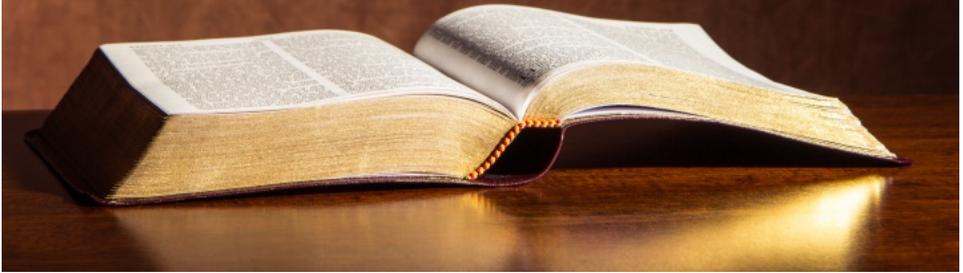


# Your New Life In Christ



**Bible Baptist Church**

*striving together for the faith of the gospel*

**Hontanosas Rd., Zone 1, Totolan, Daus, Bohol PH 6339**

# **Basic Bible Truths for New Converts**

Ralph O. Burns

## PREFACE

Congratulations!!

Now that you have accepted Christ as your saviour, you need to be instructed in the Word of God.

It is best and most profitable to have daily use of the Bible to learn what God wants for your life.

This booklet is made to be a help to you in Bible doctrines. All you need is your Bible and ballpen. Look up the verses indicated and fill in the blanks of this booklet.

Memorize the verses marked with an astrisk (\*).

Your Pastor

## What I Was Before God Saved Me

God's Word does not commend what I was before I was saved, but what it states is true and correct.

- ◆ I was like a sheep going \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa. 53:6\*)
- ◆ I was a \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 5:8)
- ◆ I was without \_\_\_\_\_, and I was \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 5:6)
- ◆ I was the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Rom. 5:10)
- ◆ I was a sinner (1 Tim. 1:15\*)
- ◆ God says I was \_\_\_\_\_ in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1)
- ◆ I was following Satan, the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- ◆ As an unbeliever, I was already \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3:18)
- ◆ God's \_\_\_\_\_ was upon me because I was an unbeliever (John 3:36)
- ◆ God says, "All have sinned." I must acknowledge that I am a \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 3:23\*)
- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ was my father (John 8:44)
- ◆ I was \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, an \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_.  
I had no \_\_\_\_\_,  
and I was without God (Eph. 2:12)
- ◆ I was far off from God (Eph. 2:13)

That is what I once *was*, but *now* I am saved!

## What I Am Now

The previous lesson was a review of what I was *before* God saved me. Now I want to see what He says about me *after* I am saved.

- ◆ I am a \_\_\_\_\_ (John 1:12\*)
- ◆ I am a believer (Acts 5:14)
- ◆ I am a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1)
- ◆ I am now a Christian (Acts 11:26)
- ◆ I am a \_\_\_\_\_ creature (2 Cor. 5:17)
- ◆ I am a newborn \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet. 2:2)

What God said about me before I was saved was not good, but what He says regarding my condition now is good.

- ◆ I have been \_\_\_\_\_ by God (Eph. 1:6)
- ◆ I have been saved (Acts 16:31\*)
- ◆ I have been \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3:5-7\*)  
which means born from above, from Heaven
- ◆ I have been forgiven (Col. 1:14 & 2:13)
- ◆ I have been cleansed (Eph. 5:26)
- ◆ I have eternal life (John 3:16\*)
- ◆ I possess Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Pet. 1:4)

## What Has Happened to Me?

Once I am saved, can I ever be lost? No. Is "saved today, lost tomorrow" scriptural? No.

This is what God Says:

- ◆ I Have \_\_\_\_\_ life (John 3:16)
- ◆ I shall not come into judgment (John 5:24\*)
- ◆ He will in no wise cast me out (John 6:37\*)
- ◆ Those who have eternal life shall \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (John 10:28)
- ◆ There shall be no \_\_\_\_\_,  
no separation ever for the believer in Christ (Rom. 8:1, 35-39)
- ◆ I am part of His Body (Eph. 1:22, 23)
- ◆ I am a \_\_\_\_\_ of His Body (Eph. 5:30)
- ◆ He will \_\_\_\_\_ the job (Phil. 1:6\*)
- ◆ God is able to \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim. 1:12)
- ◆ I am kept by the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet. 1:5\*)
- ◆ I am \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (Jude 1)

Read Galatians 6:1 and 2. *Restore* is a medical term meaning "to set," as in the case of a broken arm. This is a picture of the sinning Christian, A broken arm is not amputated, even though it is painful, useless, miserable, uncooperative and disobedient to the head. But the same blood is in it as is in the good arm. Apply this to the spiritual experience of a Christian who has sinned.

## What About Baptism?

Christ gave the church two ordinances: water baptism and the Lord's Table. An ordinance is a ceremony or rite appointed by Christ to be administered in the local church as a visible sign of the saving truth of the Christian faith.

### *The Meaning of Baptism*

- ◆ It is identification with Christ (Col. 2:12)
- ◆ It shows our death, burial and resurrection with Christ (Rom. 6:3-5). It demonstrates, but does not bring, salvation.

### *The Method of Baptism*

- ◆ Jesus came up out of the river (Matt. 3:16)
- ◆ There was \_\_\_\_\_ water there (John 3:23\*)
- ◆ They went \_\_\_\_\_ into the water (Acts 8:38)
- ◆ The word *baptize* means "to dip, plunge, submerge or immerse." Sprinkling of babies or adults is unscriptural.

### *The Motive for Baptism*

- ◆ It is God's command (Matt. 28:18-20)
- ◆ Jesus said, "If ye \_\_\_\_\_ me, keep my \_\_\_\_\_" (John 14:15\*)
- ◆ It brings personal joy (Acts 8:37-39)

### *The Must of Baptism*

- ◆ Believing and being saved come first; and being immersed is to follow (Acts 8:37, 16:14, 33, 18:8\*)

## What About the Lord's Table?

The Lord's Table is defined most clearly in 1 Corinthians 11:

- ◆ It is a table of remembrance (v. 24)
  - ◆ It is a table of obedience (v. 25)
  - ◆ It is a table of testimony and expectation (v. 26)
  - ◆ It is a table of examination (vv. 27, 28)
  - ◆ It is a table of warning (vv. 29-31)
- 
- ◆ The Lord's Table looks back to Calvary and Christ's death. It looks forward to His return (1 Cor. 11:26)
- 
- ◆ The Lord's Table is for believers only (John 13:30; Luke 22:19). It is the author's conviction that the Lord's Table is for the immersed believer only, although this is nowhere explicitly stated in the New Testament.
- 
- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ is symbolic of His broken body, broken in death for us. (1 Cor. 11:23, 24)
- 
- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ symbolizes His shed blood (1 Cor. 11:25). Through His blood we have \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 1:7\*) and cleansing (1 John 1:7).

## What About the Local Church?

Of the 114 times the word *church* is used in the New Testament, 91 times it refers to a local church.

*It is divine in its origin.*

- ◆ It is the product of the Godhead (Eph. 1:4; Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:1; 20:28)

*It is divine in its orders.*

- ◆ Its commission is to \_\_\_\_\_ to all nations, preaching the gospel, immersing believers and teaching them (Matt. 28:19, 20)

*It is divine in its offices.*

- ◆ The two officers are \_\_\_\_\_ or pastors (1 Tim. 3:1) and \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 3:8)

*It is divine in its ordinances.*

- ◆ It is to observe two: baptism and the Lord's Table (see previous lessons)

*It is divine in its organization.*

- ◆ Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church, which is composed of saved individuals (Col. 1:18, 2:19)
- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ adds to the church those that are being \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:47)
- ◆ The church conducts its own affairs (Acts 6:1-6)
- ◆ It sends out its own missionaries (Acts 13:1-4)

- ◆ It is to discipline its own members (Matt. 18:17, 18; 1 Cor. 5:4-7, 12, 13)

*It is divine in its outcome.*

- ◆ It will be spotless and without \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 5:27)
- ◆ Believers shall be \_\_\_\_\_ Him (1 John 3:2), as well as \_\_\_\_\_ Him (John 14:2, 3)

### **The Ministry of the Church**

- ◆ Edify its members
- ◆ Educate its constituency
- ◆ Act as a restraining force in an evil world
- ◆ Preach the Word of God

## What About My Bible?

The Bible contains sixty-six books. It was written by forty authors over a period of 1,600 years. Its theme is consistently redemption from sin.

It was given by \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which means literally "God-breathed" (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

Read Luke 24:44 and 45; John 10:35; 12:48. These are statements of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore I should read the Bible diligently, reverently, repeatedly, prayerfully, consecutively and honestly.

As I read a chapter I should ask:

- ◆ Is there a command here for me?
- ◆ Is there a sin I must forsake?
- ◆ Is there some virtue to gain?
- ◆ How is Christ revealed here?

The Word of God is settled in \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 119:89\*).

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ shall pass away, but not God's Word (Matt. 24:35).

I should follow the example of the Berean Christians who \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:11).

An acrostic clearly shows how this should be done:

**S**-eriously  
**E**-arnestly  
**A**-nxiously  
**R**-egularly  
**C**-arefully  
**H**-umbly

## The Books of the Bible

### Old Testament Books (and Abbreviations)

|                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Genesis (Gen.)                        | Ecclesiastes (Eccles.)         |
| Exodus (Exod.)                        | Song of Solomon (Song of Sol.) |
| Leviticus (Lev.)                      | Isaiah (Isa.)                  |
| Numbers (Num.)                        | Jeremiah (Jer.)                |
| Deuteronomy (Deut.)                   | Lamentations (Lam.)            |
| Joshua (Josh.)                        | Ezekiel (Ezek.)                |
| Judges (Judg.)                        | Daniel (Dan.)                  |
| Ruth                                  | Hosea (Hos.)                   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Samuel (1 Sam.)       | Joel                           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Samuel (2 Sam.)       | Amos                           |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Kings                 | Obadiah (Obad.)                |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Kings                 | Jonah                          |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Chronicles (1 Chron.) | Micah (Mic.)                   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chronicle2 (2 Chron.) | Nahum (Nah.)                   |
| Ezra                                  | Habakkuk (Hab.)                |
| Nehemiah (Neh.)                       | Zephaniah (Zeph.)              |
| Esther                                | Haggai (Hag.)                  |
| Job                                   | Zechariah (Zech.)              |
| Psalms (Ps.)                          | Malachi (Mal.)                 |
| Proverbs (Prov.)                      |                                |

### New Testament Books (and Abbreviations)

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Matthew (Matt.)                          | 1 <sup>st</sup> Timothy (1 Tim.) |
| Mark                                     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Timothy (2 Tim.) |
| Luke                                     | Titus                            |
| John                                     | Philemon                         |
| Acts                                     | Hebrews (Heb.)                   |
| Romans (Rom.)                            | James                            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Corinthians (1 Cor.)     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Peter (1 Pet.)   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Corinthians (2 Cor.)     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter (2 Pet.)   |
| Galatians (Gal.)                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> John             |
| Ephesians (Eph.)                         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> John             |
| Philippians (Phil.)                      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> John             |
| Colossians (Col.)                        | Jude                             |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Thessalonians (1 Thess.) | Revelation (Rev.)                |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians (2 Thess.) |                                  |

## What About Memorizing Scripture?

Should I memorize Scripture? Yes

*Why should I memorize?* Because the word of God:

- ◆ Will generate \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 10:17\*)
- ◆ Gives strength (1 John 2:14)
- ◆ Is nourishment and causes one to \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually (1 Pet. 2:2)
- ◆ Brings cleansing and causes one not to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 119:9, 11\*)
- ◆ Is the \_\_\_\_\_ seed by which one is born again (1 Pet. 1:23)
- ◆ Is able to \_\_\_\_\_ one up (Acts 20:32\*)
- ◆ Insures God's blessing (Rev. 1:3)

*How can I do it?*

- ◆ Print a verse on a card and take it with you. In your spare time, repeat it over and over again.
- ◆ Always carry a pocket-size New Testament. Read it in your spare time.
- ◆ Follow these five steps:
  1. Read it
  2. Write it down
  3. Pray it for yourself
  4. Pray it for someone else
  5. Tell it to another personal

Memorize verses in this booklet that are marked with an asterisk. Spend four days on each verse, and in eight months you will be finished. Never get so busy that you have no time to memorize.

## What About Prayer?

Prayer is simply talking to God. How can I learn to pray? By praying. Try it. Practice is the key.

### *How should I pray?*

- ◆ Without hypocrisy (Luke 18:11, 12)
- ◆ Privately (Matt. 6:6)
- ◆ Specifically (Luke 11:5; Matt. 6:7)
- ◆ Persistently (Luke 18:5)
- ◆ In Jesus' name (John 14:13, 14\*)

### *When should I pray?*

- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ times daily (Ps. 55:17)
- ◆ Regularly (Dan. 6:10, 11)
- ◆ At mealtime. Thank God for the food.
- ◆ Anytime, with persistence (Luke 18:1-7)

### *For whom should I pray?*

- ◆ Fellow believers (James 5:16)
- ◆ The unconverted (Eph. 6:19)
- ◆ Missionaries and missionary work (Col. 4:3)
- ◆ My church, my pastor, my family, myself

### *What hinders prayer?*

- ◆ "If I regard \_\_\_\_\_ in my heart, the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ hear me" (Ps. 66:18)
- ◆ Disobedience to God (Isa. 1:15)
- ◆ An unforgiving attitude (Matt. 6:14, 15; 18:21, 22)

## What About Telling Others?

- ◆ I am to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ before others (Rom. 10:9, 10). Read Matthew 10:32 and 33.
- ◆ I am to be an \_\_\_\_\_ of believers (1 Tim. 4:12)

### *What is soul winning?*

- ◆ It is bringing people to Christ? (John 1:41)
- ◆ It is fishing for men's souls (Matt. 4:19)

### *Who is to do this fishing?*

- ◆ Believers are to be \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:8\*)
- ◆ I am to be ready to give an \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone (1 Pet. 3:15)

### *How can I do it?*

- ◆ Be prayerful, tactful, sincere, sympathetic, friendly, patient and courteous. Never argue.

### *What shall I tell unbelievers?*

- ◆ They are sinners (Rom. 3:10, 23; 6:23; John 3:18, 36; Eph. 2:1, 12)
- ◆ Christ loves them and died for them (Luke 19:10\*; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Gal. 2:20)
- ◆ They may be saved by faith now (Acts 16:31; 13:38, 39; Eph. 2:8, 9; Rom. 4:5\*; 5:1\*; 10:9, 10, 13\*)
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ is the time to be saved (2 Cor. 6:2\*; Prov. 27:1; 29:1)

## What About Tithing?

Tithing is giving 10 percent of my income to the Lord. It is a moral obligation. It is a matter of love, not Law. We *give* tithes rather than *pay* tithes.

### *The Pattern of Storehouse Tithing*

- ◆ Commenced by \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 14:19, 20)
- ◆ Continued by \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 28:20-22)
- ◆ Commanded by Moses (Lev. 27:30-33).  
    "Bring ye \_\_\_\_\_ the tithes..." (Mal. 3:10)
- ◆ Commended by Jesus Christ (Matt. 23:23)
- ◆ Commended by Paul (1 Cor. 16:1, 2\*):  
    *Personal:* every one of you  
    *Periodic:* \_\_\_\_\_ of the week  
    *Proportional:* as God prospers you

### *The Purpose of Storehouse Tithing*

- ◆ It is an act of worshiping God. It teaches that God owns and man owes.
- ◆ It is the Biblical method of financing God's work
- ◆ It is to develop man's sense of responsibility to God  
    Thus it is more concerned with the giver than the gift  
    (Matt. 10:8; Rom. 12:8; 2 Cor. 9:7\*)
- ◆ They first gave \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:5, 12)

The tithe was established before the Law in Old Testament times. It was the minimum of giving under the Law. Under grace the believer may be compelled by love and gratitude to give more.

## What is Right or Wrong for Me?

To determine if certain habits and things are right or wrong for me, I will measure each questionable thing by Scripture.

### *Does it glorify God?*

"... Do \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God"

(1 Cor. 10:31). Does it please Jesus (Col. 3:17\*)?

Remember: If in doubt, don't.

Ask: Would the Lord Jesus do it?

### *Is this thing a weight?*

"... Let us lay aside every \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ which doth so easily beset us..." (Heb. 12:1, 12).

It may be legitimate; but if it is a weight, an excess, let it go.

### *Is it becoming a habit?*

"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient..."

I will not be brought under the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Cor. 6:12).

Can you control it, or does it control you?

### *Is this thing a stumbling block to others?*

"Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Cor. 8:13).

It may be lawful, but does it bring any profit?

Do not allow your liberty to cause others to stumble.

*Is it the wise thing to do?*

“Walk in \_\_\_\_\_ toward them that are without...” (Col. 4:5).

Compare it to eternity, Christ’s blood, His cross and lost souls. Does it increase or lesson resistance to temptation and sin (1 Thess. 5:22)?

Does it make service and worship of God easier or harder?

## What About Temptation and Sin?

Will I think, say and do things which are wrong after I am saved? Yes. Do I have to be saved over again? No. See previous lesson titled "What About Eternal Security?"

Will I be free from temptations? No. Every believer is tempted. On occasions even the strong have failed.

- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ told a lie (Gen. 20:1-13)
- ◆ Moses disobeyed and lost his temper (Num. 20:8-12; Ps. 106:32, 33)
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ sinned greatly (2 Sam. 11:1-17)
- ◆ Jonah was disobedient (Jonah 1:1-3)
- ◆ Peter cursed (Luke 22:54-62)

Temptation itself is not a sin, but yielding to it is (James 1:13-16). God tests; Satan tempts. As long as I am on earth, I will be tempted.

*Claim these promises:*

- ◆ God knows what I can bear (1 Cor. 10:13\*)
- ◆ When temptations come, I can \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 22:40)
- ◆ I can lean on the Lord Jesus and not give in to sin (Eph. 4:27; Phil 4:13)

If I do sin, I will \_\_\_\_\_ it immediately (1 John 1:19\*). David acknowledged his guilt and accepted God's grace (Pss. 32, 51).

## What About Separation?

The doctrine of separation is not a popular one, but it is scriptural. Old things \_\_\_\_\_ away (2 Cor. 5:17\*). I must keep myself \_\_\_\_\_ from the world around me (James 1:27).

As a Christian I am to be separated from:

- ◆ Troublemakers (Rom. 16:17-20)
- ◆ The immoral (1 Cor. 5:7, 13)
- ◆ Unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1)
- ◆ Works of \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 5:11\*)
- ◆ False teachers (2 Cor. 11:1-4; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 John 10, 11)
- ◆ All \_\_\_\_\_ of evil (1 Thess. 5:22\*). A Christian should so live and act that no one can accuse them of sin.
- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 2:15-17). Anything that would alienate a believer from the Lord is wrong.  
*Lust* means unbalanced desires.

As a Christian I am to be *separated unto the Lord*.

- ◆ I am the Lord's personal property, so I must live like it daily (Acts 15:14; Rom. 12:1, 2)
- ◆ The Bible teaches personal and ecclesiastical separation – both the individual and the local church.

## **What Are My Christian Responsibilities?**

**To my Lord:** I am to love, honor and serve Him. I am to reverence and obey Him and His Word.

**To my local church:** I am to attend regularly and to pray for its ministry. I am to give freely and cheerfully of my time, energy, talent and money.

**To my Bible:** Since it is the Word of God, I must read it regularly and systematically, and I must apply to my life what I read.

**To my pastor:** I am to stand by him, pray for him and encourage him. I am to help him all I can.

**To the unsaved:** I must live a godly, spotless, consistent life before the world. I am to pray daily for unbelievers and to witness to them of what Christ has done for me.

**To the heathen:** Since millions have never heard of Christ, I am to pray. I am to give money that missionaries may go to them with the gospel.

**To fellow believers:** I am to pray for them, help them with their burdens, and conduct myself as an example.

**To myself:** I am to grow spiritually, to progress in my Christian life, and to strive toward maturity.

## What About the Church, His Body?

*Ecclesia* is the Greek word for the body of Christ on the earth. The word *church* is the English word used, which literally means, "that which belongs to God". The word *church* is used to mean the same institution spoken of in the New Testament as the *ecclesia*.

It is made up of all the people who have been saved and baptized in the New Testament method, during the time of Christ until today. It is the **local, visible, functioning body of Christ on earth today**.

- ◆ God is calling out a \_\_\_\_\_ for His name (Acts 15:14). That is the church (*ecclesia*). Those who are born again in Christ.
- ◆ The Church was planned by God before the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world was laid (Eph. 1:4).
- ◆ Christ purchased the Church with His own \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 20:28).
- ◆ The Church had its birth during the earthly ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 16:18)
- ◆ It is built on Jesus Christ as the \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 16:18)
- ◆ Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church (Col. 1:18)
- ◆ The mission of the Church is revealed in Matthew 28:19 – to evangelize the lost; to immerse the believers; and to teach disciples to obey what ever the Word of God says.

## What About Christ's Second Coming?

The Lord Jesus will return for His Body, those who are born again, before the **Tribulation** period and before the **Millennium**. This is called the Rapture of the Church.

*What the Bible says about the Rapture. Read:*

- ◆ The testimony of the Lord Jesus (John 14:1-3)
- ◆ The testimony of angels (Acts 1:11). His return will be literal, physical, visible and glorious.
- ◆ The testimony of New Testament writers:
  - Paul: (1 Cor. 1:7, 15:51-58; Phil. 3:20, 21;  
2 Tim 4:8; Titus: 2:13\*, Heb. 9:28)
  - James: (James 5:7, 8)
  - Peter: (1 Pet. 1:7, 13; 4:13; 5:4)
  - John: (1 John 2:28; 3:2\*)

*What the Rapture means to the believer.*

- ◆ The bodies of \_\_\_\_\_ believers will be raised (1 Thess. 4:13-18)
- ◆ The bodies of living believers will be \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 15:51, 52)
- ◆ There will be full and final deliverance from the presence of sin.
- ◆ Rewards will be given for faithful service, those things which were done for Christ while in the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 5:10\*)

**The hour of Christ's coming is unknown,  
but all events point to His imminent return.**

## What is a Baptist?

A Baptist is a person whose beliefs regarding the Bible and its teaching differentiate them from all others. These beliefs are called Baptist distinctives. They are the gauges by which our lives and churches are governed.

Strictly speaking, Baptists are **not** Protestants. Our spiritual forefathers were in existence **before** the Reformation.

- We believe the Bible is our only rule of faith and practice.*
  - ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Tim. 3:16, 17); that is, the Scriptures are "God-breathed." We believe the Bible is inspired, inerrant, infallible, inexhaustible and indispensable.
  - ◆ Holy men of God \_\_\_\_\_ as they were moved by the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Pet. 1:21). The Bible is our only and final authority.
  - ◆ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the \_\_\_\_\_ of our God shall stand \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa. 40:8).
  - ◆ We are to \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures (John 5:39\*).
  - ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_ cannot be broken (John 10:35).
  - ◆ The Fundamentalist's only authority is the Word of God; the Romanist's chief authority is church tradition; and the Liberal's authority is human reasoning.
- We believe in a regenerate church membership.*
  - ◆ Fundamental Baptist churches insist that members be regenerated, saved, converted, born again.
  - ◆ Baptists believe that a converted church membership is a Biblical principle.

- ◆ The Lord added to the church \_\_\_\_\_ such as were being \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:38, 41, 47).
- ◆ Philip preached unto the eunuch \_\_\_\_\_; and the man confessed faith in Jesus Christ that He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 8:35-37)
- ◆ The jailor \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord Jesus before he was baptized (Acts 16:30-33).
- ◆ We are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23).
- ◆ The members of the church at Corinth were saints, saved people, born-again people (1 Cor. 1:2).
- ◆ The Great Commission cannot be carried out by unsaved people (Matt. 28:19, 20).
- ◆ The fellowship of the local church demands a converted membership (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1).

3. *We believe that baptism is by immersion.*

- ◆ The word *baptize* means "to dip, immerse, submerge."
- ◆ Immersion is the symbol of our Savior's death, burial and \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 6:4, 5). The believer is thus identified with the living Lord (Col. 2:12).
- ◆ Only believers are to be immersed. Making disciples precedes baptism (Matt. 28:19, 20). Salvation is the result of one's faith; belief is followed by baptism (Mark 16:14-16). Unbelieving adults and non-believing infants and children are not subject to immersion.
- ◆ The method of baptism is important. See the lesson "What About Baptism?".
- ◆ Immersion is prerequisite for church membership. The believers at Corinth were immersed (Acts 18:8; 1 Cor. 1:14, 16).

4. *We believe in separation of church and state.*

- ◆ "Render therefore unto \_\_\_\_\_ the things

which are Caesar's; and unto \_\_\_\_\_ the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21).

- ◆ Human government is of divine appointment (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-4). We are to be subject unto those vested with governmental authority. We are to pay our taxes as good citizens. We are to honor our rulers and pray for them.
- ◆ When the decrees of men contradict the Word of God, we ought to obey \_\_\_\_\_ rather than men (Acts 5:27-32).
- ◆ The stated purpose of government is political; the business of the church is spiritual. Neither ought to interfere in the realm of the other.
- ◆ Baptists have been separatists from their beginning. We advocate the soul liberty of the individual.

5. *We believe in the Lordship and Headship of Christ.*

- ◆ Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church, His Body (Eph. 1:22, 23). He is Administrator, Overseer, Director, Supervisor and Controller of the affairs of the Church on earth (Rev. 1:10-20). Baptist churches are spiritual democracies whose Head is Christ.
- ◆ Christ is to have \_\_\_\_\_ in the local church (Col. 1:18).
- ◆ We do not have overlords or bosses, nor any system of ecclesiastical machinery among our churches. Jesus is to be Lord in both our lives and our churches.

6. *We believe in the priesthood of all believers.*

- ◆ God recognizes one High Priest, Who is Jesus Christ our \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 2:5). He is a Priest \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 5:6)
- ◆ All believers (born-again ones) are priests. We are holy

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet. 2:5). We are a royal  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet. 2:9). Believers are kings and  
\_\_\_\_\_ unto God (Rev. 1-6). God has made us  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and we shall  
reign on the earth (Rev. 5:10).

- ◆ Because we are priests, we may approach God, pray to Him, worship Him freely and fully at any time. We need no human intermediary; we have direct access to God through Christ (Eph. 2:18; 3:12; Heb. 4:15, 16).
- 7. *We believe in the autonomy of the local church.*
- ◆ The local church is, with God's enabling, able and capable of handling its own affairs. It is indigenous, independent and self-governing.

#### *Church Organization:*

- ◆ The officers of a New Testament church are two in number: \_\_\_\_\_ (pastors) and \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 3:1-13). The officers are elected by the people (Acts 6:5, 6).
- ◆ It is to discipline its members (1 Cor. 5:13)
- ◆ It has regular worship services (Acts 20:7)
- ◆ The pastor is to take the leadership (1 Pet. 5:1-3)
- ◆ It has standard and uniform practices (1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; Gal. 2:9, 10)

#### *Church Autonomy:*

- ◆ The local church sends out its missionaries (Acts 13:1-4)
- ◆ The missionaries are to give reports to the church which sent them out (Acts 15:22)
- ◆ The church solves its own problems and manages its own affairs.