

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll : Volunteer Needed!
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Brian Crawford
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of October 22, 2017 -

Sunday School ----- 17
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 23
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 17
 Wed. Eve. Service, 10/25/17 ----- 22

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of October 22, 2017 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 275.00
Total Received for Week of 10/22/17: \$ 275.00

- Week of October 15, 2017 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 618.36
Total Received for Week of 10/15/17: \$ 618.36

- Week of October 8, 2017 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 996.00
 Building Fund ----- \$ 20.00
Total Received for Week of 10/08/17: \$1,016.00

- Week of October 1, 2017 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$1,292.00
 Revival Off for Rodney Woodcock (includes jar in foyer) ----- \$ 790.00
Total Received for Week of 10/01/17: \$2,082.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

NEEDED!



DOORKEEPER FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



Please Remember To Be Faithful To Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithes (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist
NEED VOLUNTEER!!!! ----- Greeter
 Shayne Hooper, Brian Crawford, Charity Crawford, LeAnna White -- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, ----- Outreach
 Bertha Segebart ----- Custodian
 Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY
REMINDER

Volume XXIII

October 29, 2017

Number 38



WHY BAPTISTS ARE NOT PROTESTANTS

by Dr. Vernon C. Lyons

People are usually put in one of three religious groups. If you are not a Jew or a Roman Catholic, then automatically you are a Protestant. Consequently, Baptists are usually called "Protestants." However, this does not match the facts. Baptists never have been Protestants.

The Protestant Reformation is usually dated from October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther nailed his *95 Theses* to the door of the Catholic Church in Wittenburg, Germany. However, this was **only one** of a series of acts that led to the open rupture with Rome.

An event of utmost importance, but often unnoticed, is the *Second Diet* (or Council) *of Speier, April 25, 1529*. This was a Roman Catholic Council for the purpose of taking action against the Turks and checking the progress of Lutherans and others who were not cooperating with the Pope. Certain Lutheran princes appeared before this Roman Catholic Diet with a formal written protest against those matters in which the Diet went contrary to the Christian faith as they understood it. This protest was signed by Elector John of Saxony, Margrave George of Brandenburg, Dukes Ernest and Francis of Braunschweig-Luneburg, Landgrave Philip of Hesse, Prince Wolfgang of Anhalt and the representatives of fourteen imperial cities. The protest was designed to protect them from the decisions of this Council. It was a defensive measure. The celebrated church historian, Philip Schaaf, makes the noteworthy statement "**From this protest, and appeal, the Lutherans were called Protestants.**" (History of the Christian Church, Volume VII, p.692). The same facts are stated in the Catholic Encyclopedia (Volume XII, p.495).

These Lutheran leaders, and a few Reformed, who made this appeal and protest at the famous Diet of Speier were speaking for themselves and **not** for Baptists, of whom they themselves said in their written statement, "**All Anabaptists and rebaptized persons, male or female, of mature age, shall be judged and brought from natural life to death, by fire, or sword or otherwise, as may benefit the persons, without preceding trial by spiritual judges.**" The Baptists, then, did not share in this protest and consequently cannot bear the name "Protestant."

Here Are Three Reasons Why Baptists Are Not Protestants -

Historically Baptists Are Not Protestants

Protestants date from the sixteenth century. They are the Lutherans, the Reformed, and others who were once Roman Catholics and left the Roman Catholic faith to start denominations of their own. **The Baptists never left the Roman Catholic church as did Luther, Calvin and Zwingli. They never left because they were never in.** They did not begin their existence at the time of the Reformation, but hundreds of years **prior** to the Reformation.

Baptists make no effort to trace a historical succession back to the age of the Apostles. Their only claim is that **in every age in church history there have been groups that have held to the same doctrines that Baptists hold today.** These groups may or may not have been connected and they have been known by various names. There were the Montanists (150 A.D.), the Novatians (240 A.D.), Donatists (305 A.D.), Albigenses (1022 A.D.), Waldensians (1170 A.D.), and the name Anabaptists came into prominence just before the time of the Protestant Reformation. Full historical data immediately **refutes** the view that there was only one religious

(continued inside)

group - the Roman Catholic church - until the time of Martin Luther. Anyone who claims this simply has not done his homework.

I wish to purposely introduce non-Baptist testimony to the great antiquity of Baptist people. Cardinal Hosius (1504-1579) was a Roman Catholic prelate who had as his life work the investigation and suppression of non-Catholic groups. By Pope Paul IV he was designated one of the three papal presidents of the famous **Council of Trent**. Hosius carried on vigorously the work of the counter-reformation. If anyone in post-reformation times knew the doctrines and history of non-Catholic groups, it was Hosius.

Cardinal Hosius says, **“Were it not that the Baptists have been grievously tormented and cut off with the knife during the past 1,200 years, they would swarm in greater number than all the Reformers”** (Letters Apud Opera, pp.112, 113).

Note carefully that this knowledgeable Catholic scholar has spoken of the vicious persecution Baptists have endured, that he **clearly** distinguishes them from the Reformers, and that he dates them 1,200 years **before** the Protestant Reformation.

It is also evident that the Baptists were not Protestants because they were fiercely persecuted by the Protestant Reformers and their followers. Uncounted thousands of them lost their goods, their lands, and their lives in these persecutions. Konred Grebel died in prison in 1526. Felix Manz was drowned by the authorities at Zurich in 1527. Noted Baptist leader Baithauser Hubmaier was burned alive at the stake in Vienna March 10, 1528. Three days later his wife was drowned by being thrown over the Danube bridge with a stone tied to her neck. **The facts abundantly attest that, historically, Baptists are not Protestants.**

Doctrinally Baptists Are Not Protestants

The viewpoint that Baptists share common doctrinal ground with Protestant groups is **not** an accurate reporting of the facts. There are six striking differences:

1. Baptists believe with all their hearts that God’s Word alone is sufficient for faith and practice. We read **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine...”** (II Timothy 3:16). Various Protestant denominations have creeds, catechisms and assorted doctrinal standards. Baptists hold to the Bible alone.

2. Baptists believe that Christ and only Christ is the Head of the Church even as the Scripture says, **“Christ is the head of the church”** (Ephesians 5:23). There is no **man** who has the oversight of Baptist churches. Baptists have **no** denomination in the sense of an organization that controls local congregations. Each local church is **autonomous and accountable only to Christ, who is its Head**. A Baptist church, while fellowshipping with congregations of like faith and practice, has no earthly headquarters. Its headquarters is in Heaven.

3. Baptists believe from their hearts in a free church in a free

state. Christ plainly taught that the state and the church each had its own realm when he said, **“Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things which are God’s”** (Matthew 22:21). Baptists are vigorously opposed to union of state and church and believe that a state controlled church is a wretched excuse for Christianity and a plain departure from Scripture. **All of the Protestant Reformers fastened state churches upon their followers.**

4. Baptists believe strongly in individual accountability to God because the Scriptures clearly teach that **“every one of us shall give account of himself to God”** (Romans 14:12). A priest cannot answer for you, nor can a church cannot answer for you to God. God-parents cannot answer for you. No one is saved because of what his parents believe. No one is saved because of his identification with any religion. He will account for **himself** to God. Protestants generally do not hold this scriptural doctrine.

5. Baptist people furthermore have always held to believers’ baptism. None of the Protestant Reformers held this Bible teaching. In the Scriptures, faith and repentance always preceded baptism. On the day of Pentecost Peter plainly told the people, **“Repent and be baptized”** (Acts 2:38). This obviously means that there is no infant baptism since infants are incapable of repenting. No unbelievers are to be baptized. The Reformers followed Rome in their teaching on baptism. Baptists have held steadfastly to the doctrine of Christ and His Apostles on this point.

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6. Baptists, on the basis of Scripture, have always held to a regenerate church membership; that is, a membership that is made up only of people who give a credible profession of faith in Christ. In the apostolic church, only those who became believers, those who received the Word of God and who had repented of their sins, were baptized and received as church members (Acts 2:41). There was no automatic or formalistic membership in apostolic churches nor in Baptist churches today.

From the review of these simple points it is more than clear that, doctrinally, Baptists are not Protestants.

Practically Baptists Are Not Protestants

A few simple observations indicate that the Baptists differ radically from Protestants on a number of points:

1. The Protestant groups look to some human being as their founder, often even taking their name from a man. The Lutherans hark back to Luther. The Reformed look to John Calvin. The Presbyterians were founded by John Knox. The Methodists

openly acknowledge John Wesley as their founder. Who founded the Baptist churches? Here is a historical question worthy of serious investigation. It is **impossible** to find any one man who gave rise to Baptist churches. Rather, if we would name human founders, we must look back to Peter, Paul, James and John.

2. We differ from Protestants in our birthplace. Lutherans came from Germany, the Reformed from Switzerland and the Netherlands, the Presbyterians from Scotland, Episcopalians from England, but Baptists would have to give Palestine as their place of origin.

3. Furthermore, the creed of Baptists is **not** the Augsburg Confession, the Canons of Dort, or the Westminster Confession, but the simple **Word of God**. So it is impossible to identify Baptists as Protestants.

4. Baptists have never been linked with Protestants and have never been identified with the Roman Catholic Church. Through the years before and after the Reformation, they have maintained their identity and been faithful to the Scriptures. Real Baptists hold to the plain teaching of Christ and the Apostles. For these God-given doctrines they have been willing to die. Hanz Denk, a sixteenth century Baptist, said, **“Faith means obedience to the Word of God, whether it be unto life or unto death.”** For many, it was death.

In Rottenburg in Reformation times there were 900 executions of Baptists in less than ten years. These deaths were often vicious and cruel. The sentence for one Baptist believer, Michael Sateler, read:

“Michael Sateler shall be delivered to the hangman, who shall take him to the place of execution and cut out his tongue; he shall then throw him on a cart and twice tare his flesh with hot tongs; then he shall bring him to the city gate and there torture his flesh in the same manner.”

This was the way Sateler died in Rottenburg on May 21, 1527. His wife and other women were drowned and a number of the men were beheaded.

CONCLUSION -

Baptists are not Protestants but, instead, hold tenaciously to the original precepts and practices of Christ and the apostles. Baptists believe the pure Word of God to be sufficient authority on all matters. Baptists reject all human religious traditions and practices that have originated since the time of the apostles.

- adapted from *The Biblical Evangelist*

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

9 **ANCIENT BEE HIVES DISCOVERED IN ISRAEL** - Twenty times the Bible describes the ancient land of Israel as a land flowing with “milk and honey” (Exodus 3:8, etc.). Many modern historians and archaeologists have claimed that this honey was the product of dates or figs rather than managed bee hives, but in September archaeologists led by Hebrew University professor Amihai Mazar uncovered a 2,900-year-old honey bee industry in the Jordan Valley in northern Israel. The well-preserved clay hives, thought to be the oldest in existence, are each 2.5 feet long and one foot in diameter. They were stacked three high in orderly rows. One hundred and eighty have been found, and just 30 of the hives could have produced up to one half ton of honey per year (“Oldest Bee Hives Discovered in Israel,” Patterns of Evidence, Oct. 12, 2017). Mazar says, “You can tell that this was an organized industry, part of an organized economy, in an ultra-organized city” (“Archaeologists Find 3,000-year-old Beehives,” Haaretz, Sep. 4, 2017).

The hives are so well preserved that old beeswax and the remains of bees could be analyzed, including workers, drones, pupae, and larvae. The industry was sophisticated. Each hive had a removable plug at one end for honeycomb extraction and a small hole in the other for the bees to enter and exit. Carbon dating of grain found near the hives posits them to the time of Israel’s divided kingdom, and they were found in Tel Rehov (Rehov in the KJV, about three miles south of Beit Shean and two miles west of the Jordan), where the prophet Elisha is thought to have lived (“World’s Oldest Beehives,” BreakingIsraelNews.com, Sep. 26, 2017). An altar to fertility goddesses was found alongside the hives, opening a window into the idolatry of Israel’s northern kingdom as described in Scripture. This discovery gives an archaeological background for Ezekiel 27:17, which says that Israel sold honey to the Phoenicians. The Bible’s historical accuracy has been externally verified countless times. There is no ancient book that can compete with its accuracy, even from an honest secular perspective.

9 **BILL HYBELS TO RETIRE AND BE REPLACED BY CO-ED PASTOR TEAM** - Bill Hybels, founder of Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago, is retiring in October 2018, to be replaced by Heather Larson as “Lead Pastor” and Steve Carter as “Lead Teaching Pastor.” Willow Creek had female elders from its inception in the 1970s, but in 1997 all staff members were given one year to submit to this stance or step down. This is open rebellion to the clear teaching of God’s Word.

Willow Creek was one of the first “seeker sensitive” megachurches. Early on it advertised itself like this: “There is no hell-fire and brimstone here, no Bible-thumping, just positive witty messages.” Its main worship center in the community of Willow Creek west of Chicago cost \$73 million and seats over 7,000. About 25,000 people attend weekend services at the church’s eight campuses. ÷