WALKING BY FAITH

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Overview

• Part One - Baptist Beliefs
• Part Two - Baptist History
Review of Last Week

• Baptists are defined by their doctrine.

• Baptists believe in:
  • Fundamentals of the Christian Faith
  • Baptist Distinctives
The Fundamentals

• The Trinity

• Inspiration, Inerrancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

• Incarnation, Virgin Birth, Sinless Life, Death, Burial, Resurrection, and Substitutionary Atonement of Jesus Christ

• Salvation by Grace through Faith

• Reality of Second Coming, Heaven, and Hell
The Baptist Distinctives

• Bible as Sole Authority for Faith and Practice
• Autonomy of the Local Church
• Priesthood of the Believer
• Two Ordinances in Church
• Individual Soul Liberty
• Separation of Church and State
• Two Offices in Church Government
• Salvation by Grace Through Faith
Part Two - Baptist History
The Daunting Task

- Almost 2,000 years of history
- Baptist and non-Baptist groups
- Relationships to secular history
“Short” History

A Short History of the Baptists

Henry C. Vedder

431 PAGES!
Our Outline

• Key to Baptist History
• Pre-Baptist Groups
• The Modern Baptist Movement
• Early Baptists in America
• Baptists in Texas
The Key to Baptist History
Some Baptists hold that the Baptists are the latest in a long line of connected groups from the New Testament Era to the Present that faithfully hold the truth.
Baptist Succession

• It is not important the “connect the dots” between the groups.
  ○ Baptists are not dependent on a family tree.

• It is important to see that truth has never ceased.
  ○ Baptists are dependent on the truth of the Bible.

• Where the Bible is read with open heart and mind, Baptist doctrine or practice are sure to follow.
The Key to Baptist History

The key to Baptist history, doctrine, and practice is the belief in the Bible as Sole Authority for faith and practice.
• “If it were possible today to extinguish Separatism with its doctrines and adherents, and the open Bible were yet retained, there would be Baptists and Congregationalists to-morrow.”

• John H. Shakespeare in “Baptists and Congregational Pioneers”, 1906.
The Baptist Recipe

- ONE BIBLE
- ONE READER
- Mix well using literal interpretation and an open heart
Pre-Baptist Groups
Pre-Baptist Groups

• There have been throughout Church History groups that remained independent of the Catholics and then later the Protestants

• Some of the groups held some or all of the Baptist Distinctives

• The are marked by
  • Stand for Truth
  • Evangelism
  • Receiving Persecution
Pre-Baptist Groups

- These groups appear throughout Church History
- These groups appear across the globe
- These groups appear at times with little or no outside influence
Pre-Baptist Groups

• Many of these were small congregations whose influence was local and often “under the radar” of historical record

• Sometimes these groups grew into movements

• Often our real knowledge of these groups is from records of their persecution (which are heavily biased)
Examples
(that we don’t have time to go over...)

- Montanists
- Donatists
- Novations
- Cathars
- Waldenses
- Lollards
- Albigenses

- Petrobrusians
- Henricians
- Arnoldists
- Berengarians
- Taborites
- Bogomils
- Anabaptists
The Modern Baptist Movement
Rise of the English Baptists

• The modern-day Baptists rose out of England in the early 1600’s

• These early English Baptists were somewhat influenced by European Anabaptists and English Separatists

• Their major influence was the Bible and a desire to return to its purest teachings

• Most modern historians mistakenly contend that Baptists and Baptist doctrine begin here
John Smyth

- 1570-1612
- Former Anglican priest
- In 1609 founded the first English Baptist church of record..... while in Holland.
- Baptized himself, then baptized his followers
Famous English Baptists

- John Bunyan (1628-1688)
- William Carey (1761-1834)
- Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)
Baptists in America
Religion in Early America

• The earliest settlers and explorers almost all Catholic (Spanish/French) or Anglican/Puritan (British)

• Many religious groups sought religious freedom in the New World

• The Pilgrims had Baptist ties, held some Baptist beliefs, but were not Baptist.
Roger Williams

- 1603-1683
- Came to America in 1631
- Identified as Anglican, Puritan, Separatist, Baptist, then “Independent”
- Though Baptist for only a few months, led in organizing the first Baptist church in America
Famous Early American Baptists

- John Clarke (1609-1676)
- Isaac Backus (1724-1806)
- Adoniram Judson (1788-1850)
Baptist in Texas
Baptist Pioneers

• It was illegal to be anything but a Catholic under Mexican law.

• The first Baptist preacher in Texas was most likely Joseph Bays who preached near the Sabine River in June, 1820. He may have performed the first baptism in Texas at that same meeting.

• Bays was arrested while preaching in San Felipe in 1823. He escaped his Mexican captors and fled to Louisiana but returned after independence was won.
B.H. Carroll

• 1843-1914

• Son of Baptist preacher, but not converted until 1865

• Pastored First Baptist Church in Waco from 1870-1899

• Led in starting the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

• Author of *An Interpretation of the English Bible* and many of his sermons were printed in books.
J. Frank Norris

- 1877-1952
- Pastored First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, and Temple Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan
- Controversial, to say the least
- Major influence in the Independent, Fundamental Baptist movement
Famous Texas Baptists

- Sam Houston – Baptized Nov. 19, 1854
- Z.N. “Wildcat” Morrell (1803-1883)
- George W. Truett (1867-1944)
- W.A. Criswell (1909-2002)