

A collage of black and white portraits of various people, including men and women of different ages and ethnicities, arranged in a circular pattern. The portraits are set against a light background with a large, dark, irregular shape behind them.

OF THE BAPTIST MISSION OF ZAMBIA
P.O.BOX 1995 LUSAKA

FILE

Who
are
the
Baptists?



Baptist Publishing House

OF THE BAPTIST MISSION OF ZAMBIA
P.O. BOX 1995, LUSAKA

R.L.Stocks

Who are the Baptists?



R.L.Stocks



LOTT CARY

Minister of the Gospel, Statesman, Administrator, Missionary

- A. Do we go to those places where a Christian should not go?
- B. Do we act in a way that Christians should not act?
- C. Do we lose our temper or fight?
- D. Do we lie, cheat, or steal?

There is somebody watching all of us who are Christians. They want to see if we are sincere and honest in our Christian faith. People can know what we think about God by the life that we show them. We must show them that Christ lives in our hearts.

Conclusion:

Zambia today needs dedicated Christian lives. If those who hold the truth will be loyal to that truth in life and influence, this country will be moved mightily toward God.

Will you, who have studied this book and who believe our doctrines, give yourself to Christ in true Christian living? Make your influence for Christ strong. Be loyal to what you believe.

Questions:

1. How can a Christian live a clean life?
2. What can we do when we are tempted to sin?
3. How can I know if I am being loyal to my beliefs?

Christ as Saviour. If we believe in him, we shall prove this difference by our lives, made new and clean in him.

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Keep yourself pure." (1 Timothy 5:22). Paul knew how difficult it was to live for Christ. Paul knew that his friend Timothy lived in a bad city. Paul knew that Christ would give Timothy the strength to live a pure life. Paul said we can do all things through Christ.

It is difficult to be a Christian in Zambia today. There are many temptations. We must always be thinking of Jesus when these temptations come to us. It is good to pray when Satan tempts us. It is good to say scripture from the Bible. It will help us to resist temptation if we say, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20).

III. RIGHT INFLUENCE IS THE FINAL PROOF OF LOYALTY TO OUR BELIEFS.

A Christian who believes right, and lives right will influence others in the right way. We must be very careful how we live before others. Our friends are always watching our conduct. Someone put a sign up in the church. On the sign was written, "You are the best Christian somebody knows." Jesus speaks of our influence in the Bible. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 4:14-16). Not every man can preach, but all can live the gospel, if they will.

Is there anything in our lives that hurts our influence for Christ? Let us answer these questions:

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A man wants to sell you a house. He shows you that house. He gives you a key to every room but one. He tells you that he must keep the key to that one room. He has a lion in that room. He will come to that room each day and feed that lion. He will sell you all that house except for one room which has a lion in it. Would you buy such a house?

Many people try to play this trick on God. They tell God that all of their body belongs to him except the heart. They must keep the heart for themselves. They keep sin in the heart. Can a person with sin in his heart be obedient to God? No, one must surrender completely to Christ.

God knows that we are loyal if we are obedient to Him.

II. CLEAN LIVING SHOWS THAT WE ARE LOYAL TO OUR BELIEFS.

The priests in the Old Testament days had to purify themselves with ceremonial cleanings. The priests were then allowed to go into the temple. There were certain laws which said people had to wash before they could worship. To be loyal, useful Christians today, we must be clean. We do not have to keep this Old Testament law. However, we are to keep our hearts and lives clean. The Psalmist asks, "Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place. He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from the God of his salvation." (Psalm 24:3-5).

God has put us in the world. God has given us a work to do. Jesus said his disciples were in the world. Jesus said they were not to live like other people in the world. Jesus said they should be the light of the world. To do that we must be different from men and women whose lives show that they do not know

Chapter 13

LOYALTY TO OUR BELIEFS

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20.

MEMORY VERSE: "I appeal to you therefore, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Romans 12:1.

Introduction:

Jesus was visiting with his disciples for the last time. Soon Judas would betray him. Soon Jesus would die on the cross. Jesus was teaching the disciples. Jesus said to them, "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." (John 13:17). This is true about all the truths that we learn in the Bible.

How can we as Baptists prove our loyalty to our beliefs? How can we show that we do love Jesus? Let us study in this last chapter some ways we can do these things.

I. WE CAN PROVE OUR LOYALTY TO OUR BELIEFS BY OUR OBEDIENCE.

John, the disciple, loved Jesus very much. John said about those who follow Jesus, "And by this we may be sure that we know him, if we keep his commandments." (1 John 2:3). This verse means that we must always be watching Jesus' commands so that we can obey them. We will show our love to Jesus by obeying his commands.

We cannot obey Jesus until we surrender to Him. Paul said this about the early Christians, "First they gave themselves to the Lord." (2 Corinthians 8:5). That is the best gift to Jesus. Christ wants first place in our lives. He wants each of us to give ourselves fully to Him.

Introduction:

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE BAPTISTS

Sometimes we discover that there are some things whose beginnings are not clear. As an example, how old are the rocks? Of course, we do not know. In these lessons, we will be talking about the Baptists. How old are the Baptists? Other religious groups can show their beginnings. The Methodists began with two men named John and Charles Wesley. The Lutherans owe their beginning to a man named Martin Luther. He lived in Germany. The Presbyterian group was founded by a man named John Calvin. He live in Switzerland. These groups know how old they are. However, the Baptists have no modern-day founder. Baptists say, "We have no founder but Jesus Christ. We were born the day he was baptized in the Jordan River."

Baptists believe that since the time of Christ there have been many Christians who upheld many of the truths Baptists stand for today. Early in church history there were Christians who did not believe in baptizing babies. These Christians said that only those who repented of their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour should be baptized. These Christians baptized by immersion those who had already been sprinkled with water when they were babies. They were called "Anabaptists." This name meant "to baptize again". Enemies of these Christians called them Baptists. Through these people, New Testament truths had the best opportunity to influence the world.

In England, many years ago, there was a man named John Smith. He went to Holland. He began a Baptist church. Two years later, some of these church members, led by a man named Thomas Helwys, returned to England. They began Baptist churches in England. This influence spread to America. A man named Roger Williams organized a Baptist Church in America in 1639. The Baptist movement grew. In 1792,

William Carey of England began the great missionary movement. He carried the gospel and Baptist beliefs to the Far East. Now nearly all the nations of the world have Baptist teachings. In some places, as in Russia, the Baptist movement was started by people who became Baptists through their study of the New Testament. Today there are about 30 million Baptists in the world.

The first Baptist church with a missionary beginning is in Liberia. It is the Old Providence Road Baptist Church of Monrovia, Liberia. This church actually began with a man named Lott Carey. Lott Carey was born in 1780 in America. He was a slave. He became a Christian and was a member of a Baptist church. When he was grown, he bought his freedom. A deacon in the church taught Lott Carey to preach. He served God faithfully. Later, Lott Carey and five other men were appointed as missionaries to Liberia. These men began the Old Providence Church of Liberia. Lott Carey was the leader of the group. At the time of his death, he was the Acting Governor of Liberia.

In Africa, there are more than 450 thousand Baptists. Baptists in Malawi, Rhodesia, ^{Zimbabwe} and Zambia number approximately 10 thousand. The number of Baptists is growing each day. Baptists first began work in Zambia in 1905.

to make disciples by preaching, teaching, baptizing, and witnessing. Radio and Television, Bible Way Correspondence, the Seminary, and the Publishing House help our churches in working for God. Our prayer today is for God to give Jesus Christ victory in Zambia.

Questions:

1. What kind of disciple are you?
2. What is your church doing in helping God's plan for Zambia?
3. What happens if we fail to tell others about Jesus? (See Ezekiel 22:7-8).

III. GOD'S PLAN IS THAT WE TEACH THE COMMANDS OF JESUS.

The teachings of Jesus are found in the Bible. A new disciple of Jesus will want a Bible. He will want to memorize the teachings of Jesus. He will want to understand the teachings of Jesus. How can this part of God's plan be carried out in Zambia?

The following are some ways:

- A. The Bible Way Correspondence helps to carry out God's plan in Zambia. It helps to explain the scriptures. It helps a disciple to understand the teachings of Jesus.
- B. The Baptist Seminary in Lusaka trains our pastors and churches in the teachings of Jesus.
- C. The Baptist Publishing House prints materials that present the teaching of Jesus. These are printed and sent to the churches to be used in teaching.
- D. Our churches teach the commands of Jesus. His teachings are given in worship services and in Sunday School.

IV. GOD SENDS HIS PRESENCE WITH US WHEN WE CARRY OUT HIS PLAN.

The spirit of Christ goes with those Christians who work for God. Jesus said, "I am with you always." Let us carry out God's plan today to make disciples, to baptize disciples, and to teach the disciples the commands of Jesus.

Conclusion:

God promised us that we can win Zambia for Christ. The plan for winning the nations is found in Matthew 28:19-20. Christians are

Chapter 1

PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:24-25.

MEMORY VERSE: "That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."
1 Corinthians 2:5.

Introduction:

When you go to the market to buy kapenta, how do you know the price? What lets you know the cost of the oil in which you cook the kapenta? How much will the charcoal cost you? The price of these things must be set by weights and measures. The kapenta must be weighed. The oil and the charcoal must be measured. The weights and measures tell you how much you will pay. If you are buying cloth for a new dress, the cloth has to be measured.

In our religion we also need measures. The measure for Baptist people is the Bible. Baptists do not worship the Bible. They worship the God that the Bible teaches them about. Baptists love the Bible. They believe it is the divine record of how God deals with people. Baptists use the Bible as the guide for the living of their Christian lives.

I. THE INSPIRED WITNESS.

Jesus tells us in John 5:39 that the Bible bears witness to him. The Bible tells us who Jesus is. God has shown himself to us through the Bible. Men in the Old Testament said: "Thus saith the Lord". They spoke the word of God to the people. The Bible is the word of God. The Bible is a sign pointing to Christ.

The Bible is made up of sixty-six books. Baptists believe these books are inspired. (2 Timothy 3:16). The word "inspired" means "God-breathed". There are many books which are

true and good. The Bible is the only book that is "God-breathed". These books of the Bible show us God. They are a record of how God showed himself to man.

Baptists are loyal to the Bible. All doctrines taught in the Bible are to be believed and practiced. The Bible is our supreme authority in all matters of faith and doctrine. For their loyalty to the Scriptures, Baptists have been misunderstood, criticized and beaten. Baptists must always be faithful to the Scriptures.

II. THE RIGHT AND POWER OF THE BIBLE.

A man named Martin Luther and many others quit the Catholic Church. They quit because of the problem of the right and power of the Bible. The Catholic Church teaches that all right and power is in the Pope. Martin Luther believed that right and power could be only in Christ. The Bible gives the truth of Jesus. Even the Pope must be under the right and power of Christ.

Baptists have always believed that every person can find the meaning of the Bible for himself.

III. UNITY OF BELIEF AND PRACTICE.

There is much talk about all churches coming together and forming one great church. This may be a good thing in some ways. For Baptists, there is only one way to that goal. That way is the way of complete obedience to the Bible. If it were possible to bring all churches together, this unity would not last unless there were real unity of belief and practice.

It is important for us to remember:

1. The Bible makes Baptists. Wherever the Bible has gone, Baptists have sprung up as a natural growth. It

Pastors and church members can share with others what they know about being disciples. Jesus said to His disciples: "You shall be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8). Jesus returned to the Father. He has given us his work. God's work in Zambia is for Christians to make disciples.

We can carry out God's plan by using radio and television. Our pastors can preach. Our choirs can sing about God's call to be a disciple. Our churches can make disciples by having revivals and crusades. These special meetings bring all of us together and give us power in making disciples. One small piece of wood from a fire does not burn very long. When many pieces of wood are placed together they will burn for a longer time. The fire will be strong. Christians become very strong when they work with other Christians in revivals and crusades.

If Baptists ask God for Zambia, they must go and make disciples. This is God's plan. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." (John 20:21).

II. GOD'S PLAN IS THAT WE BAPTIZE THE DISCIPLES.

The disciple is to be sorry for his sins. He is to believe that Jesus Christ can save him from his sins. The disciple is to follow the example of Jesus by being baptized. Baptism helps the disciple to know that his sinful life is finished. He is standing up for Jesus Christ before his friends. The disciple has a new life in Jesus Christ.

Our pastors and missionaries in Zambia baptize disciples in baptismal pools, rivers, and lakes. Each baptismal service is a picture that we are following God's plan. If we ask God for Zambia, then we must baptize the disciples.

ZAMBIA FOR CHRIST

SCRIPTURE: Psalms 2.

MEMORY VERSE: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20.

Introduction:

Can Christians win Africa to Jesus Christ? Can Christians win Zambia to Jesus Christ? The Bible teaches us that this is possible. God made such a promise to Jesus Christ. "Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession." (Psalm 2:8). God's promise to Jesus Christ is to give to Him the nations. We are the followers of Jesus. Is this not also God's promise to those who act in His name? God is saying to those who follow Jesus, "Ask of me and I will give thee nations." Christians should pray to God and ask that Zambia become a nation that belongs to Jesus Christ.

God says we must first ask for Zambia to be Christian. Then God helps us to do more than just ask. God gives a plan for winning the nations. (See Matthew 28:19-20). Let us think today about God's plan.

I. GOD'S PLAN IS THAT WE MAKE DISCIPLES.

A disciple who follows Jesus is a "Learner." He learns each day how to be like Jesus. A disciple is not the teacher. Jesus is the teacher. Our job is to bring people to Jesus. People become disciples when they follow Jesus.

does not take missionaries to make Baptists. Some years ago it was discovered that there were thousands of Baptists in Russia. No missionaries had gone there.

2. Baptist should know the Bible. Baptists accept the Bible as their authority. Therefore, they must know what the Bible teaches. Baptists must not be satisfied to listen to what men make the scriptures appear to teach. Baptists must study for themselves the Bible and its background.
3. Baptists should preach and teach the Bible. The message of the Bible is the hope of the world. A great promise has been given concerning it: "So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11.

Conclusion:

The Bible is the inspired record of God showing himself to man. The Bible is the inspired record of God showing his way and will for men. The Bible is the word of God. The Bible speaks with right and power about all things. The Bible message of salvation through Christ is the hope of man. The Bible gives us strength in the time of need. It is not from church councils or man-made creeds that Baptists get their beliefs. The basic beliefs of Baptists are based on the teaching of God's word.

In next week's lesson, we will study the first of these basic truths.

Questions:

1. What do Baptists believe about the Bible?
2. What is the Bible?
3. How should Christians use the Bible?

Conclusion:

The atonement of Jesus is for each man who will accept it. The atonement is part of God's great plan for the world. We accept the atonement of Christ when we trust in his power to save us. Then the atonement makes us able to love God. This same atonement makes us able to love people. Jesus' atonement is for all men.

Questions:

1. What does atonement mean?
2. Why did Jesus die?
3. What does Jesus' death mean to us?

This was God's work against sin. Man sinned. Man needed to pay for his sin. Jesus died on the cross. Jesus paid for man's sin.

In the Old Testament, people offered animals for their sins. These offerings of animals had to be made again and again. Jesus offered himself once for our sins. He does not have to offer himself again. "And he said to them, This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." (Mark 14:24).

II. CHRIST WINS THE VICTORY.

One way to think of the atonement is to think of it as a battle. Jesus fought a death fight with the powers of evil. He won over the evil powers. He set man free from these powers. (Galatians 4:3-5). God brought man back to himself through Jesus.

Many people in Zambia today are held by the powers of the devil. They cannot control the power of evil. Only Jesus Christ can win over these evil powers. Jesus died on the cross and won the victory. Jesus can deliver men from evil powers if they trust in him.

III. CHRIST IS OUR HOPE.

Christ is our offering for sin. He died for our sins. He died to open the way to God. When man lets Jesus into his heart, he dies with Jesus. He takes the death of Jesus as his payment for sin.

A man who lets Jesus live in his heart is no longer ruled by sin. Christ gives him hope. Man is very dear to God. God paid a great price for him. Man is free because of the price Jesus paid. Man loves God because of Jesus. Man can love other people because of Jesus. Our hope is in Jesus, in His atonement, and in His victory.

Chapter 2

SOUL FREEDOM

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 2.

MEMORY VERSE: "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

1 Timothy 2:5.

Introduction:

In our first chapter we learned that Baptists are people of the Bible. The Bible is the guide book for Baptists in living a life for God. Today we will see that the Bible has given beliefs that are important to every true Baptist. The Bible teaches soul freedom.

I. THE BIBLE AND THE INDIVIDUAL.

Here are some of the truths which we find in the Bible concerning the individual:

- A. The individual is important. In the beginning God made man ruler over all creation. When God spoke the ten commandments, he spoke to the individual. "YOU shall have no other gods before me." "YOU shall not kill," "YOU shall not steal," and so on in the commandments. There were many thousands of people in Israel. Yet God spoke to the individual. God laid the responsibility on each one.
- B. There is individual salvation. The Bible teaches that salvation is for the individual. Christ died for all men, yet Christ never forgot the individual. "He who believes in the Son has eternal life." (John 3:36). "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). Jesus said about the

individual, "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over ONE sinner that repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." (Luke 15:7).

- C. There is individual responsibility. Individual responsibility is found throughout the Bible. (Ezekiel 18:20: Romans 14:12). The Bible opens and closes with the individual standing before God.

II. BAPTISTS AND THE INDIVIDUAL.

Following the Bible, Baptists have always believed the individual is important. The Bible teaches soul freedom. Soul freedom means the right of the individual to deal directly with God. The Bible tells us that God has given men the privilege, the ability, and the responsibility of choice. Man can obey or disobey God. He is free to choose, but each man is responsible for the choice he makes.

Two important truths for Baptists come from this belief in soul freedom.

- A. Soul freedom gives every person the right to read God's word. He can interpret its meaning for himself. This does not mean that a man would not seek help in understanding the Bible. A Bible teacher can help in this way. Each person should study the scriptures and know what he believes. Some churches say that only the church can teach the Bible. Baptists believe each person should bring his Bible to church. Through the help of the church and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, each person interprets the scripture for himself.
- B. There is the priesthood of all believers. A person needs no earthly priest to approach God for him. Jesus Christ

Chapter 11

THE ATONEMENT

SCRIPTURE: John 3:16-21.

MEMORY VERSE: "But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8.

Introduction:

Why did Jesus die? Many people have tried to give reasons for Jesus' death. Baptists believe that the Bible teaches about the death of Jesus. Baptists believe Jesus died so that men could find a new life with God. He died so that the sins of men could be forgiven.

The word "atonement" means "at-one-ment". It means what God did for man. God made a way for man to be at one with God. God created man to be his friend. (Genesis 2:7). Sin separated God and man. (Isaiah 59:2). Jesus Christ brought God and man together by dying on the cross for the sins of man. Sin was like a wall between God and man. Jesus took down the wall. Jesus opened the way for man to come to God.

I. CHRIST IS OUR OFFERING FOR SIN.

Some people think Jesus' death was just the death of a good man showing God's love. Jesus' death did show God's love. Jesus' death means more than a good example. His death is more than the death of a good man.

Sin is a bad thing. Sin is very serious. One man said, "God will forgive me for sinning. That is God's business." That is not clever thinking. A man who thinks this way does not understand sin.

We can understand how bad sin is if we look at the life of Jesus. Jesus shows us God's love. Jesus, God's Son, died on the cross.

to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19).

The Baptist World Alliance is a way to preach the gospel to all nations, to minister to the poor in countries like Pakistan, to heal the broken-hearted in places like Biafra, to work for deliverance of the captives in places like Cuba; to help restore sight to the blind in places like India; to set at liberty those who are bruised in places like Vietnam, to talk with government officials in places like Spain where religious liberty is on trial.

Literature about the Baptist World Alliance can be requested from:

Baptist World Alliance
1628 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington D.C., 20009
U. S. A.

Questions:

1. What is the Baptist World Alliance?
2. When does the New Baptist World Congress meet?
3. What is the work of the Baptist World Alliance?

is the only High Priest (1 Timothy 2:5). Baptists believe in the priesthood of all believers. "To him who loves us and has freed us from all our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father." (Revelation 1:5-6). This means that every believer in Christ is a priest. Every believer only needs to go through Jesus Christ to God.

III. FREEDOM TO WORSHIP.

Soul freedom involves the right of every person to worship as he pleases. Also he can choose not to worship. No man or institution has the right to step in between a soul and God to tell him how he must worship. If he chooses not to worship, no one has the right to force him to worship.

God respects the individual's right of choice. We see this in our services when the pastor gives the invitation to follow Jesus. The person is invited to repent of his sins. He is invited to believe in Jesus. He is invited to obey Christ's commands. However, it must be decided by the person if he will answer that invitation. God does not force a man. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20). The Lord does not force the door open. That person must open the door of his heart. Then Jesus will come in.

Conclusion:

The Bible teaches that God loves each of us. The Bible teaches that God created man in his image. The Bible teaches that God has given man the ability and the freedom to choose. Man is responsible to God for his choices in life. God has blessed man with the right to read the Bible. He has given man the right to interpret the scriptures. Man can

can pray directly to God. God does not force his love on any man. Each man must choose to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Questions:

1. What is soul freedom?
2. What does Priesthood of Believers mean?
3. Should you force someone to believe in God?

III. THE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE TODAY.

Being a member of the Baptist World Alliance means working with Baptists of the world for the purpose of witnessing for Christ to the world. Churches within a country come together in a national organization. These various national organizations and the churches within them, are allies together in the Baptist World Alliance. It must be understood that the Baptist World Alliance has no control over the local Baptist Church. It does not have the right to interfere with the local church.

We have already written that the Alliance of World Baptists was founded in 1905. Now, over 65 years later, its membership has 85 national Baptist Unions in 67 countries. The total membership is about 26 million baptized believers.

Conclusion:

There are five major functions of the Baptist World Alliance:

1. To aid in communication between Baptists through radio, television, news, books, letter, and personal visits.
2. To lead seminars in discussion of Baptist beliefs, Christian living, and way of telling others about God.
3. To help refugees and others who are in need.
4. To help promote freedom of worship.
5. To hold world conferences for Baptist youth.

Jesus read from the Scriptures in a worship service in Nazareth: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me

nations came to this meeting. The meeting was held in Exeter Hall, London, July 11-18, 1905. It was called a Baptist World Alliance Congress.

The Baptists who were attending this meeting voted to begin a Baptist World Alliance. A constitution was drawn up which gave the following objectives:

To show how Baptists in the world are one in Jesus Christ.

To encourage others as brothers in Christ.

To unite Baptists in fellowship, service and co-operation.

II. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE.

It was decided that a meeting of Baptists from all parts of the world would meet every five years. Who would be the leaders in planning such meeting? An executive committee was chosen. These leaders were to be elected at each Congress meeting. The committee now has 140 members from 67 different countries.

Dr. William Tolbert of Monrovia, Liberia, has been president since 1965. He is also the vice-president of the Republic of Liberia. He is a pastor of a Baptist church near Monrovia. Dr. Tolbert will serve as president until the Baptist World Congress meeting in Tokyo, Japan in 1970.

Until 1940, headquarters of the Alliance were in the Baptist Church House in London. Because of the war, the offices were moved to Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

There have been 11 Congress meetings in the past 60 years. The Congress has been unable to meet every five years because of war. A very wonderful part of each of these meetings is when the people from the different countries tell the story of Baptist work in their lands.

Chapter 3

FOLLOWING JESUS IN BAPTISM

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:13-17.

MEMORY VERSE: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:9.

Introduction:

Baptists got their name because of what they believed about baptism. People gave Baptists this name to make fun of them. The people called Baptists were those who did not feel that baptizing babies was right. Therefore, when an older person realized that in order to be saved he must accept Jesus, he asked to be baptized again. The re-baptism was a testimony to everyone that this person was following the example given all men by Jesus. Some people laugh at those who believed in this way. So they began to call these who were baptized again the "Baptists". Today, we are proud that we are called Baptists. We are proud that we have followed the example given us by Jesus.

However, we must be careful of this name. We must not give people the thought that our most important belief is baptism. We must tell people that the most important thing is that they accept Jesus as their Saviour. The most important thing is that they believe on him.

Baptism is only part of letting Jesus come into our hearts. Let us see what the Bible teaches about baptism.

I. WHY ARE WE BAPTIZED?

Baptism tells about God's love and his plan for men. Baptism is a story told in pictures. The pictures tell us that Jesus died and was buried. When we are baptized, this going under the water says that we have accepted Jesus, and that our sins are dead and buried. When Jesus was raised from the water, he gave us the picture of a new life. He was to rise from the dead to give eternal life to those who believe. When we are raised from the water, the picture of new life as a Christian is shown. We have new life in Christ. Baptism shows to all people our new faith. Therefore baptism is only for those who have accepted Christ.

II. BY WHOM SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism is a picture of our salvation and our new life. We want to have fellowship with those who share our faith. So, we should be baptized by the church. Baptism does not save us, but baptism does make a person a part of those who believe in Jesus.

If we are truly saved, we want to serve our Saviour. The church is God's tool for service. We want to become a part of his work. When the church baptizes us, then we are truly a part of the fellowship of God's church.

III. WHAT FOLLOWS BAPTISM?

Baptism by going under the water pictures the future victory of the believer. It shows our death to sin. Jesus gained the victory over sin and death. Baptism pictures this victory. Because of Jesus' victory, the believer will share this victory.

Accepting Jesus and following him in baptism is only the beginning of our new life. We must learn to listen to his voice, to follow his commands, to talk to him daily, to read his word, and to witness to those who do not know him.

Chapter 10

THE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:4-26.

MEMORY VERSE: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all."
Ephesians 4:5,6.

Introduction:

Baptists live, work, and tell others about Jesus in 124 countries of the world. Today there are more than 30 million Baptists in the world. Far back in the bush of Assam, India, there are 160 Baptist churches with 20,367 members. In the mountains of New Guinea, more than 10,000 have been led to Christ by the Australian Baptists. In America, the largest growing church group is the Baptists. However, in Egypt, Spain, Ceylon, and other countries, there are only small groups of Baptist people. These countries are controlled by those who do not believe in God, or who have other religions or state churches.

The Baptist World Alliance serves all these Baptists throughout the world. The Baptist World Alliance unites Baptists around the world for fellowship, service and co-operation. How did the Baptist World Alliance begin? What is its programme? How is it organized?

I. FIRST BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE CONGRESS.

As early as 1678 a Baptist minister in England, Thomas Grantham, asked all Baptist to come together for a meeting. In the years that followed, others asked for a similar meeting of Baptists. British invited the Baptists of the world to meet in London. Baptists from 23

The Holy Spirit is a person. He causes men to be sorry for their sins. He helps them to know Jesus as Saviour.

The Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of Christians. He is a helper in prayer. He is a guide when men are trying to decide which way to go. He helps us understand the Bible. The Holy Spirit gives us power to live the Christian life.

He gives us power to tell others about Jesus. He is always with us. He is the Comforter.

Questions:

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. How can the Holy Spirit set men free?
3. How will the Holy Spirit help us grow as Christians?

Conclusion:

Baptists are those people who accept Jesus as their Saviour and who follow him in baptism and who agree with the beliefs of the Baptist church. Baptists are baptized believers?

Questions:

1. Why don't we baptize babies?
2. Why are we baptized?
3. Does baptism save a person?
4. What is there to do after we are baptized?

Chapter 4

SAVED FROM SIN

SCRIPTURE: Romans 10.

MEMORY VERSE: "For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:13.

Introduction:

If a man is hungry, can someone else eat food for him and that man be satisfied? If a baby is sick, can his older brother receive his medicine. A man cannot be satisfied if someone eats for him. A sick baby will not get well if an older brother takes the medicine. A man must eat so he will not be hungry. A sick baby must take the medicine to get well.

Some people believe this way about salvation. Some people believe they have salvation if their parents come to Jesus. The father and mother have been forgiven their sins, so many believe this gives salvation to the children.

Baptists believe the Bible teaches that each person must come to Jesus. Each person must be forgiven for his sins against God. Baptists believe that salvation must come from Jesus to each person. Baptist believe that God's plan is to save each person.

Let us study together in our lesson today the beliefs Baptists have about salvation.

I. JESUS SAVES US FROM SIN.

Jesus is the good news. The good news says that we are set free from our sins. God set us free through his son, Jesus. The good news begins with God. (1 John 4:9).

Jesus shows us what God is like. God showed himself to us in Jesus. We see a

Jesus promised that his spirit will be with us. He said the Holy Spirit will guide us. The Holy Spirit will teach us, make us clever, and help us to know the truth. John 14:26;16:13).

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit works in us. He continues the work of Jesus in us. The Holy Spirit helps us to be like Jesus. Then we have the free life. We can live the Christian life when we depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.

IV. THE SPIRIT GIVES POWER.

Man often thinks about what he can do for himself. He does not think what God can do for others through him. When a man thinks in this way, then he starts speaking of his own good ideas. He does not speak of doing the will of God. He speaks about what he can do. He does not speak of what God has done for him.

Man works with God. The power of the Holy Spirit makes this possible. Sometimes man becomes too proud. He forgets God and His will for him. He forgets Jesus is living in him. He tries to live the Christian life with his own power.

Many people believe in God. Yet some people do not really trust in God's power. They do not give all of their life to God. Their lives are not different from unbelievers. The Church is like a club to them. The worship service has no meaning. These people need to let the Holy Spirit come into their lives. They need to trust in God's power.

Conclusion:

The Lord God is one God. God shows himself in three persons. He is God the Father. He is God the Son. He is God the Holy Spirit. This is the Trinity. The Trinity is God showing himself in three persons.

The Old Testament tells how the spirit came with power to these men. God's spirit continues to come with special power.

In the New Testament, God's spirit is called "Holy Spirit". Luke, the doctor who wrote in the New Testament, tells about the Holy Spirit working through the Apostles. The power of the Holy Spirit leads us to Jesus. The power of the Holy Spirit leads us to let Jesus live in our hearts. We are born again through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the living God in action.

II. REVELATION OF GOD.

Man can know God because of Jesus. God showed himself to man in the life of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit shows God to the believer. The Holy Spirit makes God known in the heart of the believer. (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Man does not decide by himself to seek God. The Holy Spirit guides him to want to seek God. Man is not able to trust in God through his own power. God opens the eyes of the man. God opens his heart to the truth.

Man is not free by nature. He does not trust God. He serves sin. Sin keeps man from being free. Man may think he is free. He may think learning or money makes him free. Only God in Christ makes men free. (John 14:6). The Holy Spirit shows this truth to man.

III. HOLY SPIRIT PROMISED.

The Christian may think, I cannot live the life that God wants. The Christian worries because he fails to live like God wants him to live. Often a Christian feels like giving up. God wants every Christian to do His will. Is this possible? This is not possible in man's own power. Only the power of the Holy Spirit makes this possible. The Holy Spirit makes man able to do God's will.

picture of God when we look at the life of Jesus. If we believe God sent Jesus, we trust Jesus. We give ourselves to him.

Jesus died on the cross for man's sins. Jesus made possible man's freedom from sin. Man is not free because of something man has done. Man can work hard in the church. This does not save him from sin. Man cannot work for his salvation. God gave man his salvation. This salvation is a gift to man. Jesus died on the cross so man could have this gift from God. (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Some men do not accept God's free gift. They think they can provide the gift of salvation. A man was invited to tea by a friend. The friend was very poor. The man who was invited said, "My friend is poor. I will take some buns for the tea." The man came to the poor man's house for tea. He placed the buns on the table of the poor friend. The poor friend became very annoyed with the man. He threw the buns on the ground. He said to the man, "I invited you for tea. I did not invite you to bring the tea with you." God has given us the gift of salvation. We cannot buy this gift. We cannot earn it. It is a gift.

In order to receive this gift, man needs to do two things. First, man must repent. He must say that he is a sinner. He must be sorry for his sins. He must turn away from sin. If possible, he must make right those sins that he has committed. Jesus said, "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3). Secondly, man must have faith in Jesus Christ. He must accept Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour. God's gift of salvation is for those who repent toward God and have faith in Jesus Christ.

II. WE ARE BEING SAVED.

We are saved once and for always (John 3: 16-18). We are saved when we trust in Jesus. God keeps on saving us. Paul spoke of his fellow Christians as saints. "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours." (1 Corinthians 1:2).

The words "saint" and "sanctified" come from the same word "holy". It means separated or set apart. A saint is one who belongs to God. He is different. Someone who belongs to God must be like God. "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16). The man who belongs to God must pray, study the Bible, and live like Jesus. This will help him to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18).

God did not send Jesus just to save man. We are saved in order that we may serve God. (Matthew 16:25). One who thinks only about his own life is not really saved. A saved person has God's love in his heart. God's love in his heart causes him to love others. He wants to help others just as God does.

Paul's letter to the Romans is about being saved. In Romans, Chapters 9 through 11, we find God's purpose for the Jews. Every person who lets Jesus live in his heart is saved to be a part of God's plan. God's plan causes us to forget self. We have a great job to do. We have a part in the mission of the church. The mission of the church is to make God known in the world.

III. WE SHALL BE SAVED.

The Bible gives us hope. The Bible shows us the new life we can live. The life is lived when we let Jesus come into our hearts. The Bible tells about sin. God in his love

Chapter 9

POWER TO LIVE FOR GOD

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 2.

MEMORY VERSE: "Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."

Romans 8:9b.

Introduction:

God lives away from the world. God is creating, ruling and watching over the world. God came as Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to give man salvation. Jesus died for the sins of man. Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus went back to heaven. God still wanted his presence in the world. God wanted to build up the work that Jesus began on earth. God sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came and now lives among men.

What do Baptists believe about the Holy Spirit? What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

I. THE LIVING GOD.

Jesus taught that God seeks man. God is seeking man even before man tries to find God. God reaches out for man. Jesus told many stories which show this. (See Luke 15:4-32). This is the important part of the good news of Jesus.

Our God is a living Lord. He loves and seeks man. This is in the Old Testament. The Old Testament tells us of the dealings of God with man. The first chapter of Genesis in the Bible tells the story of God making the world. This story shows the Spirit of God at work in making the world.

God's spirit has power. The Old Testament tells about his spirit giving the people power to win battles. God chose men for special work.

2. What are some ways in which your church can work for Christ with other churches in the place you live?
3. Would it be good if Baptist churches joined with all other churches to make one big church?

forgives us. However, we are not without sin. We are forgiven sinners. We do not bring glory to God by our acts of sin. We glorify God by letting him live in our hearts. We let him become Lord of our lives.

Christians are tempted to sin. As Christians, we hate sin just as God hates it. When we are saved, we are not just being kept from being punished. When we are saved, we are delivered from sin. We want to do God's will. We look forward to the time when all Christians will be perfect.

The early followers of Jesus looked forward with joy to the second coming of Jesus. Would it bring joy to your life if Jesus came today?

God promises us that we are saved forever. This promise causes us to look toward the future God has for us.

Conclusion:

Being saved is not just getting something for ourselves. When we let Jesus into our hearts, our thoughts are different. Our feelings and actions toward others are different. Jesus living in our hearts leads us to love and to help other people. When we love God, we want to do His will.

Questions:

1. How is man saved?
2. What is there in your life to show you are saved?

Chapter 5

THE BODY OF CHRIST - THE CHURCH

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:13-18.

MEMORY VERSE: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

1 Peter 2:9.

Introduction:

There are important Baptist principles concerning the church. In speaking of the "church", we do not mean a building. Neither do we mean a certain religious group. When Baptists speak of the "church," they are referring to the local congregation. Baptists believe that the church is a divine institution. There are many good organizations in the world. The church is the only one created by God. The idea of the church came from the mind of God. God gave us the New Testament church to be our example.

Another important principle for Baptists is that the church belongs to God. Jesus called it "my church". (Matthew 16:18). Paul said, "the church of the Lord which he obtained with his own blood." (Acts 20:28). The church does not belong to men. Men carry on the work of the church for God. Let us look now at the nature and work of the church.

I. THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH.

- A. A church is made up of those who trust Jesus. They have let Jesus come into their hearts. They have followed Jesus in baptism. They have become the children of God. (1 John 3:1; John 1:12-13). Each child of God re-

to his village? He pulled and pulled at the elephant. It was too big. He could not carry it. The hunter went back to the village. He told his friends about killing the elephant. He asked his friends to help bring the elephant to the village. The people stopped working in the gardens. They went to help the hunter. The people began to pull the elephant. They began to sing. "Our elephant, our elephant, our elephant." This song annoyed the hunter very much. The hunter sang, "my elephant, my elephant, my elephant." The friends became very angry. They refused to help with the elephant. They went back to the village.

The hunter tried again to take the elephant to the village. He could not move it. He was very ashamed. The hunter went to the village. He asked the friends to forgive and help. The friends said to the hunter, "We shall help you if we all sing the same song." The hunter agreed. All the friends began to pull the elephant once again. They all sang, "Our elephant, our elephant, our elephant." They bought the elephant to the village. There was meat for all.

The work of winning a world lost in sin was big enough to bring Christ down from heaven. It is also big enough to cause Baptists to work with other Christians in telling of Jesus. This is "our big elephant".

Conclusion:

Jesus teaches us that all Christians who believe in him can work together. There are many churches in Zambia telling people about Jesus. Baptists should be friends with these churches. There are many ways that we can work together for God. When Christians serve God together it is a good witness to the world.

Questions:

1. How can Christians work together in winning Zambia for Christ?

were cooked together? All of these men would become unhappy. They would refuse the food. The beliefs of each church would become weak if they were all mixed together. Many Christians would be unhappy.

There are reasons why Baptists do not join certain church groups.

- A. We would have to give up many of our own beliefs. These come from God's word.
- B. We do not believe that just having large numbers will make a faithful church. People must be born again.
- C. We believe in the New Testament teaching on baptism. Many churches baptize babies.
- D. We believe that the Bible is our rule of faith and practice.
- E. We believe that Christian history shows that groups such as Baptists have been strongest in winning people for Jesus.
- F. God has richly blessed us. We must seek to do His will. We must follow the New Testament church. We refuse to follow this plan of man.

III. CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN WINNING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST.

Telling the world the good news of Jesus is a job too big for the Baptists. There are many who will die without ever hearing of a group such as the Baptists. We must work together with our fellow Christians who carry the good news also of a risen Saviour.

A hunter went into the bush to search for food. He found a large elephant. He killed the elephant. How was he to get the meat home

ceives the promises of God (Romans 8: 14-17). As children of God we are to be like Christ. To serve Christ in this way, the children must live close to the Father.

- B. Church members are not only children of God. They are also brothers in Christ. "In Christ" means to live in the forgiving love of God. Christian brothers in the church must love one another (1 John 4:10-11;20). Christ is the head of the church and He asks "that you love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12).
- C. A church is the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). Just as your body has many parts, so a congregation is a body with many parts. Your hands do one kind of work. Your feet do another work. Yet all parts of your body work together. The members of the church work in serving God in this same way. We must always remember that Christ is the head of this body (Ephesians 4:15-16).

II. THE WORK OF THE CHURCH.

- A. Worship is one of the works of the church. Through worship the church stays close to God. Worship is singing, praying, preaching, and giving to honour God.
- B. Another work of the church is to tell others about Jesus. Cut off the tongue of a church, and it will soon die. The last words Jesus spoke to his disciples were these: "You shall be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8).
- C. The church must train its members. The church must train the new Christians. If a Christian is to grow, he must learn. A disciple of Jesus is a

learner. Jesus set the example for the church. He spent most of his time teaching. Our churches must teach. Christ said, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." The Baptist church will base its teachings on the Bible.

- D. The church must help people. Jesus was never too tired to help the sick, the crippled, the sad, or the hungry people. Jesus taught that his disciples should minister to people (Matthew 20:26-28). The church must not forget the warning of Christ if we fail to help others. (Matthew 25:42-46). Helping others is one of the best ways to teach them about Christ.

III. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH.

Each Baptist church decides the things it will do. No person or group of persons rule a Baptist church. Every member has the right to vote.

Jesus is the head of the church. The Holy Spirit makes the will of Jesus known to us. Prayer and Bible study will also lead a church to know God's will.

A self-governing church does not mean the church is not to be led by Christ. Neither does it mean it does not work with other churches. Baptist churches should work together. However, every church is free to decide whether or not it will co-operate with other Baptist churches.

The organization of members does not make a church. The organization only helps to do the work of the church. The church is to help all persons as Jesus would help them. The church is part of the work of Jesus. All members share in this work.

us how we should feel about these Christian friends. "Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love undying." (Ephesians 6:24).

How can Baptists cooperate with Christian friends of a like faith? Here are some things we can do.

- A. We can be friends with those from different churches.
- B. We can pray for other Christians who are fighting against sin.
- C. We can help these friends when they are in need.
- D. We can visit them when they are sick or in the hospital.
- E. We can work with other Christians in helping the community to be a better place to live.
- F. We can worship together on special occasions (services).
- G. We can serve together in Christian organizations.

II. BAPTISTS AND THE MOVEMENT FOR ONE GREAT CHURCH.

There are some who believe that all church groups should come together. They do not believe it is good to have different church groups. They believe one great church group would have more power.

Baptists do not believe it is wise for all church groups to join together in one church. Many problems would come if all the churches became one. Each of these churches have different beliefs. This would cause trouble. Some men eat mealie meal. Some men eat rice. Some men eat potatoes. Would it please these

Chapter 8

BAPTISTS WORKING WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

SCRIPTURE: John 10:7-16.

MEMORY VERSE: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:35.

Introduction:

In Mark 9:38-40 we read these words: "John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is for us.'"

John and the other disciples were annoyed. They saw a man casting out demons. He did not belong to their group. The disciples stopped the man. The disciples told Jesus what had happened. Jesus taught the disciples an important truth. Jesus taught that those who do his work belong to him. Jesus even prayed for people like this man. Jesus prayed, "that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou has sent me." (John 17:21).

Let us study today about Baptists working with other Christians.

I. SERVING WITH CHRISTIANS OF A SIMILAR FAITH.

Baptists work with joy with Christians of a like faith. We know there are many fine Christians who are not Baptists. We know that Jesus is their Saviour. We know that these Christians want to serve God. The Bible tells

IV. CHURCH OFFICERS.

The New Testament names two church offices: the pastor and the deacons. The pastor is the spiritual leader of the church. He leads in worship. He preaches the word of God. He helps people in time of need. The qualifications for a pastor are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9.

Deacons are elected by the members of the church. They help the pastor in his work. They help in the spiritual care of the members of the church. The qualifications for deacons are found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Conclusion:

Churches are sometimes like people. Some are lazy: others are hard-working. Some look for Christ's leadership: others ignore Christ's leadership. Some think and pray and plan: others sit and argue and fail. God does not wait. The work of Christ is done by those churches who follow his will.

Questions:

1. What is a church?
2. What is the work of the church?
3. Who is the head of the church?

Chapter 6

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SCRIPTURE: Mark 12:13-17; 1 Timothy 2:1-3;
Romans 13:3-4; 1 Peter 2:13-15.

MEMORY VERSE: "Jesus said to them, Render
to Caesar the things that are
Caesar's, and to God the
things that are God's."
Mark 12:17.

Introduction:

As you travel in Zambia you sometimes see the memorial markers honouring the Freedom Fighters. Buried in these graves are those men who fought and died for Zambia's Independence. These men believed Zambia should be free and independent. Their belief cost them their lives.

Many Baptists have died in fighting for religious freedom. Baptists have always believed in religious freedom. The Gentiles, the Jews, the believer, and the unbeliever should have religious freedom. All men should be free to choose their own religion. Baptists do not believe in forcing all people to become Baptists. Baptists believe each man should be free to choose his religion so long as it does not interfere with the rights of others.

I. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS IMPORTANT TO BAPTISTS.

Religious freedom means the right to choose. It is the freedom to choose one's own religious beliefs, practices, and observances. Religious freedom demands the same religious rights for all people. A man cannot be forced to choose a religion. A man can choose religion or not choose religion. He is responsible to God. No one should force his religion upon his friend. God wants free worshippers and not the other kind.

Questions:

1. Who takes the Lord's Supper?
2. How do we show our Christian faith?
3. What do the cup and bread represent?

God. We can ask forgiveness for our failures. We can ask for a new strength for our Christian life. We can remember the joy we felt the day Jesus came into our hearts. We can have that same joy again, when we admit our weaknesses and pray for strength.

III. A TIME FOR THANKSGIVING.

The Lord's Supper gives us a special time for giving thanks to God. As Christians, and as Baptists, we have so much for which to be thankful. Of course, our greatest thanks is to our Heavenly Father for providing the way to Him through Jesus Christ. We give thanks for our church, and the joy we can have in serving in the church. We give thanks for the joy which fellowship with other Christians brings us.

IV. THE CUP AND THE BREAD.

Baptists do not believe that the bread and the wine are really Christ's body. They are symbols used to remind us of the presence of Christ. The cup and the bread represent the blood and the body of Jesus. As we take them, we share in his death. We share in his resurrection. We share in his glory.

If we are to share with Jesus in the taking of the bread and wine, we must be aware that we are one with him. If we are one with Jesus, then we are one with our fellow Christians. (Read 1 Corinthians 10:17).

Conclusion:

The Lord's Supper was begun by Jesus. He told his disciples "This do in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19). Baptists take the Lord's Supper because of this commandment. In taking the Lord's Supper we are reminded to look at ourselves; we are reminded to renew ourselves; we are reminded to join in thanksgiving for all God's marvelous blessings.

This belief about religious liberty did not come from man. It came from God. God made man in his own image. (Genesis 1:26). God gave man freedom of choice. Man is free to obey or to disobey God. God made one rule about man's freedom. Man is responsible to God for the choices he makes.

This means that any person who gives this same freedom of religion to others has the freedom to believe or not to believe or to change his beliefs. He is free to worship by himself and with others. He is free to accept or not to accept certain religious teachings. He is free to join in religious activities.

Public authorities should not interfere or use force in matters of religion. They should not favour one religious group over another. Religious freedom says that all religious groups should be protected.

II. THE CHURCH AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE SEPARATE.

Baptists believe in the complete separation of the government and the church. We believe it is the work of the government to enforce laws. We believe it is the work of the church to preach the word of God. We do not believe the church should try to run the government. Neither do we believe the government should run the church. They are two separate bodies.

We do not believe the church should take money from the government. If the government puts money in the church, it may want to tell the church what to do. Our orders must not come from men. Our orders come from God. Baptists believe that the church and the government should be separate.

III. THE CHRISTIAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE GOVERNMENT.

Christ commanded his followers to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's." (Mark

12:17). The Holy Spirit led Peter to write, "Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution." (1 Peter 2:13). Only when the laws of a government are against the laws of God is a Christian right in not obeying these laws.

There are many ways a Christian can help God's will to be done in the government.

- A. A Christian should vote. Pray that God will give you wisdom to vote for leaders that will follow him.
- B. A Christian should pray each day for the leaders of the nation.
- C. A Christian should obey the laws of the nation.
- D. A Christian should set an example by living each day for Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

Baptists believe in religious freedom. They ask this freedom of all men. Each person should have the right to believe. Each person can share this faith, or lack of faith, in his own way. He must give others this same freedom. The government and the church are separate. The government does not control the church. The Christian should be a good citizen.

Questions:

- 1. Why do Baptists believe in religious freedom.
- 2. How can a Christian help his government follow God's leadership?

Chapter 7

THE SUPPER OF OUR LORD

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26:26-30.

MEMORY VERSE: "Because there is one bread, we who are many are the body, for we all partake of the one bread."

1 Corinthians 10:17.

Introduction:

Baptists believe that there are times when we need to show our love and our faith in Jesus in a special way. This special way is through the Lord's Supper. Just as baptism is a part of Jesus' teaching, so is the Lord's Supper a part of his teaching. The Lord's Supper is a time for remembering the death of Jesus Christ. All believers want to remember that Jesus died for our sins.

I. A TIME FOR LOOKING AT OURSELVES.

We remember that Jesus died for us. His death provided the way to eternal life. This makes us look at ourselves. Have we lived a Christian life that is worthy of this great love God gave us? We want to look closely at our own lives. We want to see what we have done for God. When we love someone, we want to take care of him. We want him to be happy. We want to share with him. This is the picture of what our relationship to God should be.

When we take the Lord's Supper, we should look closely at ourselves to see if we have truly shown our Christian faith and love.

II. A TIME FOR BEGINNING AGAIN.

The Lord's Supper is a picture of our new life. Have we failed at times. Of course, we all have failed at times. When we observe the Lord's Supper, we can give ourselves again to