

BAPTIST DOCTRINE ANSWERED BY THE BIBLE

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOW THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION BEGAN

The first known appearance of a Baptist Church was in 1607 by John Smyth in London. (see David Benedict, History of Baptists, page 304)

In America, a group of Baptists started when Ezekiel Holliman baptized Roger Williams, and then Williams baptized Holliman and several others at Providence, Rhode Island. The Baptist Encyclopedia states this occurred in March of 1639.

There seems to be some 28 different bodies of Baptists in the United States alone. The name Baptist was not used until 1644, but has been worn by them ever since. (see W. H. Whelsitt, A Question in Baptist History, page 93)

In “Letting the Bible Answer Baptist Doctrine,” we will first write the known Baptist statements and then list the Bible answer. For example, most Baptists would like to state that John the Baptist established the Baptist Church, so it will follow like this:

Baptist Creed Statement (BCS): John the Baptist established the Baptist Church.

Bible Answer: Mat. 14:10 states “and he sent and beheaded John in the prison.” This scripture shows that John the Baptist died before there ever was a first church in the bible. In Acts 2:47 is the first mention of the church as being a matter of fact in bible records. Acts 2:47b—“And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved.” Also, some time after John was beheaded we hear Jesus saying, before he went to the cross for us, that he was going to build his church in Mat. 16:18. all denominational groups are less than 500 years old including the Baptist Denomination which is around 400 years old. The first true church that you read about in Act 2 is about 2000 years old.

BCS: Believers can be voted in and out of the Church by fellow members.

Bible Answer: Jesus said, “accept a man be born of the water [baptized] and of the spirit [a changed life] he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” Also, Acts 2:47 states that the Lord decides “such as should be saved.” The Bible states, “...Lord added to the church.” This is very exclusive meaning only the Lord can do it. There is only one bible faith as can be seen in Eph. 4:5. Paul says, “As many of as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Christ puts you into his church when you put him on in baptism. This happens simultaneously when we obey God in baptism. (see Rom. 6:2-7) The tares doctrine of voting baptized believers in or out of the church was not known in the days of the apostles. This doctrine comes from man and not God. (see Mat. 13:25 concerning tares that have been sown)

BCS: In order to partake of communion one must do so at the local congregation of which one is a member.

Bible Answer: Paul visited many congregations and partook of the Lord's Supper where ever he went. (see I Cor. 11:20-30) In verse 28 Paul tells us the importance if examining one's self when partaking. The bible does not single out one's home congregation as being the only place one can partake of the Lord's Supper. In Acts 20:6-7 Paul was traveling and it states that the disciples came together to break bread. Paul preached and took part, but this was not his local congregation.

BCS: The confession before baptism is “God has pardoned my sins for Christ’s sake.”

Bible Answer: Rom. 10:9—“Thou shalt confess with they mouth Jesus as Lord.” Verse 10 says, “With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Notice, verse 9 tells us what to confess (Jesus is Lord). No where in all the Bible are we asked to confess our sins when we first come to God. An exact Bible example of the correct confession is “I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God” as seen in Acts 8:37. More evidence of a correct confession is in I John 4:15—“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him and he in God.” The statement, “God has pardoned my sins for Christ’s sake,” is not found in the Bible. This statement was created by the Baptists.

BCS: Baptism is not essential to salvation but only for local church membership.

Bible Answer: When Jesus said, “go ye” in Mark 16:15-16, this language made baptism a command. Again, baptism is commanded by example in Act 10:48 where it is stated “and he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.” There are no denominations mentioned in the Bible, much less a mention of gaining entry into a specific congregation of one by baptism. This is a creation of man and not of God. The scriptural reason for baptism is to wash away sins. (see Acts 22:16) I Peter 3:21 states, “baptism doth also now save us.”

BCS: Repentance comes before faith in the plan of salvation.

NOTE: Baptists get the cart before the horse, so to speak. All faith is made up of what you hear God say to convince you in you heart that you are sinner. It would follow that hearing and developing conviction has to come first before anyone will want to have belief and faith enough in what was said by God to repent. So hearing has to come first, then believing or having faith in God second, the conviction of heart because of what God has said will bear the fruit of repentance. All a person has to do is notice the order that repentance came to the people on Pentecost.

Bible Answer: The apostle Peter first told the Jews on the day of Pentecost what they had done. Acts 2:36 “whom you have crucified” Acts 2:37 states they were “pricked in their heats.” This is the conviction of the evidence of the believing that they had developed. Now they have believing faith. Next, Peter tells them to repent and be baptized. Notice that this repentance came only after they heard, believed, and had conviction of heart. This is faith! So repentance cannot come before faith or belief in the

plan of salvation. Why? Because you don't know what to repent of until you hear. Baptists teach this because they are Calvinistic.

CALVINISM

Calvinism was created by John Calvin less than 500 years ago. Among other things, this doctrine teaches that as soon as you believe you are saved. Calvinistic doctrine is based on 5 points. Each point will be presented, discussed and answered as follows.

POINT 1: Predestination. The saved were selected before creation, so if you are lost there is nothing you can do about it.

Bible Answer: John 3:16 uses the wording "SHOULD not perish." It does not say WOULD not perish. In Rev. 22:17, the bible states "whosoever will." This implies a power of choice that has been given to humans in regard to their salvation. Also, I Tim. 2:4 states, in regard to God's wishes, "Who will have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth." All means all. II Peter 3:9B states the following: "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Rev. 22:17 again indicates free will as it says we can drink or not drink of eternal life. "And whosoever will let him take the water of life freely." In Acts 17:30 we see that God commanded "all men everywhere to repent" so they can be saved. It is unreasonable for God to command all to repent if he has already predestined some of them to be lost. We all predestine ourselves by the right and wrong choices we each make. God has stated clearly what he is going to do and he leaves it up to us to choose between right or wrong...good or bad. Being timeless in nature and all-knowing, God simply knows what choices we are going to make before we even make them, but that doesn't mean they cease to be choices for us.

POINT 2: Limited Atonement. Christ died only for the elect.

Bible Answer: In Mark 16:15-16, the choice is made by each person to "believe and be baptized," so God can save them. There would be no power of choice if he only offered salvation to the elect. We hear Jesus say "go ye into all the world." This statement offers salvation to every human being who will obey. If one believes in limited atonement, there has to be a belief in predestination already in place. The Baptist idea of salvation always has the water glass of salvation half empty rather than half full. With this way of thinking, the water glass of salvation can never be completely full no matter how many people obey God. God and Jesus have been working, hoping, and praying that the entire world will obey completely. Jesus' blood would be worthless for those who God said were predestined to be lost. This notion is ridiculous. The latter part of Rom. 5:18 states that "the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." In I John 2:2, the bible states, "And he is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world." The water glass of propitiation seems to be full and running over with the blood of Jesus in this last verse. In II Cor. 5:15, the bible states "...that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves." Once again, the water glass seems be filled in this

passage with the phrase “died for all.” All of these 5 points of Calvinism are connected together and depend on the first point of Predestination.

POINT 3: Total Depravity. Man was born guilty of original sin and little children inherit the sin of Adam and Eve.

NOTE: It is necessary for Baptist to take on this belief for the ones eternally lost because of their absolute Predestination and to explain the fate of those who die as children. The bible teaches differently.

Bible Answer: Ezek. 18:4 and 18:20. Vs. 4: “Behold all souls are mine.” Vs. 20: “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

POINT 4: Irresistible Grace. Man can do nothing toward his salvation.

NOTE: Again, it is necessary to teach Irresistible Grace in Calvinistic doctrine to account for those who are predestined to be saved so that no matter how much they sin, they can never be lost.

Bible Answer: If no one can do anything to bring about salvation through obedience, then why did Jesus waste his time by saying in, Mark 16:16, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved?” Why was Paul told to be baptized and wash away his sins? If Paul could do no work at all to lay hold on salvation, why was he trying to apprehend it in Phil. 3:12? Also, why did Paul tell the Philippians in Phil. 2:12B to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling?” If grace were irresistible, the above would have been a waste of time. In Acts 7:51, we see people resisting the Holy Spirit or doing something to be lost, not saved.

POINT 5: The Impossibility of Apostasy. Christians cannot so sin as to be lost eternally.

NOTE: This is but one small step farther away from the truth as each point before it. With each point of Calvinism, one is led further and further from the true teaching of repentance and obedience to God as is stated in the Bible. (see Rom. 2:4; II Cor. 7:9-10; and Heb. 5:8-9)

Bible Answer: If it is impossible for a Christian to so sin as to be lost eternally, why did Paul say the following in I Cor. 9:27: “But I keep under (buffet) my body; and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway (rejected).” Concerning people who were once saved but now lost, the Apostle Peter stated, in II Peter 2:20-21, “For if after they have escaped the pollution of the world through idle knowledge of the Lord Jesus they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for

them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after they have known it, to turn from

the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." (see Prov. 26:11) Heb. 3:14 shows it's not impossible to fall away. "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end." Hebrews 6:4-6 states: "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

CONCLUSION

It seems that the work horse of bible truth has kicked the Calvinistic cart upside down. Why? Because he refuses to pull Predestination, Limited Atonement, Total Depravity, Irresistible Grace, and the Impossibility of Apostasy. The cart of Calvinistic doctrine is too heavy with the false doctrine of John Calvin. Also the horse is dying of thirst from the half full water glass of predestined lost people who want to be saved by drinking of the free fount of salvation. (see Rev. 22:17)

Dear Baptist friends, I have no animosity or bad feeling for anyone who is Baptist. In fact, some of my best friends through the years have been Baptist. They are splendid, happy go lucky people with a positive outlook on life and a wonderful character. It's because of the love that I have for them that I want them saved and the reason I have written this booklet to combat misunderstandings of the Bible. Calvinism is false doctrine...there is no other way to say it. Baptists need to reject Calvinism and come all the way back to the bible truth. In love for their souls, I have submitted these scriptures and thoughts for their personal reflection.

In Love,
Jerry A. North