. We, as Baptists, need to take stock of our usage of this term. The word *modern* has come to be a bad word when we hear it in reference to a Church building or teaching methods, but we think absolutely nothing about having modern medicine, modern schools, modern homes, modern automobiles, modern appliances and conveniences of all kinds.

To some extent we are “Straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel”. We complain about anything that is a little different or new to us, without stopping to reason out whether or not it is really going against Bible teachings.¹ We should use every modern method which will aid us in spreading the gospel and reaching lost souls; but we should keep constant check on ourselves to see that we do not modernize or change one jot or tittle of the Word of God.²

We should also be very careful that we do not minimize the importance of the working of the Holy Spirit in ourselves, our churches, and the world. It seems that this is where some Baptist Churches fall short. They are saying the right words, but the working of the Spirit is not there and the words do not have the effect they should. So, besides making sure that we are teaching the true gospel in words, we need to constantly be in prayer to God that the Spirit be with us and make His Word effective.³

Remember, the true test of whether a thing should be condemned and classed as modernism is – *Does it go against or hinder the teachings of the Bible in its purity?* If a thing fails this test and you are convinced, with the aid of the Spirit, that it is wrong; then, stand against it firmly, with a good Bible reason behind you.⁴ We need to guard against putting stumbling-blocks in the way of the cause of God by being too quick to make judgment, and too quick to speak our mind.⁵ It is often said by older people, “The younger generation is going to the dogs”. Just remember, their parents said that about them and theirs about them – and we will probably say it about our children and grandchildren. This, in large part, is what we are doing to our Churches. Anything that is new or different than we are accustomed to, we say is modern. We also hear people talk about sticking to the old paths. This is a very commendable thing to do – but we need to be sure that the paths we uphold are old enough. They should be the paths Christ and the apostles walked in and not necessarily the ones our grandparents walked in. Again, we say, the old paths we should seek are paths of doctrine, not outward conveniences.⁶

¹Matt. 23:24; Mark 1:27; ²Matt. 5:18; Rev. 22:18,19; ³I Cor. 2:4-7; ⁴I Thess. 5:21; I Cor. 15:58; ⁵Rom. 14:13; James 1:19,20; ⁶Jer. 6:16; Matt.15:9

15. **Is a Baptist Church a Protestant Church?** No, not in a strict sense of the term. Protestant groups are those which protested and pulled away from the Roman or Greek Catholic organizations. The true Church was never a part of either of these

Catholic organizations. The Catholic groups actually pulled away from Christ's Church and formed their groups.

Most standard reference books (encyclopedias and dictionaries) refer to Baptist Churches in the Protestant category. Even though we do protest and deny the teachings of both Roman and Greek Catholic groups, we are not a Protestant Church in the common use of the term. We feel that Baptists should be aware of this fact and be able to give a reasonable explanation for it.

Dan. 2:44

16. **What are Baptist Associations?** Baptist Associations are made up of messengers which are appointed and sent by the independent, local Churches. These messengers go to a designated place for fellowship meetings and discussions of cooperative work such as missions, orphanages, religious education, etc. Churches in several counties usually are represented in the same association and much good is accomplished in discussing the work of the Lord. Whether a Church chooses to represent in an association is completely left up to the local Church. Every Church is an independent body, subject only to the God-head. An association can make recommendations to the Churches, through the messengers; but cannot exercise any power over the local Churches, as the Scripture recognizes no higher power on earth than the Church. It is the duty of the messengers to give a full report of the associational meetings to their local Church.

Psa. 133:1

17. **Is it possible for all the religions of the world to come to an agreement and worship together?** A lot of people are putting great effort toward this end, and it seems very likely that they will, for the most part, accomplish what they have set out to do.
18. **Wouldn't this be a good thing if all religions could agree and worship together?** It would be if everyone could come to an agreement on the truth and really worship God in Spirit and in Truth together.¹ But it is not being sought in this respect. If it happens, it will mean that the different groups have compromised some of their beliefs and are tolerating some others which they do not believe, just for the sake of an agreement.²

¹John 4:24; ²II John 7-11; Eph. 4:14,15

19. **Would it be pleasing to God if we, as Baptist, should be in this agreement?** It seems reasonable to our minds that an agreement would be pleasing to God, but let's not forget that our thoughts are not God's thoughts. The only way to find an answer to this is through prayer and the study of the Bible.

Isa. 55:8,9; Matt. 10:34,35; Rom. 12:2

20. **How can the Bible, written so long ago, tell us what to do, in this situation?** If we are honestly seeking God's will, we can depend on the Bible to tell us anything we need to know. When it was inspired and written, it covered, in some way, every situation that would ever confront mankind.

II Tim. 3:16,17

21. **What does the Bible teach about uniting with other religious beliefs?** It teaches that we are to prove what is acceptable to the Lord, and we are to have no fellowship with unbelievers. We are taught to reprove them of their actions rather than condone them;¹ or else we will be partakers of their evil deeds.² We are further taught to come out from among them and be separate if we expect to receive blessings from God.³

¹Eph. 5:6-12; ²II John 7:11; ³II Cor. 6:14-18

22. **Doesn't this seem rude to other people to be so set apart from them?** It may seem to some people that it is; but we have our orders from Christ and we have no right to go against them. Any saved person who prayerfully studies the Bible can fully understand the importance of following the instructions of the Lord and of being a separate people, set apart for the work of Christ.

Acts 5:29; II Cor. 6:17,18

CHAPTER VIII

THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

1. **What is a Church ordinance?** It is an order or command given to the Church, by Jesus, to be done in Church capacity.

I Cor. 11:1,2; James 4:12

2. **How many ordinances did Jesus give His Church?** He gave the Church only two.

Matt: 28:19; I Cor. 11:24-26

3. **What is the first ordinance?** Baptism is the first.

Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47,48

4. **What is baptism?** Baptism is the immersion, in water, by the proper authority, of a believer in Christ (a saved person); in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Col. 2:12; Acts 8:38,39; Matt. 28:19

5. **What does immersion mean?** For a person to be immersed, he must be submerged (plunged; buried; dipped) in water, so that his body is completely covered.

Rom. 6:4

6. **Are there any other methods of baptism?** None that are scriptural. Some other religious groups either sprinkle or pour water on the individual and call it baptism. The original meaning of the word does not give any indication that these things are proper; therefore, people have no right to change its meaning.

II John 10; Titus 1:9-16; Eph. 4:3-5

7. **Who has the proper authority to baptize?** The proper authority and the only scriptural authority is a true Church of Jesus Christ. The Church usually delegates the responsibility to administer baptism to its pastor, but this responsibility can be given to other ordained ministers, with the consent of the Church body.

Matt. 28:19,20; Matt. 16:19; Eph. 3:21

8. **Doesn't a preacher automatically have the authority to baptize people?** No, the authority to baptize was given to the Church and no preacher has the right to baptize without the permission of a Church body.

Matt. 28:18,19; I Cor. 1:10-17; I Cor. 14:40

9. **What must a saved person do to get Scriptural baptism?** He must present himself to a local Church body, bring forth testimony (evidence) that he has been saved, and request baptism. The Church, after hearing the experience of the individual, gives its consent to baptize him by taking a vote of the members present. This is done to keep down confusion in the Church, so all things will be done decently and in order. This vote of consent also means that the members believe the individual has given sufficient evidence of salvation, and is a fit subject for baptism.

All Churches are willing to baptize saved people, but care must be taken that they do not baptize unsaved people. We find that so many false plans of salvation are being advocated, by man-made groups, we must guard against the deception of innocent people. This method of giving consent to baptism is a safeguard against lost people getting into the local body, and doing great harm to the cause of God. The Church is the home of the saved, and not a place for superficial believers (on the surface; not genuine) whose primary goal is to have a social gathering or to do good works to soothe the conscience for awhile. These things are temporary, but true salvation is everlasting.

Matt. 3:8; Rom. 14:1; Acts 2:41,42; Acts 16:31-33; I Cor. 14:40; Rom. 10:2,3; Matt. 15:8

10. **Why did Jesus command saved people to be baptized?** He commands us to be baptized after we are saved in order to make a public declaration of faith in Him, and to symbolize the cleansing from sin which occurred when we were saved. We become a member of the family of God when we are saved, but a member of Christ's body, the Church, when we have received Scriptural baptism.¹ By being baptized we show, in a figure, that we have died to sin (by being buried in the water), and raised to walk in newness of life (by being raised from the water). Baptism, therefore is a picture of the actual resurrection. As Jesus died and was raised again – so everyone who believes in Him (is saved) will be raised in His likeness.²

¹Gal. 3:26,27; I Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:24; Eph. 1:22,23; ²Rom 6:3-6

11. **Does Baptism have any part in saving a person?** No, the person must be saved before he is a proper subject for baptism. Baptism is a work of righteousness which we are told to do after we are saved. Some religious organizations teach that joining the Church and being baptized is a part of salvation, but this is not true. This is one of the points Baptists have stood against throughout history, and one that we should continue to stand firmly against. It is easy to see that this is a very dangerous teaching, and one that might deceive many people and cause them never to find true salvation.

Rom. 5:1; Rom. 10:13; I John 5:1; Acts 16:31; Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8,9; John 6:63

12. **What is our second ordinance?** The second ordinance is the Lord's Supper.

I Cor. 11:26; Matt 26:26-30

13. **What is the Lord's Supper?** It is a memorial service, instituted by Jesus before His death on the cross. He commanded His Church to observe this service in memory of His death, until He comes back to earth again.

Matt. 26:26-30; I Cor. 11:26

14. **Who is to observe this memorial?** It is to be observed by His Church, in Church capacity only. He gave the ordinance to His Church and no other individual or group of people has the right to take it.

Matt. 26:26,27; I Cor. 11:33

15. **How is this memorial service to be conducted?** It should follow the account given in the Bible as closely as possible. The night Jesus instituted this ordinance

He observed the feast of the Passover. This was an Old Testament ordinance which God had instituted and told His people to observe forever. The Passover lamb was a type of the true Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who was to come. When the true Lamb came, He fulfilled the law concerning the sacrificial lamb; therefore, the ordinance of the Passover was fulfilled and the Lord's supper was set up as an ordinance in memory of the True Lamb, Jesus Christ. We are taught to eat unleavened bread (to represent His body), and drink fruit of the vine (to represent His blood), to commemorate (honor the memory of) His death until His return.

Luke 22:1; Ex. 12:14; Matt. 5:17,18; John 1:36; I Cor. 5:7; Col. 2:14,15; Luke 22:18-20

16. **When are we to observe this ordinance?** We are not taught when or how often this observance is to be made. We are taught: "For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come". Since Jesus did not instruct the Church on the matter, each true Church decides this for itself. The Passover was observed once a year, and some Churches prefer to observe the Lord's Supper once a year, while some observe it more often.

I Cor. 11:26; Acts 20:7

17. **Should every Church member take the supper?** Yes, the Bible tells us that we are to examine ourselves before we partake of the supper; for whosoever shall take it unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. It also says that he who takes it unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. Taking this supper unworthily does not indicate that we are to be worthy, on our own merits, to take it. We know that no one is worthy to take it without the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. We are taught to properly discern the Lord's body – meaning that we are to understand or realize Christ's sacrifice for us and remember these things at the time we are taking the supper. This is a very serious service, and one that every Church member should be well informed about. We should be able to explain its importance to others.

It is the duty of every Church member to stay in condition to observe this service in a way that is pleasing to the Lord.¹ To refuse to observe it is a deliberate rejection of a direct command of Jesus Himself. Just as baptism and Church membership are essential to spiritual growth in a saved person – the Lord's Supper is of utmost importance to the continued spiritual growth and welfare of the Christian and to the Church. The Lord said "If ye love me, keep my commandments". A person can not reject the ordinances of the Lord if he loves Christ as he should. (We might also add here that a Church which does not teach and stress the importance of these ordinances will not prosper Spiritually as it should.)²

¹Matt. 26:26-30; I Cor. 11:27-29; I Cor. 5:11; ²John 14:15; John 14:23

18. **If there are visitors in this service, should the Church serve them?** If the visitors belong to another body of the true Church, they are welcome to take the supper. However, if they do not belong to a true Church, they do not have proper baptism and are not eligible to take it. It is good for the one serving the people to ask about a person's Church membership if he does not know. The Bible clearly sets the rule as to who should partake of the supper, and it is not a law which the Church has any right to alter. It is the Lord's Supper, in His Church, and the Lord is the only one who has a right to say who may eat and who may not.

Luke 22:29,30; James 4:12

CHAPTER IX

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

1. **Why is it necessary to have any kind of Church government?** Any organization of people must have some system of managing or controlling the organization. This simply means that there must be a policy for making rules and laws which govern the members and there must be a system whereby these rules are executed, or carried out. Without some system there would be no organization.

I Cor. 14:40; I Cor. 14:33

2. **What does the Bible teach about Church government?** The Bible teaches that Christ is the head and only law giver for His Church. This means that no one has the right to make a law for the Church, which Christ has not already made. The Bible also teaches that the Church is to carry out, or execute, these laws. Therefore, it becomes the duty of every member to see that the laws of Christ are understood and practiced in accordance with His will.

Christ does not always tell us, in the Bible, what methods we are to use in executing (carrying out) His laws; so the Church, being led by the Spirit, must make arrangements to see that His laws are carried out. These arrangements may sometimes appear to the world to be new laws, instituted by the Church, but they are only things which are necessary for the fulfillment of Christ's commands. An example of this would be the direct command to the Church to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations". He gives the command, but does not tell us by what methods we are to teach. The Churches have set up Sunday schools, Bible studies, regular preaching services, revival services – they have used radio, television, sent missionaries and printed gospel literature to carry out the command of Christ. These are all done in order to carry out the command to teach all nations, and not to institute a new law or rule in the Church.

James 4:12; Eph. 1:22,23; Eph. 4:10-16; I Cor. 3; I Cor. 12:28; Matt. 28:19, 20

3. **How is the Church to know the laws Christ made for it?** By prayerfully studying His Word (the Bible) and following the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 8:14; II Tim. 2:15; Heb. 8:10-13; Phil. 4:6,7

4. **Are all Church members responsible for governing the Church body?** Yes, every member has equal rights and has the responsibility to execute these laws.

Rom. 14:12; I Cor. 12:26,27; Rom. 12:1-21

5. **Does the Bible teach that the Church is to have officers?** Yes, the Bible teaches that the Church is to have two ordained offices. These offices are bishops (elders; pastors) and deacons. The Bible is very clear about their qualifications and their duties. These men are still equal with every other member in regard to authority, and are servants of the Church only.

Titus 1:5; Acts 6:3; I Tim. 3:1-13; I Pet. 5:3

6. **Does this mean that we are to regard our pastor as we would any other member in the Church?** No, the Bible teaches us to give double honor to the elders who rule well, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. The pastor of a Church has a great responsibility to God and to the Church members, as the under shepherd (Christ is the Shepherd) of the flock and is due a great deal of respect and honor because of the office he holds.

I Tim. 5:17; I Pet. 5:2; John 10:14

7. **Do the individual members of the Church have different duties to perform even though they are equal in authority?** Yes, the Bible teaches that every member is fitted into the body as it pleases God. This means that God gives individuals the ability and leads them to do different jobs within the Church. Everyone should inquire of the Lord concerning his specific job, and then do it to the best of his ability. We could not begin to name all the jobs in a Church, but we know that some of them are filled by persons who are elected by the Church membership. Other jobs may be done without holding a position, because they are of a more general nature, but no less important.

Eph. 2:19-21; Rom. 12:4-8; I Cor. 12:27,28; Eph. 4:11,12

8. **How and when are these people elected?** These people are elected from and by the membership of the Church; each member having one vote. The Church members should earnestly seek the leadership of the Spirit in electing people to fill these positions. If a member feels that the Lord wants him in a certain position, he should make this known to the Church.

For the benefit of carrying on such business, the Church meets at regularly appointed times to discuss these and other matters which might need to be

brought to the attention of the Church. The individual Church body sets its business meeting (conference) at any time it desires, usually once a month. This date is then generally fixed so the members will know when to expect the business of the Church to be discussed. The regular conference meeting is set for the purpose of conducting the routine affairs of the Church, but arrangements can be made to take care of any urgent business which might arise between meetings by calling a special meeting. No set form of conducting business should ever hinder the Spiritual working of the Church.

I Thess. 5:12; I Cor. 14:40; Acts 1:13; Acts 1:23-26

9. Name and explain some of the duties people are elected to carry out.

Pastor – The Church elects its pastor (an ordained preacher) to be the overseer of the flock (Church). It is the pastor's duty to see to the Spiritual needs of the members. The pastor should always be elected according to the leadership of the Spirit, and not according to the likes or dislikes of Church members. Of course, this holds true in all Church matters, but since this is such a weighty matter, it will be good to mention it here. Some Churches elect their pastor annually (once a year) and some elect him for a indefinite period of time. We are given no rule to follow in this matter; so it is left up to the individual Church body, according to the leadership of the Spirit.

Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:2

Deacons – Deacons are chosen and then ordained by the Church. Their primary duty is to relieve the pastor of part of his work, so that he may devote more of his time to studying and preaching the Word of God. Once a deacon is ordained, he is a deacon as long as he is a member of any independent body of the Lord's Church.

Acts 6:2-7

(Preaches and deacons are the only ordained officers of a Church, These ordained preachers and deacons may fill some of the following positions in the Church but they are not ordained to them.)

Trustees – Trustees are usually elected, by the Church, to see after any legal matters which might confront the Church. The Church determines the length of time for which they are elected.

Clerk – The clerk of the Church is elected to keep a record of the activities of the Church and to carry on any correspondence which the Church gives him the authority to do. He also keeps a record of the Church membership. He is elected annually.

Treasurer – As the name implies, the treasurer is elected to see after any money which the Church might collect. He keeps an accurate record of the finances of the

Church, and only spends the money as the Church members vote and give him the authority. He is elected annually.

Sunday School Superintendent – The Sunday School Superintendent sees after the operation of the Sunday School. (Sunday School is an activity of the Church, where students are divided into separate classes and taught the Bible. Teaching is stressed so strongly in the Word of God that we feel Sunday School or some similar plan of study is almost imperative to the survival of a strong Church.) The Sunday School Superintendent usually conducts the preliminary (opening) remarks for the service and keeps things well organized. He is elected annually.

Teachers – Teachers are elected for the individual Sunday School classes and sometimes for other studies. It is the responsibility of these teachers to prepare themselves and teach the Word of God in the proper manner. The Church has a grave responsibility in the selection of teachers, and should be sure that the teachers are sound in the faith. They are elected annually.

Sunday School Secretary-and-Treasurer – Someone is elected to this position to keep the attendance and financial record for the Sunday School and to take care of the money collected in Sunday School. Elected annually.

Song Leader – It is the responsibility of the song leader to lead the singing in the Church services or see that someone else is there to do the job. Since most services begin with singing, he should see that the services begin on time. He should also encourage the Church members in their singing in any way he can. He is elected annually.

Assistants – (to the above positions, except pastors, deacons, and trustees) – Assistants are often elected for these positions. This is done simply to assist the one who holds the position, or to fill in for them when they are not able to carry out their duties. It is the duty of the one who holds the position to notify his assistant in the event that he needs his help. Elected annually.

Committees – The Church has some committees which are called standing committees. These are elected annually and are such as: flower committee (sending flowers to sick members), building committee (seeing after the needs of the Church building), and possibly others. There are also committees which are elected to do a specific job and then are released by the Church when the job is finished. Committees have only the authority to perform the duties which the Church has appointed unto them.

10. If a person does not hold any of these positions, why should he go to the business meeting? If you are a member of the Church, it is just as much your responsibility to be at the business meeting as it is any other member of the Church. Most Churches have only a small percentage of their members who are willing to carry this responsibility, and; therefore, do most of the work. We pray

that all members will realize this and not shift their share of the work to others. Attending the business meeting is an excellent way for younger members to become better acquainted with the functions of the Church, and to learn their responsibilities in the Church.

John 12:26; Matt. 16:24

11. **Does Christ give us a set of rules to follow in our business meetings?** The only rule given by the Bible is: “Let all things be done decently and in order”. To help us do this we usually use the standard rules of parliamentary procedure in our meetings, because they are familiar to most people. If the love of God is shown in the service and people are following the leadership of the Spirit of God, things will be done decently and in order and very little thought must be given to parliamentary procedure. No rule of order should ever stand in the way of the Spiritual well-being of the Church. The Church is not obligated to obey the rules in parliamentary procedure, and should they ever be used to hinder the execution of Christ’s commands to the Church, they should be disregarded.

I Cor. 14:40; I Cor. 12:25-27

CHAPTER X

DUTIES OF THE CHURCH

1. **Name and explain the duties of the Church.** It would not be possible to name all its duties in this book, but we will try to name enough to show you the great responsibility resting upon the Church. Its duties can be divided into three primary categories: (1) Its duties to Christ, its head; (2) Its duties to its members; and (3) Its duties to the world.

1) *The duties of the Church to Christ, its head-*

When Christ went away, He left His house, the Church, in the care of His servants. As Church members, we are His servants, and should tend His house according to the orders He left for us in the Scriptures. A good servant (Church member) should never go against the orders of his master, but always do his best to see that things are carried on according to His (Christ’s) directions.¹

Christ did not leave His people alone; however, He sent us a comforter and a guide, the Holy Spirit. We have the help of the Spirit to lead and direct us according to the will of Christ at all times.²

When Christ comes back again, He will ask His servants to give an account for the way His household has been run. This shows us the importance of recognizing our obligations and taking our share of the responsibility as a good and faithful servant of God.³

To sum this up, we might say that the Church owes complete and perfect obedience to Christ.⁴

¹Eph. 2:19; Mark 13:34-37; ²John 14:16-17; Acts 2:1-4; ³Matt. 24:45,46;
⁴Ecc. 12:13; John 14:15

2) *The duties of the Church to its members –*

The Church has a duty to foster (stimulate; promote) love among its members. Christian love is a great duty of Church members, and when it is faithfully performed, will cover all other duties that children of God owe one another.¹

The Church is primarily responsible for the Spiritual welfare of its members, but is not to overlook the physical needs if they should arise.² A Church is obligated to teach its members their responsibility to God, to the Church, and to their fellow-man. The Church is not only to teach this, but is to watch over its members and see that they fulfill this responsibility.³

If a member of the Church is walking disorderly, it is the duty of the Church to tell him of his wrong and go to great lengths to show him his error. The Bible gives us specific details in handling such cases, and it should be followed with great care and with the love of God in our hearts. If a Church allows its members to walk disorderly and does nothing about it, they are going against a direct command of the Bible.⁴

It is not only the duty of the Church to tell its members their error, but it is also the duty of the Church to discipline its members if it becomes necessary. It is not fair to God, to the Church, or to the disorderly member to allow him to continue in his error. Discipline is never a pleasant matter, but if it is necessary in families, schools, armies, and societies, we must recognize its necessity in the Church. After every effort has failed to persuade the member to correct his mistake, the Church has a duty to withdraw fellowship from the member who continues to walk disorderly.⁵ If, after the Church has withdrawn fellowship from the disorderly member, he should correct his error and make his apology to the Church, it is the immediate duty of the church to accept his acknowledgement and restore him to full fellowship. This member should then be treated as though the incident had never happened, and all differences should be forgotten.⁶

¹Rom. 13:10; I John 4:7-13; ²Matt. 28:19,20; James 2:15-16; Rom. 15:27;
³II Tim. 4:5; Eph. 6:18; ⁴Matt. 18:15-17; I Tim. 5:20; Gal. 6:1, 2, ⁵II
Thess. 3:14, 15; II Thess. 3:6; I Cor. 5:11-13; I Cor. 5:1-6; ⁶II Cor. 2:6-8;
Col. 3:12-15

3) *The duties of the Church to the world –*

The Church has one primary duty to the world: to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church is commanded to carry the Word of God into all the world, to make disciples, and baptize them.¹

The Church has a duty to maintain regular teaching and preaching services where lost people are invited to attend and hear the Bible taught and preached. We believe the Lord expects His Churches to meet every

Sunday (Lord's Day), It is also very good to have other services through the week.²

The Church has an obligation to support mission work so the Word can be carried to places where there is no Church. The command was given to go into 'all' the world. God's people should unite in prayer that preachers who feel the call to go to mission fields will have enough grace of God to follow His leadership. Then the Churches should support the efforts of the preachers in whatever way is needed. Church members should hang their heads in shame when they are aware of a missionary who is in need and do nothing about it.³

Jesus taught that the Church is the "Light of the world". If the Church is the light which must lead people to Christ, it must follow that *the Church has a duty to keep itself clean, strong, and bright so that its light might reach out and illuminate the whole world.*⁴

¹Matt. 28:19,20; II Cor. 4:1-6; Rom. 1:14-16; Acts 20:18-27; ²Heb. 10:25; Luke 14:23; Acts 18:4; ³Rom. 10:14,15; Acts 13:1,2; Acts 10:42; James 2:15,16; I Cor. 9:13,14; I Tim. 5:18; ⁴Matt. 5:14-16; Eph. 5:8

CHAPTER XI

BACKSLIDING AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE SAVED

1. **What is backsliding?** Backsliding is losing one's enthusiasm or zeal for the work of the Lord to the extent that he drifts back into the ways of the world and Satan.

Gal. 4:9; II Peter 1:5-9; I Tim. 5:15; Gal. 1:6

2. **What causes a person to backslide after he has been saved?** The devil is still on his job, and even though he has lost the battle as far as the soul is concerned; he still wants to hurt a Christian's influence with the world. He is still trying to persuade the saved person to do evil things and serve him (with his outward being) rather than God. The flesh lusts against the spirit and if we are not very careful, we will fall into the temptations of the devil and begin to backslide.

Eph. 6:11; Matt. 24:12; I Pet. 5:8; II Cor. 2:11; Gal. 5:17; James 1:14, 15

3. **What can we do to keep from backsliding?** *Pray* and stay close to God.¹ *Study* the Word of God and know His will for us.² *Work* for the Lord so devotedly that we do not have time to listen to the devil and his temptations.³

¹I Thess. 5:17; I Pet. 5:5-7; ²II Tim. 2:15; ³Eph. 6:11; I Cor. 15:58

4. **How far can a saved person backslide?** We can backslide to the extent that we may doubt having actually received salvation. We may also backslide to the extent that other people cannot tell, by our actions, whether we are a child of God

or a child of the devil. Christ taught that Christian people are to let their light shine before men, in order to bring glory to God. If we live like unsaved people, we are hiding the light which God has given us, and we certainly are not bringing honor and glory to God or to Christ's body, the Church.

II Pet. 1:9; I Cor. 10:13; Matt. 5:14-16

5. **Is it possible to backslide to the extent that you lose your salvation?** No, this is not possible. If we had to keep our own salvation by our good works, we would, no doubt, lose it. This is not the case however; God keeps our soul safe after we are saved and not even the Devil can take it away from Him.

John 10:27-29; Psa. 37:23, 24; John 3:16; I John 3:9

6. **Does God preserve our salvation forever?** Yes, if we have truly been saved, there is nothing the Devil and all his forces can do to change this fact.¹ Baptist Churches are accused of teaching that a person can do as he pleases after he has been saved, and he is still alright. Many people take advantage of the goodness and grace of God on this matter and therefore give the Church a bad reputation, but no sound Church would ever teach such a thing.² The Bible teaches and Baptist Churches teach that good works much follow salvation if we are to be pleasing to God.³

Many religious denominations teach that a person can lose his salvation if he does not live a good life. We believe this is an insult to the power of God, because we are plainly told that He is keeping our salvation. Baptists have always stood firmly for this Bible truth and we should continue to do so.⁴

¹John 10:29; Rom. 8:35, 38, 39; Eph. 1:13; ²I Cor. 8:9, ³Eph. 2:10; ⁴II Pet. 2:9; Heb. 6:4-6; I Pet. 4:5

7. **If God is going to preserve our salvation anyway, why should we serve Him?** A person who has been saved serves God because he loves Him. We count it a privilege to serve God who loved us enough to give His only begotten Son to suffer and die for our sins.

Eph. 2:10; Matt. 22:37; John 14:15; I Cor. 6:19, 20

CHAPTER XII

THE RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT AND THE WORLD TO COME

1. **Who will be raised from the dead?** Every human being who has died will be raised from the dead, both righteous and wicked. Those who are living when Jesus returns will be changed.

John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15; I Thess. 4:16, 17; I Cor. 15:51, 52

2. **What kind of bodies will we have then?** Saved people will have Spiritual bodies. We do not know exactly what they will be like, but we are told that they will be fashioned like unto the glorious body of Christ. The Bible does not tell us what kind of bodies the wicked will have.

I Cor. 15:44; Phil. 3:21; I John 3:2

3. **Will people have a chance to repent and be saved after death?** No, when an individual puts off salvation until his natural body dies, there is no possible chance for him to be saved.

Luke 16:24-26; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 22:11

4. **How will we be judged?** We will be judged on principles of righteousness.¹ It is impossible for us to be righteous, in the sight of God, without the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. This is obtained by grace, through faith, in the redemption of our soul.² Jesus, acting as our substitute, took upon Himself the sin of all mankind and satisfied God's wrath toward us.³ When we receive salvation we are then partakers of the righteousness of Jesus Christ and we are justified before God.⁴ After a person has been made righteous through Jesus Christ, he is then responsible to Christ for his actions in this life. Our works determine our rewards in eternity, not our destination.⁵

Since righteousness is obtained by justification, through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ; a lost person has absolutely no righteousness and must be numbered with the unjust when Christ comes back to separate the righteous from the wicked.⁶

¹Acts 17:31; ²Rom. 3:10; ROM. 4:22-25; Rom. 4:6; Rom. 5:1,2; ³Rom. 5:9; I Thess. 1:10; I John 2:2; ⁴Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:17-19; Rom. 4:4, 5; Gal. 2:16; ⁵II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12, 13; I Cor. 3:10-15; ⁶I John 2:29; Rev. 22:11; Rom. 5:11; Matt. 25:46; Matt. 13:49; Mal.3:18

5. **What will happen to people after the judgment?** Those wicked ones who have not been saved and do not have their names written in the Lamb's book of life will be cast into the lake of fire, and this will mean death, hell and eternal punishment. Those who have the imputed righteousness of Christ will enter into heaven, where they will have everlasting peace and life.

John 5:28, 29; Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:46

6. **How long will people stay in heaven and hell?** In eternity – there is not end to the torment for the wicked, or of the joy for the redeemed.

Matt. 25:41; II Cor. 5:1; I Pet. 1:4

7. **If God is so good and loving, why would he send a person to hell?** He is a longsuffering God, but He is also just. He has given mankind ample opportunity to believe in His Son and be saved. Every person who goes to hell will have passed up the opportunity which God has offered him, and will be there of his own choice.

II Pet. 3:9; Rom. 2:2-11; John 3:16-18; Gal. 6:7, 8

8. **When will the resurrection and the judgment take place?** The Bible tells us that no man knows when the end will come. It does give a number of things which must come to pass before the end comes, but there is a possibility that we will not know when all of these things have happened.¹ We do know that for each individual, the end comes at death, and nothing can change his destination in eternity after that. In view of this, we should all consider the urgency of serving the Lord while we have the time and the opportunity.²

¹Matt. 25:13; Matt. 24:36-47; ²Ecc. 9:10

SEEING THEN THAT ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE DISSOLVED,
WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YE TO BE IN ALL HOLY
CONVERSATION AND GODLINESS, LOOKING FOR AND HASTING
UNTO THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD? II Peter 3:11, 12a.

“I was asked to read the manuscript of this book, “Cold Water to a Thirsty Soul.” I read it carefully, prayerfully and with a critical eye. I believe that this work will be a living monument to the Authors. I have found it to be sound in teaching, interesting to read and saturated with many Bible proofs to sustain its teaching. May the Lord bless it as it makes its way before the eye of the public.”

➤ F. L. Ray, Pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church
Goodlettsville, Tennessee

“I have read the manuscript of “Cold Water to a Thirsty Soul”, and found it an interesting work. I believe the Authors have done a good work in compiling this book. I would recommend it for study by Ministers, Churches, Deacons, Sunday School Teachers, all Baptists and anyone else who is interested in knowing the truth as taught in the Scriptures. May it go forth on its mission to the glory of God, the salvation of sinners and the edifying of the saved.”

➤ H. C. Vanderpool, Editor
Baptist Banner

“After reading the manuscript of this book, titled “Cold Water to a Thirsty Soul”, I find it to be sound in the teaching of the Word of God. I believe this book will be of help to those who want to know the true plan of salvation and to those who love the cause of God. I hope this work will be a great success. May God bless those that took the time to study and prepare this book.

➤ Eld. James “Pete” Porter
Gallatin, Tennessee