

W.M.U. PROGRAMMES

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JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

1975

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UNITS: A NEW YEAR
BAPTISTS BELIEFS

Written by:

Joan Carter and Helen Gilmore

(Note: At the end of each programme is "PRAY TODAY FOR:". Each country may add prayer items and suggestions following that title.)

W.M.U. PROGRAMMES

January, February, March
1975

THEME FOR FIRST UNIT: A New Year

- PROGRAMME 1: Resolves for the New Year
- PROGRAMME 2: Dedication of Self

THEME FOR SECOND UNIT: Baptist Beliefs

- PROGRAMME 3: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit
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PROGRAMME ONE

THEME FOR THE UNIT: A NEW YEAR

Theme for Today: RESOLVES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Scripture:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

A new year has begun. If you have made mistakes in the past year, perhaps you can do better this year. With every new year comes a new opportunity for service. When Paul became a Christian, he said he was forgetting the things of the past so that he might reach out to the things which are before (Philippians 3:13). Each year we need to forget the sins and mistakes of the past and seek to follow Christ more closely in the year ahead.

PART ONE:

It is helpful to many people to decide what things they will try to do in the new year. If we resolve in our hearts to do these things, God will help us to accomplish them. Daniel was taken as a prisoner into a foreign land. Because he was a strong and intelligent young man, he was chosen by the king to live at the palace with other young men and to receive special training. He was served the king's food. But he was a Jew, and the Jews had certain laws concerning the kinds of food to eat. Daniel resolved in his heart not to eat the king's food because it was

forbidden in the laws God gave to the Jews. The Bible says, "But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's rich food, or with the wine which he drank; therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself" (Daniel 1:8). Daniel first decided in his heart. Then God gave him strength to do what he had purposed. Daniel and his friends refused the king's food, but still they grew fairer and fatter than the other youths. If we will resolve to do God's will next year, He will guide us.

PART TWO:

What will you resolve in your heart to do this year? Here are some of the things you may want to do.

1. I resolve to attend church services every Sunday unless illness prevents me. I will also attend the meetings of the Woman's Missionary Union.
2. I resolve to pray every day. I will try to pray with my husband and children every day as well as praying by myself.
3. I resolve to read my Bible every day. I will try to read the lesson for Sunday School and the program for W.M.U. before going to the meeting.
4. If I am given a part in W.M.U., I resolve to study it at home and try to explain its meaning by using my own words at the meeting.
5. I resolve to tell someone how he may be saved.
6. I resolve to give a part of all the money I receive for the work of the church.
7. I resolve to try to follow Jesus more closely every day.

PART THREE:

Sometimes it is easier to remember the things we have resolved to do if they are written down. If you want to try to do some or all of the things listed above, you can write your name by each number that you choose. Promise that you will try to do that deed

and ask God to help you.

If you decide to pray and read your Bible every day, it will be good to decide on a time and place to do it every day. If you want to witness to someone, it will be good to choose the name of a particular person. If your husband is not a Christian, you will surely want to try to draw him to Christ. If you resolve to give a part of your money for God's work, decide how much you will give. You may want to resolve to do other things besides those in the above list.

PART FOUR:

When you become discouraged, you can look back at the resolutions which you have made. Jacob in the Old Testament made a vow to God. When he was running away from home, God appeared unto him. While Jacob slept with a rock for a pillow, he saw God's angels in the night ascending and descending a ladder from heaven. God spoke to Jacob calling him to serve him the only true God. In the morning Jacob promised to trust and serve God. He marked the place with a stone and called it Bethel. In later years when he was discouraged and had begun to serve other gods, he came back to Bethel to renew his vows to God.

If you resolve to follow Christ this year, try to remember your vow whenever you become discouraged.

PART FIVE:

The time to decide what to do is now. Many people want to follow Christ more closely, but they delay in deciding to do so. If you continue to delay, you may never decide to commit yourself fully to Jesus Christ. Joshua called on the Israelites saying, "And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you

will serve whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Today let each of us choose to serve our Lord throughout the year that lies ahead.

PRAYER:

Ask God to guide you through the new year. Pray that you may be a faithful servant of his.

PRAY TODAY FOR:

PROGRAMME TWO

Theme for the Unit: A NEW YEAR

Theme for Today: DEDICATION OF SELF

Scripture:

And he said to all, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it."

Luke 9:23-24

INTRODUCTION:

What do you have that God can use? Maybe you are saying, "I do not have anything. I am poor. How can I give God anything?" Everybody has something which he can give to God. The words of a hymn may help us to see some of the things we have which God can use. Let us sing this song, one verse at a time. After each verse we will read the part which follows.

HYMN: Sing the first two verses of "Take my life and Let it Be."

Verse 1. Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.

Verse 2. Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King,
Always, only for my King.

PART ONE: My Hands and Feet

A man in Dar es Salaam says that at the end of every day, he looks at his hands and tries to think what useful things they have done that day. He says he never wants to be lazy and tries to use his hands in some useful work each day. Our hands can be dedicated to God to do our work in a way that is pleasing to him and also to do his work.

Our feet take us wherever we want to go. Many times we are tired after doing our work and we do not want to go to God's house or to visit a lost person. God promises us extra strength if we will do his will. "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31). We can dedicate our feet to God and pray that his spirit will guide them in the right paths.

PART TWO: My Voice and Lips

Our words that we speak and sing are very valuable. They have the power to draw people to Jesus Christ or to drive them away. It is not always easy to control our words. Many times we speak in anger or we damage a person's reputation by repeating gossip. At other times we remain silent when we should speak for our master. Again we fail to sing praises to God for his gifts. Let us bring our voice and lips to Jesus Christ. Let him control them and guide us in using them for God's glory.

HYMN: Sing Verse 3:

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

PART THREE: My Wealth

All that we have comes from God. We say, "This is mine." But without God's help we would have nothing. If we love our Lord, we will want to use carefully all of our wealth, our possessions, and money. Everything we have is really God's. If you farm, you should do your best to take care of your land. Remember it is God's land. You are looking after it for him. If you own a house, you should tend it carefully. If you own only a few small objects, these should be cared for because they are a trust from God. If you guard your property in this way without wasting anything and work hard, you will find it easier to make a gift to God. Our love should prompt us to give to him. Let us dedicate all of our possessions to God for his use and for his glory.

PART FOUR: My Hours and Days

A great man once said, "If you love life, do not waste time, for that's what life is made of." Some people have more money than others, but every person has the same amount of time in every day, every month, and every year. Some people use their time better than others. Because of this they always have time to pray, to help others, or to work in their churches. Let us dedicate our time to Jesus Christ. Every minute and hour let us try to please him. This is one gift which we can bring to him.

HYMN: Sing Verse 4.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

PART FIVE: My Will and My Heart

All of our gifts to Jesus Christ are worthless if we fail to give him our hearts and wills. Jesus Christ came into the world as a baby, but he grew to be a man, the perfect man. Because he loved us, he died for our sakes. The wages of sin is death. We sinners deserve to die, but Jesus died in our places. But he did not remain in the grave. He won the victory over death. Because of this we recognize him as King. If you want him to be king in your life, give him your heart. He will cleanse it from sin. If you want him to rule completely in your life, give him your will. He will make your will to be like his.

HYMN: Have Thine Own Way

PRAYER:

Thank God for the gift of his son and salvation through his name. Pray that we may give ourselves completely to Jesus.

PRAY TODAY FOR:

PROGRAMME THREE

Theme for the Unit: BAPTIST BELIEFS

Theme for Today: GOD, JESUS, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Scripture:

Pray in the Holy Spirit; Keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude 20,21

INTRODUCTION:

What do you believe about God? What is He like? Is He really three Gods? Can a human being really understand these things? What do Baptists believe? These are some of the questions we hope to answer in our lesson today.

PART ONE: God, the Father

God always existed. Even before there was a world, God was there. It is hard for us to think of God without thinking of his work, but he was there (Genesis 1:1). He is not just a thing. He is a living being.

God created the world and all that is in it. He created the sun, the moon, and the stars. He created the waters and the dry land. He created the grasses and the trees and all things that grow on the earth. He created the living creatures on the earth, in the water, and in the air. Finally, He created man. Man was different from his other creations because man was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). He created man in his image because he has a spirit and God is a spirit (John 4:24). The ability to know what is right and what is wrong made man to be like God.

God is eternal. He lives forever. He will not die (I Timothy 1:7). After He created the earth, He did not leave it. He still rules it and controls it. He gives

order to the world. It is not a universe left to itself. God is still there.

God has all power. He has power over life and death. He has power over the universe.

God is a personal God. Even though He has all power, he still cares about each thing that is created. He knows the numbers of grains of sand and the number of the hairs of your head. (Matthew 10:30).

God knows everything. He knows our thoughts even if we do not speak them (I John 3:20).

PART TWO: Jesus Shows What God is Like

Sometimes it is hard for people to understand what God is like. God knew this and sent Jesus Christ to show mankind what God is like. Jesus had a body like man (Philippians 2:7). He was born in the same way as other men. He suffered pain and temptation like human beings. But still he was all God. He was with God in the creation (John 1:23). He had the power to change stones to bread or to escape harm to his body if He had chosen to do so (Luke 4:3,4). He died as other men die, but He won a victory over death. Because He was without sin, He arose from the tomb. We learn from Jesus that God is a God of love. He is perfect. He is a God of mercy, who will forgive. He cares about each of us.

God is one God, but He chose to send Jesus in another form to redeem us and to help us understand.

PART THREE: God Reveals Himself in the Holy Spirit

When Jesus arose from the dead, He promised a Counsellor to his followers. Jesus had finished his work on earth. He ascended to be with the Father and to reign with Him.

The Counsellor was the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is another form of God. He came to work in the world and is still here. Because He is a spirit, he can be in many places at the

same time.

His work is to convict sinners of their sin. He reveals the righteousness of God (John 16:8). He leads and guides Christians. He helps people to pray. He comforts those who have sorrow.

PART FOUR: Relationships of the Trinity

God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all equal. One does not rule over the other. They are one in three different forms.

As an example of this, we might say that a certain man named John is the son of Matthew. He is the husband of Mary. He is the father of James. He is one person; still, he is son, husband, and father. God is one, but in his different aspects He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

PART FIVE: The Work of the Trinity

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all working for the salvation of mankind. The first man broke the fellowship with God his Creator when he sinned. Every person since that time has also sinned and broken the fellowship with God. The Son, Jesus Christ, suffered for the sins of mankind. He paid the price of death for these sins. The Holy Spirit helps a person to see that he is a sinner so that he will turn from his sin and accept the free gift of salvation. God made this salvation available by sending Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

PRAY TODAY FOR:

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. Will God ever die? (Psalms 102:24-27)
2. Does God sleep sometimes? (Psalms 121:4)

3. Where was Jesus when God created the earth? (Colosians 1:16)
4. Who will help you to understand the Bible? (John 14:26)
5. Is God happy when a cruel person receives punishment? (2 Peter 3:9)
6. Who will comfort you if your child dies? (2 Corinthians 1:3,4)
7. Was Jesus ever tempted to do wrong? (Mark 1:13)
8. Can Christians be sure that God is with them? (Romans 8:16)

SOMETHING TO DO: Give this example of the Trinity.

Ask three people to come forward. Give each one a match.

Ask each person to strike his match. Then hold it near the others so that the flames from each match make one flame. Although there are three matches, there is one flame. There is one God with three different aspects.

PROGRAMME FOUR

THEME FOR UNIT: Baptist Beliefs

THEME FOR PROGRAMME: The Plan of Salvation

Scripture:

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Acts 16:31

INTRODUCTION:

Many religions are based on fear. They do not offer a way of salvation. Other religions offer a way of escape from the problems of life or a way to make peace with the gods. Christianity is different from these.

What do Baptists believe about the way of salvation? How is a person saved? What does it mean to be saved? These are things we will think about today.

PART ONE: The First Sin

When God created the earth, it was perfect. The people He created were perfect, too. God enjoyed fellowship with them. God gave man the right to rule the world, but He forbade him to eat the fruit of a certain tree. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God by eating the fruit. This was the first sin. When they disobeyed God, the fellowship was broken between them. Their sin came between them and God. Since the time of Adam, every human being has made the same choice. He has become a sinner and is separated from God.

What is sin? Sin is anything that comes between a person and God. It is failing to come up to the goal which God has set. It is breaking a law of God. It is failure to do things pleasing to God. Sin reveals itself in a wrong attitude to God. A person should love God, but when he sins, he does not love God. He does not want to be in God's presence. Sin shows itself in a wrong

attitude to other people. It leads a person to harm another person. Sin brings a wrong attitude to a person's own powers. He has been given these powers by God to do the world's work. The use of these powers for pleasure only is sin.

What does sin bring? God cannot look on sin. Everyone is tried for his sins. No one escapes because all have sinned (Romans 5:12). The final judgment for sin is death.

PART TWO: What God Did to Save Man from Sin

The meaning of salvation is to be saved from the power of sin and the results of sin. A person who has been saved is changed within himself. His actions are also changed. Man has no power to save himself.

After man sinned, God provided a way of redeeming man. The serpent tempted Eve in the garden. The serpent was Satan. God promised then that He would send one who would "bruise the head" of Satan (Genesis 3:15). Jesus Christ was the one who was sent to "bruise Satan's head". The name Jesus means "Jehovah Saves".

Jesus was God in flesh. He lived a life without sin. He did not deserve death, but all other men have deserved death because of their sin. Even though He did not deserve death, He died to pay the price of the sins of others. When He arose from the dead, He showed His power over death and the grave. He proved his power over the price of sin (I Corinthians 15:55-57).

PART THREE: What Man Must Do To Be Saved

If a person is to be saved, he must admit that he is lost. Two boys were walking in the woods. They had walked a long time and wanted to go home. They did not think they were lost. They tried one way and then another. Finally when it was almost dark, they admitted, "We are lost." It was only then that they asked help from someone else to find the way home. A person will not seek to be saved unless he knows he is lost (Romans 3:23).

He must understand that Jesus is the only Saviour. Some people think they can be saved from sin and its punishment by trying to be good or by joining a church or by being baptized. This is not true. Only Jesus can save from sin (Acts 4:12).

A person must repent of his sins. He must not only be sorry for his sins, but he must turn from his sins. He must turn from sin and turn to Jesus Christ (Luke 13:3).

He must believe in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31). He must trust Jesus completely to save him from sin. He must accept the free gift of salvation. He has not earned it. It came by God's grace (Ephesians 2:7,8).

PART FOUR: Confession Follows Salvation

If a person has repented of his sins and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, he is saved. He has everlasting life (John 11:25).

Confession is the next step after faith. We show our faith by confessing Christ openly and by obeying (Matthew 10:32,33).

When one is saved, he is ready to be baptized and become a church member. In the New Testament people were baptized after they confessed Christ as Saviour. Their confession was evidence of the salvation they had already received.

PART FIVE: A Good Life Follows Salvation

Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). A saved person loves Jesus so he wants to do things which please him. Acts of love to God are a part of his new obedience to God. Helping others and doing good to others show his love for God. His motives for doing good will be to serve God and to earn salvation because he has already been saved.

Being born again brings many blessings. It also brings many responsibilities. Righteous deeds are done by a person who is righteous. If a person does not show any "fruits of the spirit", he has probably not been saved. Every day our Christian life must be fed through prayer and Bible study so that we may grow to be like Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

A letter was received by the Bible Way Correspondence School from a young man who said, "I am applying for enrolment as a student. I would like to enrol because a friend of mine had enrolled before me. He used to do all the things you would expect a teenager to do, but now his life is changed completely. I would like to live such a life as this friend of mine." If we are saved, our lives will show it.

PRAY TODAY FOR:

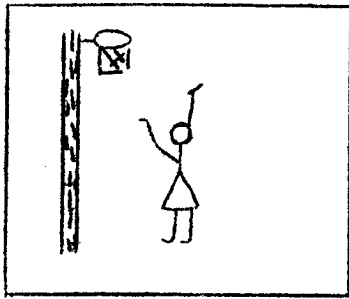
* TO THE EDITOR:

Attached to these programs are some drawings which may be used with this program if you desire. If you use the drawings which illustrate the different aspects of sin, the following explanation should accompany the pictures.

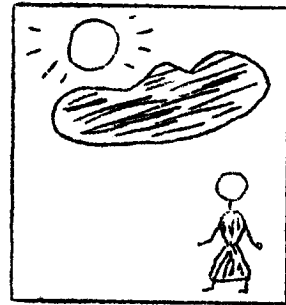
ACTIVITY: Have one person to read each of the following explanations and then tell which picture shows its meaning:

1. Sin is anything which comes between a person and God.
2. Sin is breaking a law of God.
3. Sin is failing to reach the goal set for us.
4. Sin is knowing to do good, but not doing it.

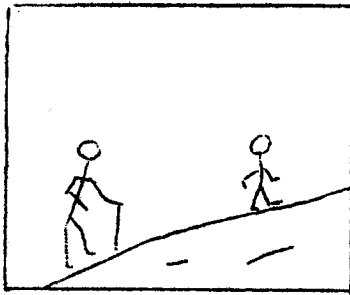
A. A girl misses the goal.



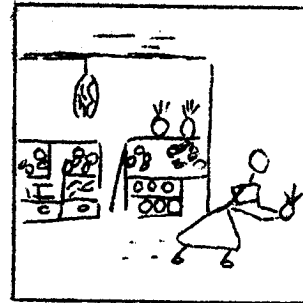
B. A cloud comes between the woman and the sun so that she cannot see it.



C. A blind man wants to cross the street. The boy does not help him.



D. A woman steals a pineapple.



PROGRAMME FIVE

Theme for the Unit: BAPTIST BELIEFS

Theme for Today: THE CHURCH

Scripture:

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

INTRODUCTION:

When some people say the church, they are thinking about the building. When others say the church, they are thinking about all believers everywhere. These are two meanings of the word "church". But when Baptists say church, they are usually thinking about a group of baptized believers who have joined together to carry out the work of Christ in the world. They meet together to observe the ordinances of Christ. They are governed by His laws. The church has the rights and privileges which are explained in the Bible.

PART ONE: A New Testament Church

A church is a group of people who have accepted Christ as Saviour and Lord. They have been baptized. They have voluntarily joined together to obey the commandments of Christ.

These people are called out from the world by Christ to become disciples and servants. The only thing that binds these people to a life of service is love for Christ. They received their salvation without paying for it and without working for it. It came by the grace of God. Grace is an undeserved gift. God gives salvation even though a person does not deserve it. Christians working together in a church are bound to God by grace. Their service shows their love and their desire to fulfill God's will.

PART TWO: The Purpose of the Church

The purpose of the church is to carry out Christ's commission, "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). In order to carry out this commission, Christians study God's Word to learn how they can work for Him. They share in a worship service so that they may worship God. They listen to sermons to learn and to be instructed by the Holy Spirit. Preaching is one means of bringing God's message to the lost. Church members pray so that they may receive power to do what God wants them to do. They take part in the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Jesus Christ. They give of their wealth to help spread the gospel in their community and the world. They witness in their community by word and deed. The church is a place where Christians prepare themselves for service and Christian witness in their community. (Read Acts 2:42).

PART THREE: The Government of the Church

Christ is the head of the church. "For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Saviour". (Ephesians 5:23). All of the church's rules are based on Christ's teaching. When a church follows the teaching of Christ, it can expect all the rights which God's Word promises.

Christ's church is built on a foundation of faith. Each member became a part of the church after he had confessed Christ as Saviour. The members then decide things by voting. Each member whether man, woman, or child has equal rights. Each one votes, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The officers of the church are pastors and deacons. In the Bible the pastor is called a "bishop" or an "elder".

PART FOUR: The Work of the Pastor

Timothy was pastor of the church at Ephesus. He was a young man who had been saved through the witness of the apostle Paul. Paul called him "my true child in the faith" (I Timothy 1:2). Paul wrote to him about his Christian service and especially about his work as a pastor. You can read the qualifications for pastor in I Timothy 3:1-7. The pastor is to be a good example in the community. He must show a Christ-like life.

In the letters to Timothy and in other passages in the Bible we learn the responsibilities of the pastor. He is to lead the church in fulfilling the commands of Jesus Christ. Preaching the word to the lost is a big part of his work. He is to be a shepherd to the people, feeding them with God's Word and caring for their spiritual needs. In his own eyes the pastor is a servant. In the eyes of the members he is a leader and a teacher.

PART FIVE: The Work of the Deacons

The first deacons were chosen to help the apostles. In the early days of the church the apostles were very busy preaching. The church members shared their food with widows who had no one to help them. Because the apostles had so much to do, some of the widows were neglected. The apostles suggested that the church choose seven men to help with this work so they could spend their time in preaching and praying. Seven good men were chosen. Their work was the work of servants.

The work of deacons today is service. They have no power to rule. They can bring recommendations to the church and the church decides by voting. They can then help to carry out the wishes of the church. You can read about the kind of person needed for the work of deacon in I Timothy 3:8-13.

CONCLUSION:

Churches today can follow the pattern of churches in the New Testament. They have the same purpose and task which Jesus gave to his disciples. Each member has a part in helping his church to fulfil the commands of Christ. Remember that Christ is the head of the church, but the members are the body. If one member fails to do his part, the whole body will suffer. (Read I Corinthians 12:26).

PRAY TODAY FOR:

PROGRAMME SIX

Theme for the Unit: BAPTIST BELIEFS

Theme for Today: BAPTISM

Scripture:

And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

Baptists are known for their beliefs about baptism. Baptists were even called by this name because of their way of baptizing and their belief about its meaning. Today let us try to understand what Baptists believe about baptism.

PART ONE: The Example of Jesus

John baptized people in the river Jordan who had repented of their sins. One day Jesus came and asked to be baptized. John knew that Jesus was without sin and did not need to repent. He said, "I need to be baptized by you and do you come to me?" But Jesus insisted on being baptized to fulfill all righteousness. He wanted to be a good example for others. He went down into the river to be baptized. When he came up out of the water, the Spirit of God came down like a dove and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

PART TWO: Who May be Baptized?

Baptists believe that a person must first repent of his sins and believe on Jesus Christ. Then he may be baptized. Even when Jesus was on earth, people were baptized by John who had repented of their sins. The baptism showed that they were beginning a new way of life. When Jesus came, people who had repented and

believed on him were baptized. They were already saved when they were baptized. We read in Acts 2:41, "So those who received his Word were baptized and there were added that day about three thousand souls."

In Acts 8:12 we are again told of believers being baptized. "But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

Baptism is for believers only. A baby or a small child who has not repented and believed cannot be baptized. The Bible says nothing about baptizing babies.

PART THREE: How is a Person Baptized?

In the New Testament believers were always baptized by immersion. In Matthew 3:16 we read that Jesus "went up immediately from the water". When the Ethiopian eunuch was baptized by Philip, the scriptures say "when they came up out of the water" (Acts 8:#()). These verses show that the person was baptized by being put under the water.

Baptism is like a picture. When a person is put under the water and then raised up, it is a picture of Jesus' death and resurrection. It is also a picture of the death of our bodies which will come someday and our resurrection in a new condition. It also shows the death of our old life of sin and resurrection with a new life in Christ. "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 6:3).

PART FOUR: Why Be Baptized?

Jesus Christ himself was baptized. Christians want to follow his example. He also commanded his followers to be baptized. We are baptized in obedience to his command.

Baptism is the door to the church. To be saved a person repents and believes. Then he follows Christ's commandment to be baptized. He is then a member of the Christian community. He becomes a member of a church. All the members have been baptized.

Baptism shows that a person has been saved. It does not save him. It is a way of publicly showing that a change has been made in the heart of the person being baptized. Baptism confirms the decision to follow Christ which the person has made. It is the sign of the new life.

Baptism is also a witness to the community. When a person is immersed, it shows what Christ did when he died and was resurrected. It shows the change he makes in a person's life. It is a witness to people who are not Christians.

CONCLUSION:

Wherever there are Baptists in all the world, it is a happy day when a person is baptized. The story is told of a man seventy years old in the country of Chile. He had believed in Jesus and wanted to be baptized. His wife, who was not a believer, became so angry that she hid his clothes. So the man was baptized in borrowed clothes. He lived to give his testimony wherever he went.

Sometimes when people are baptized, other people come forward saying that they want to believe on Jesus Christ, too. Let us pray that more people will believe on Him and follow Him in baptism.

PRAY TODAY FOR:

PROGRAMME SEVEN

Theme for the Unit: BAPTIST BELIEFS

Theme for Today: THE LORD'S SUPPER

Scripture:

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we said that baptism was like a picture. Baptism is one of the ordinances of a Baptist Church. The other ordinance is the "Lord's Supper". It is like a picture, too. It shows a picture of the body and blood of Jesus Christ which were given for our sins.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances of a Baptist Church. They are commanded by Jesus. They are not sacraments. They do not save a person or help him to be saved. They are ordinances.

PART ONE: The Lord's Supper

On the night when Jesus was betrayed he ate supper with the twelve apostles. This was the Passover Feast, the time when Jews remembered how God had delivered them when they were in Egypt. At that time God had told his people to put the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their houses. God sent the death angel. When the angel saw the blood of the lamb, he passed over that house. The life of the firstborn son was taken in other houses. Every year the Jews had a feast to remember the time when the angel passed over their houses, and they were permitted to leave Egypt.

Jesus and his disciples met in an upper room. There was hatred and evil outside. Jesus knew that he would soon be crucified. He knew he had been betrayed. He dipped his food with Judas and then told him to go. Those who remained were faithful to him. Let us read the story from I Corinthians 11:23-25 of that first Lord's Supper.

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

I Corinthians 11:23-26

PART TWO: The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper? Jesus said, "This is my body, which is for you, Do this in remembrance of me" (I Corinthians 11:24). This verse tells us the supper is a memorial, a picture. It reminds us of his broken body and shed blood. Paul continues by saying, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (I Corinthians 11:26).

Some other groups have added to the teachings of the Bible about the Lord's Supper. Some say that after the bread is blessed, it really becomes the body of Christ and the wine really becomes his blood. By taking this bread they claim to have Christ's presence within them. This is called the Mass. Others believe that in some strange way the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus after a person had swallowed them.

Baptists believe that Christ's presence is within each believer in the form of the Holy Spirit. The bread in the Lord's Supper is bread. The supper is a memory of what Christ did for us.

Some believe that a person receives grace by taking the Lord's Supper with other Christians. Baptists believe that the Lord's Supper does not add saving grace because Jesus gave himself once and completed all that was necessary for our salvation. It is not a substitute for prayer and fellowship with other Christians. It is a memorial and a picture of the Lord's death.

PART THREE: Who May Take the Lord's Supper?

The New Testament tells us three things about the people who take the Lord's Supper. First, they are people who have been saved. Only believers were there when Jesus began the Lord's Supper. Judas had been there, but he left early to finish his work of betraying Jesus. The supper can have meaning only to those who believe on Jesus, accept his teaching and look forward to his return.

Second, they are people who have been baptized. Baptism was commanded before the Lord's Supper.

Third, they are members of a church. Baptists believe that the Lord's Supper is a church ordinance, not a kingdom ordinance. The first Lord's Supper was served just to the eleven, not to all who were believers. Perhaps this was not a church like the ones after Pentecost or today, but it was a limited group. It was the nucleus from which the first church was formed. The command was given to them.

PART FOUR: The Time for the Lord's Supper

When should we take the Lord's Supper? Many Baptists observe the Lord's Supper every three months. The Bible does not say how often it should be observed. It says, "For as often as you eat this bread..." (I Corinthians 11:26). This seems to say that a church can choose to do it when they wish.

CONCLUSION:

It is good to have an answer when people ask you about Baptist beliefs. Here are some questions people ask and some suggestions for answers.

1. Who is worthy of taking the Lord's Supper? In I Corinthians 11:27 we read, "Whoever, therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord." No person is worthy of salvation. Each of us deserves death because we have sinned, but God's love and grace reached us. Christ died in our places. We deserved death, but received the righteousness of God. This verse does not say we must be worthy of taking the supper. It says we must not take it in an unworthy manner. It is not a light thing. It is not a time for greed or hate. It is a time to remember Christ. Each person who comes to take the supper should turn his thoughts to Jesus as he takes part in the supper.

2. Why are sinners not invited to the supper? Is it not true that Jesus ate with sinners? Yes, Jesus ate with sinners, but when he started the Lord's Supper, only believers were there. Only people who believe in Jesus can observe the supper as a remembrance of him.

PRAY TODAY FOR:

PROGRAMME EIGHT

Theme for the Unit: BAPTIST BELIEFS

Theme for Today: THE BIBLE

Scripture:

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalms 119:105

INTRODUCTION:

Baptists have sometimes been called "people of the book" because of their beliefs about the Bible. Baptists do not have written creeds. They do not have laws. They have the Bible. They do not worship the Bible, but they believe that the Bible will help with every problem of life. Baptists believe that teachings and ideas which are contrary to the truth of the Bible should be discarded. What things do we need to know about the Bible?

PART ONE: A Book of Religion

The Bible is a book of religion. Some people have tried to use the Bible in the wrong way. It is not a book of science. We cannot use the Bible to explain modern science to us. The writers of the Bible were inspired of God to write about man's relation to God and his redemption of mankind. They knew little about science. God's purpose was not to teach science. When a person tries to use the Bible to prove something in the scientific world, he will fail. The mistake is not in the Bible. The mistake is the wrong use of the Bible.

In the same way the Bible is not a book of geography. It is not a book that teaches about the governments of the world. It is a book of religion.

The purpose of the Bible is religious. It shows man the way to God.

PART TWO: God's Book

The Bible is God's book. It tells about God. The words in the Bible are "In the beginning..." (Genesis 1:1). The last verses in Revelations are still telling about God. In all of the pages in between it tells of God. On almost every page there is the name God, the Holy Spirit, or Jesus Christ. The Bible reveals God to us.

The author of the Bible is God. In 2 Timothy 3:16 we read, "All scripture is inspired by God..." The men who wrote the words of the Bible were inspired by God. The Holy Spirit revealed to them the message and teachings that God wanted them to tell. Then they wrote the sixty-six books of the Bible using their own words and languages. The writers were people who had faith in God. They wrote as God directed. Readers of today can understand God's Book best if they have faith in God the author as well as understanding the words.

God has preserved the Bible through the years. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). It is amazing that the Bible has existed for thousands of years. People have tried to burn Bibles and destroy them. The book has been criticized and ridiculed, but it has never been completely destroyed. It has now been published in more than twelve languages and is read in all parts of the world.

PART THREE: The Bible is Sufficient

Paul wrote to Timothy, "...From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). The Bible is sufficient. It is able to show us the way of salvation. It is sufficient for people of every age. It is sufficient for all our spiritual needs.

Religious creeds are not necessary. They must be changed with every generation.

The Bible is not like this. Every man should confess Christ himself, guided by the Scriptures. Because the Bible reveals God, it is called his Word. His Word is Truth. God is the author of the Bible. He is also the Revealer of its meaning. He continues to reveal its meaning to people who want to know it everywhere and at all times.

PART FOUR: The Bible Shows the Way to Eternal Life

The Bible tells of redemption. The redeemer, Jesus Christ, is the most important person told about in the Scripture. In speaking to the Pharisees Jesus said, "You search the scriptures, because you think in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me" (John 5:39). Jesus is the way of eternal life. The Bible tells of Him so it shows the way to eternal life.

There are many people who have believed in Jesus Christ after reading the Bible or parts of the Bible. It shows us our sins. It points the way to the Saviour. It shows us the way in which the redeemed should walk.

PART FIVE: The Bible Builds the Christian Life

"I have laid up thy word in my heart that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). After a person has been saved, he can find guidance for his life in the Bible.

The Bible instructs us. It tells about the life of Jesus so that we can follow his example. It teaches us his commandments. It teaches us of the work of the early churches.

The Bible corrects us. When we read the Bible, God's spirit works in our hearts and reveals to us our faults. It seems sometimes that the Bible speaks to us to show us sins that we did not know were in our lives.

The Bible inspires us. When we are satisfied to do only a little for our Master, it leads us to do more.

The Bible comforts us. If we are sad, the Bible brings us comfort. It encourages us when we are ready to give up.

It helps us to be ready for whatever comes into our lives. "All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

CONCLUSION:

The Bible will have little meaning to us unless we read it. A Bible is not a fetish or charm. Just to have a Bible in our homes or to carry a Bible to church is not enough. We must read it. We must listen when someone else reads it. We must learn its teachings. We must try to follow these teachings. Let us pray for God's guidance in reading the Bible. Let us ask Him to help us to take time each day to read His Word.

PRAY TODAY FOR:

PROGRAMME NINE

Theme for the Unit: BAPTIST BELIEFS

Theme for Today: CHURCH GOVERNMENT AND THE RELATION OF
CHURCH AND STATE

Scripture:

He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

Luke 20:25

INTRODUCTION:

The Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus with questions. They sent some of their disciples to Jesus to ask him if they should pay taxes to Caesar or not. They wanted to trap him. If he said, "No," they could accuse him of being a traitor to the government. If he said, "Yes," the people would despise him because the Romans were colonialists who were ruling their country. None of the people liked to pay taxes to them. Jesus was not trapped. He asked whose picture was on the coin. They answered, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

Jesus recognized that government was necessary. His followers should be submissive to government, but this should not hinder their allegiance to God.

PART ONE: The Rights and Responsibilities of a Christian
Jesus is the head of the church. "He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent" Colossians 1:18. He is the foundation of the church. "...You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19,20).

When God created man in His image, He gave him the ability to choose to do right or wrong. God created man to be with other men. He cannot live by himself. When man sinned, he broke his relationship with God and other people. Then God sent His Son to redeem man from his sin. The redeemed were united in his church.

God created each of us. We can accept or reject Christ. We can think for ourselves. We can accept the rights and the responsibilities of a Christian. Each member has a vote in the church. Christ is the only head of the church. Pastors and deacons are not rulers. They are readers.

PART TWO: The Rights and Responsibilities of a Church

Democracy means government by the people. The people make the decisions. In a Baptist church Christ is the head, but each member has the right to make his decision about carrying out the work of the church. He should make his decision after praying for God's help in deciding.

Each Baptist church also has a right to make its own decisions. It decides after seeking God's will. It has a responsibility to carry out God's plan for redeeming others. It has a responsibility to witness in the community.

PART THREE: The Purpose of Government

What kind of world would we have if we had no government? If everyone were a Christian and followed Christ's teachings, it would be a good world. But the world is not Christian. If there was no government, each person would try to get the things that he wanted. It would not matter if he harmed his neighbor in getting these things. There would be stealing, cheating, and killing with no government to prevent it.

God is a God of order. He favors having a government to help bring order into the world. Government brings laws to help people live together in peace.

In Romans 13:1-2 we read, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment."

PART FOUR: Good Christians are Good Citizens

A Christian can be a good citizen. He should pay his taxes. He should vote in elections of government leaders. He should obey the laws of his country. In this way he will have a part in making his government a good government. He will do his part in helping the government to have schools, highways, hospitals and police for protection. We have read in Romans 13:1 that a person should "be subject to the governing authorities." We can also read in I Peter 4:15-16 that it is God's will for Christians to obey the laws of their government. A Christian is free, but he should use his freedom to choose the right things. "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a wrongdoer, or a mischief-maker; yet if one suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but under that name let him glorify God."

Sometimes a Christian has a hard decision to make. Some governments demand that a Christian do things that are opposed to the things which God commands.

In the book of Daniel we read how a law was passed which said that a person should pray only to King Darius and no one else. If a person prayed to anyone else, he would be cast into the lion's den. Daniel chose to disobey this law. He chose to pray to God even though he knew he might lose his life. He was thrown into the lion's den, but God preserved his life.

In the New Testament Peter and the apostles were forbidden by the judge to preach of Christ. They said, "We ought to obey God rather than man." They continued to preach even though they knew they could be arrested.

If a law is contrary to Christ's teaching, a Christian may be forced to disobey. Before disobeying a law, a Christian should pray for God's guidance and make sure it is the will of God.

PART FIVE: The Relation Between Church and Government

The church and the government both have their responsibility. The government should not rule the church and the church should not rule the government. God has given each its work.

A good government will not hinder the church in its work and it will not permit anyone else to hinder it. It will recognize the church as an organization in the nations which has rights just as any other group of citizens. It will not give special favors to the church.

The church has no right to ask special favors from the government. It has no right to accept money paid as tax to the government nor to claim lands as a special favor. It does not have the authority to rule the nation. It has the purpose of bringing men to know Jesus as Saviour and to carry out His commands.

PRAYER: Pray for your nation and its leaders. Pray that God will help you obey the laws of your nation and be an example of a good citizen.

PRAY TODAY FOR:

PROGRAMME TEN

Theme for the Unit: BAPTIST BELIEFS

Theme for Today: COOPERATION

Scripture:

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

Philippians 1:27

INTRODUCTION:

Members of a Baptist church work together. They work through their church organizations. But the work which Jesus left for his followers to do cannot be done by one church alone. When churches that believe alike work together, they can often do more than one church can do alone.

One church alone cannot send missionaries to all the countries in the world. One church alone cannot help all the needy people in the community. A church by itself cannot tell the story of Jesus to those who know languages that are different from the languages of the members. Neither can one church alone have schools and hospitals to teach and heal.

No one can force a Baptist church to work with other Baptist churches. But a church can choose to cooperate. Baptists have discovered ways to work together, and today, we will learn about some of these ways.

PART ONE: Christians in the New Testament Worked Together.

The Christians in the first church in Jerusalem helped each other when some of them were in need. "And they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need" Acts 2:45.

When Christians did not agree on an important matter, they met together to talk and decide on the best way to solve the problem. "And when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question" (Acts 15:2). In order to work together they had to have agreement among themselves.

When the Jerusalem Christians were in need, churches in other places worked together to help them. They sent gifts to help them. "Now concerning the contribution for the saints; as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do" (I Corinthians 16:1).

Paul thanked the Philippians for their partnership in the gospel because they helped to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. (Read Philippians 1:3-5).

PART TWO: Working through an Association

One way of working together is through an association. A group of churches that work together in a certain community is called an "Association".

Who tells an association what to do? People from the churches in an association decide what work will be done, how to spend the money, and how to do the work. People from the churches decide these things in meetings which are held throughout the year. The meetings are called "Associational Meetings". Each local Baptist church sends messengers to help make plans and to vote.

An association helps the churches to carry out Christ's plan of teaching and preaching. Sometimes the association will have special training classes for workers from the whole association. Sometimes an association sponsors an evangelistic crusade. Sometimes associations try to find places in their area where new churches are needed. Then they will work together in starting preaching points.

PART THREE: Working through a Convention

An association cannot do all the work in the world. So, Baptist churches join together in conventions to do the work that individual churches and associations cannot do.

The convention works the same way as an association except it works in a whole nation. People from the churches decide how to do the work that needs to be done in each individual country, through a meeting that is held once a year usually. Messengers are sent from each local church for the yearly meeting. At this meeting reports of what has been done since the last meeting are given. The messengers vote on plans, then they go home to their churches. Each local church decides whether to cooperate with the plans made by the convention.

The purpose of a convention is to extend the gospel witness to the nation and the world. When churches bind together, they have more strength, more leaders and more money to carry out the Great Commission. They can establish schools to train their leaders, hospitals to care for their sick, they can appoint leaders to help train church members in doing the work of teaching Sunday School and other classes. They can send missionaries to witness in other parts of the world. It requires many Christians working together to carry out the Great Commission in this way. This is the purpose of a national convention.

PART FOUR: Working Together with Baptists of the World

Over twenty-three million Baptists live in over one hundred countries of the world. The Baptist World Alliance helps Baptists of many nations to get to know one another and to help one another carry out the Great Commission of Jesus.

The office of the Baptist World Alliance is in the capital city of the United States, Washington, D.C. The

people who work there publish a magazine to tell about Baptists of the world. Suppose Baptists in one part of the world need help, like during an earthquake. The Baptist World Alliance tells other Baptists how they can help these poor, homeless people. The Alliance also tries to fight for religious liberty in all the world. Every five years the Baptist World Congress meets. In 1975 it will meet in Stockholm, Sweden.

Young people also meet every five years in a youth conference. This way Baptist young people of many lands get to know one another.

Baptists seek to follow the teaching of God's Word and the leadership of the Holy Spirit in cooperating to claim the world for Christ.

PRAYER: Pray silently asking God to lead you and your church to cooperate with other Christians and churches to witness of the love of Christ for sinful men.

PRAY TODAY FOR:

PROGRAMME ELEVEN

Theme for the Unit: BAPTIST BELIEFS

Theme for Today: THE MISSION OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

Scripture:

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:

While Jesus was on earth not many people believed in Him. Most of the believers were not educated people. Some were fishermen. Some were women. All were workers. They were not rich or powerful, but they were faithful followers of Jesus. Before Jesus ascended to be with the Father, he left a plan for carrying on his work. He left his work in the hands of his followers.

PART ONE: The Plan of Work

Jesus' desire was for all of the people of the world to come to know him as Saviour. The world needs a Saviour. Everywhere there is war and crime. There is greed and there is hate. Sin is the root of all these evils. Only Jesus Christ can save people from their sins. "When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). Jesus saw the needs of the people. Because he loved them he wanted to help them. He called for workers to go to help them. He called for workers to go into all the world to bring a harvest of souls. In Acts 1:8 he told his followers to begin in Jerusalem where they were. Then they were to go into all the world. "And you shall be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Jesus' command to his followers is known as the "Great Commission". He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go ye 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).

His followers were to "make disciples". They were to preach about Jesus Christ so that people would believe and be converted. They were to "baptize" the believers. Baptism is a public declaration of a person's faith. It sets a person apart from the unsaved. Churches are formed from baptized believers. They were to "teach" the believers the things that Jesus had taught them. Preaching about Jesus, baptizing the believers and teaching them, all have a part in Jesus' plan of work.

PART TWO: Power for the Task

When the small group of Jesus' followers received his command, they must have thought the task was impossible. But Jesus promised power for their task. He promised them that the Holy Spirit would come and give them power. The small group prayed together for that power. God's Spirit filled them so that they were able to preach with power. Thousands of people believed in Jesus Christ as a result of their preaching.

The same power is available to Christians today. Jesus has promised that he will be with us. We can do nothing without him. We can do all things with him. His power is available through prayer. "Whatsoever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son, if you ask anything in my name, I will do it" (John 14:13,14). The power to witness effectively in the whole world is available to the Christian through prayer.

PART THREE: Making Disciples

Jesus' Great Commission says "to make disciples of all nations". "Making disciples" is bringing people to Jesus. We do this by preaching and by witnessing. This is the first responsibility of a church. A church must preach and bring people to be followers of Jesus. The church must witness to people in its own community and also witness to people of all nations.

"Making disciples" is also the first responsibility of every Baptist. Every member of a Baptist church is a witness. A witness of Jesus Christ is a person who can tell about Jesus. He knows because he himself has been changed by Jesus Christ. He tells of changes in his life because of Jesus Christ. A Christian knows who Jesus is because he has met him.

We can witness for Christ in the way we live. We can be faithful in attending the worship services of our church and other meetings there. We can live lives that will show Jesus to the world. If the fruits of the Spirit are seen in our lives, people will want to know about our Saviour. We can witness for Christ by speaking to our friends and neighbors. Every day we have opportunities to witness. When we go to the market, we can tell others about the free gift of eternal life. We can make an effort to tell the lost of the Saviour.

PART FOUR: Witnessing by Working Together

Jesus called his followers to begin witnessing for him in the place where they lived. He also called them to witness in all parts of the world. Many Christians are called for special service by God. They are called to preach or teach. Some of them are called to leave their homes and go to another part of the country or another part of the world to take the gospel. Baptists believe

that every Christian can share in this work of taking the name of Jesus to all parts of the world. Every person cannot go, but every person can share in the work by giving or praying.

God expects his people to be good stewards. A steward is trusted with the property of another person. All we have is given to us by God. He has given us life, our time, our talents, and our possessions. We must be good stewards of the things he has given to us. Some day God will ask us to tell what we have done with the things he gave us. Because Jesus Christ gave his life for us, we owe him a debt of thanks. If we give our hearts completely to Jesus Christ, it will not be hard to give him our money to help our church do its work. It will not be hard to give him our time to be used in his work. It will not be hard to give him our abilities to be used for his glory.

If every Baptist is a good steward, we will be able to take the gospel to the whole world.

PART FIVE: Baptizing Them and Teaching Them

Jesus' command tells us to make disciples and baptize them. After a person has believed in Jesus, he should be baptized to show people that his life has been changed. When he is baptized and becomes a member of a Baptist church, he is ready to work with other Christians in Jesus' plan for the salvation of the world.

Jesus also said to teach them. Baptists try to follow this command by having Sunday Schools and other organizations to learn about the Bible and God's Word. Every new Christian needs to be taught so that he may be a good worker for Jesus. Older Christians can continue to learn all their lives.

The mission of every Christian is to make disciples, baptize them and teach them. We have the promise of the Holy Spirit to help us when we obey this Great Commission of our Lord.

PRAYER: Pray that God will help us to give, to pray, and to witness.

PRAY TODAY FOR:

1948

1949

1950

1951