



WHY BAPTIST?

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
OUR FAITH AND HERITAGE.

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The Beating of Obadiah Holmes

Born in 1606, in Reddish, Lancashire County, England, Obadiah was the son of Robert and Catherine Johnson Holmes. In 1638, Holmes came to New England, settling first in Salem, and later in Rehoboth, Massachusetts.

While in Rehoboth, Holmes attained the status of freeman, which gave him voice and vote as a citizen. It was also in Rehoboth that Holmes attained freedom in his soul. After his conversion, Holmes united with the Baptists and moved to Rhode Island in search of religious liberty.

In 1651, Holmes accompanied John Clarke and John Crandall to Lynn, Massachusetts to worship in the home of William Witter. This trip would yield one of the greatest contributions to religious liberty in American history!

On July 20, 1651, while Clarke preached, the three were arrested and charged with "Seducing and drawing aside others after their erroneous judgment and practices." Of Holmes, it was said, "You affirmed that you never did re-baptize any, yet did acknowledge that you did baptize such as were baptized before, and thereby did necessarily deny the baptism that was before administered to be baptism, the churches to be no churches, and also other ordinances, and ministers, as if all were a nullity; and did also deny the lawfulness of baptizing infants."

They were fined, and if the fines were not paid they were to be well whipped. Holmes viewed payment of the fine as an admission of guilt and chose instead to suffer for conscience sake. On September 5, 1651, Holmes was led to the post in Boston, and there with his blood, he sealed what he believed. He was given thirty lashes with a three-corded whip, the executioner using all his strength. Holmes said,

"As the man began to lay the strokes upon my back, I said to the people though my flesh should fail, yet God will not fail: so it pleased the Lord to come in, and fill my heart and tongue as a vessel full, and with audible voice I break forth, praying the Lord not to lay this sin to their charge, and telling the people I found He did not fail me, and therefore now I should trust Him forever who failed me not: for in truth, as the strokes fell upon me, I had such a spiritual manifestation of God's presence as I never had before, and the outward pain was so removed from me, that I could well bear it, yea, and in a manner felt it not, although it was grievous."

The scene depicted in this painting shows Holmes after the beating. When he was released from the post, he said to the magistrates, "Ye have beaten me as with roses." John Hazel and John Spur are the two Baptist brethren shown assisting Holmes. Both were arrested and fined for their act of sympathy.

Holmes was the second pastor of the Baptist Church in Newport. He and his wife, Catherine Hyde, were blessed with ten children. Their posterity includes Abraham Lincoln and the "Browns of Providence Plantations." He died October 15, 1682.

"For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully."

I Peter 2:19

Baptist History Preservation Society

WHY BAPTIST?

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?



REMOVE NOT THE ANCIENT LANDMARK,
WHICH THY FATHERS HAVE SET.

PROVERBS 22:28

REMOVE NOT THE OLD LANDMARK; AND ENTER NOT
INTO THE FIELDS OF THE FATHERLESS:

PROVERBS 23:10

INTRODUCTION:

A. _____.

1. Is Truth _____?

- Is there a God?
 - If there is a God has He revealed Himself to man?
 - If He has revealed Himself to man, has He done so in a truthful and understandable fashion?
2. All of conservative Evangelicalism, all of Christian Fundamentalism and certainly all Bible-believing Baptists would boldly answer, “Yes, of course God has revealed Himself in a truthful and understandable way!”
3. We would never want to be classified with Pilate who asked our Savior, “What is truth?”

B. WHY THEN, ARE THERE SO MANY DIFFERENT THEOLOGICAL _____?

1. Has God revealed doctrinal _____ to us in a truthful and understandable fashion?
2. If He hasn't then all of this is moot.
3. How can “good”, “Godly” men disagree so profoundly on matters of such significance as:

- Salvation.
- Baptism.
- Eternal security.
- The nature of the church.
 - ◊ It's government.
 - ◊ Members.
 - ◊ Mission.
- The Second Coming.
- The Lord's Supper.
- Access to God in prayer.
- Forgiveness of sins.
- The mind and conscience.
- The future judgment of saints and sinners.



C. ARE THESE ISSUES, WHICH ARE SO DISPUTED IN THE CHRISTIAN WORLD, _____?

1. If God has revealed Himself and His doctrine to us in His Word why have these truths been _____?
2. What will keep us from rejecting them in the _____?
3. Have we unknowingly rejected them _____?

D. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA OF _____?

- ◇ I Timothy 1:3 “As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,”
- ◇ I Timothy 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;
- ◇ I Timothy 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.
- ◇ I Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
- ◇ I Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.
- ◇ I Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.
- ◇ I Timothy 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.
- ◇ I Timothy 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;
- ◇ II Timothy 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,
- ◇ II Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- ◇ II Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- ◇ II Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
- ◇ Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.
- ◇ Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:
- ◇ Tit 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,
- ◇ Titus 2:10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

I. TRUTH IS _____. JOHN 8:32

A. TRUTH IS _____.

1. Perceptible by the touch; tactile.
2. That may be possessed or realized.

B. TRUTH IS _____. JOHN 17:17

1. I Thessalonians 5:19
2. Acts 17:11

C. WE TEST THE TRUTHFULNESS OF ANY STATEMENT OR SYSTEM IN THE LIGHT OF THE _____ TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE.

1. Whenever a question is raised about doctrine our first response should be this, "What is the clear teaching of Scripture on this subject?"
2. Our Baptist principles have their most powerful expression in the clear teaching of Scripture.

PRINCIPLE: WE UNDERSTAND THE UNCLEAR BY STUDYING THE CLEAR!

II. IGNORANCE IS _____. ISAIAH 59:14

A. IGNORANCE PRODUCES VISIBLE _____.

1. Visible confusion.
2. Visible compromise.
3. Visible heresy.
4. Visible apostasy.
5. Visible infidelity.

While Catholicism is foundationally or structurally an orthodox Christian church (affirming the creeds), Reformed theologian Roger Nicole is nevertheless correct in stating: "Reformation Protestants believe that much in Catholic theology tends to undermine and compromise that orthodox Christian confession—especially as it relates to the crucial issue of the gospel message". In agreement with most evangelical scholars, then, the Christian Research Institute regards Roman Catholicism as neither a cult (non-Christian religious system) nor a biblically sound church, but a historically Christian church which is in desperate need of biblical reform.
Christian Research Institute Statement DC-170-2
Kenneth R. Samples, *What think Ye Of Rome*

B. IGNORANCE _____ . HOSEA 4:6A

1. Ignorance destroys our heritage — we don't know who we are.
2. Ignorance destroys our discipline — we don't know how to behave.
3. Ignorance destroys our doctrine — we don't know what to preach.
4. Ignorance destroys our purity— we don't know what to exclude.
5. Ignorance destroys our passion— we don't know what to love.
6. Ignorance destroys our resolve — we don't know what to endure.
7. Ignorance destroys our distinctiveness — we don't know how to be peculiar.

III. OBEDIENCE IS _____.

A. _____ AS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY.

- ◇ II Timothy 3:15-17 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- ◇ I Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
- ◇ II Peter 1:20, 21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1. Four positions on the authority of the Word of God in "Christianity"

- ◆ _____ Christianity: The Word of God and Tradition.
- ◆ _____ Christianity: The Word of God and Experience.
- ◆ _____ Christianity: The Word of God and Scholarship.
- ◆ _____ Christianity: The Word of God.

2. The Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice because the Bible is inspired by God and bears the absolute authority of God Himself.

3. Whatever the Bible affirms, Baptists accept as true. No human opinion or the decree of any church group or council can usurp the authority of the Bible.

4. No creeds and confessions of faith, which attempt to articulate the theology of Scripture, can carry the authority of Scripture.

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B. AUTONOMY OF THE _____ CHURCH.

- ◇ Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.
 1. The local church is an independent body accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church.
 2. All human authority for governing the local church resides within the local church itself.

3. No religious hierarchy outside the local church may dictate a church's beliefs or practices.
4. Autonomy does not mean isolation. A Baptist church may fellowship with other churches around mutual interests and in an associational tie, but a Baptist church cannot be a "member" of any other body.

C. _____ OF THE BELIEVER.

- ◇ I Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
 - ◇ 1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
 - ◇ Revelation 5:9-10 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.
1. "Priest" is defined as "one authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion, especially as a mediatory agent between humans and God."
 2. Every believer today is a priest of God and may enter into His presence in prayer directly through our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ.
 3. No other mediator is needed between God and people.
 4. As priests, we can study God's Word, pray for others, and offer spiritual worship to God.
 5. We all have equal access to God--whether we are a preacher or not.

"Christian Baptism is not the celebration of a religious rite by modes indifferent; but a *specific act* to be administered by a *specific body*, to persons professing *specific qualifications*, for the profession of *specific truths*. When one of these properties is wanting, the transaction is "null and void," since, unless the ordinances are observed as Christ commanded, they are not kept, but perverted, and bring upon the parties not the commendation, but condemnation, of the Master."

J.R. Graves, *Christian Baptism the Profession of the faith*. Memphis, Tenn. 1881

D. _____ ORDINANCES.

1. Baptism.
 - a. Baptism is _____.
 - ◇ Obedience to the command of Christ.
 - ◇ Obedience to the example of Christ.
 - b. Baptism is _____.
 - ◇ The Holy Spirit Identified with the Son.

Mark 1:10 "And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:"

- ◇ The Father identified with the Son.

Mark 1:11 "Thou art my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

- ◇ Jesus identified with John's message.

Mark 1:4 "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

Matthew 3:15 ...for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.

- ◇ Baptism identifies us with a body of doctrine.
- ◇ Baptism identifies us with a local church.

c. Baptism is _____.

- ◇ Submission to Christ and His purposes for your life.
- ◇ Submission to the Local Church and its authority in your life.

2. The Lord's Supper, or communion, commemorating His death for our sins.

- ◇ Matthew 28:19 - 20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
- ◇ I Corinthians 11:23-32

a. The Lord's Supper is commemorative not sacerdotal.

b. Grace is not conveyed through the ordinance.

E. INDIVIDUAL _____ LIBERTY.

- ◇ Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.
- ◇ Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- ◇ II Corinthians 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
- ◇ Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Baptists have always
opposed religious
persecution.

1. Every individual, whether a believer or an unbeliever, will one day stand before God and give account for the decisions he has made in this life.

2. Because of this we believe in the liberty of the soul or conscience.

3. No one should be forced to assent to any belief against his will.
4. This is why Baptists believe in the separation of church and state.
5. Baptists have always opposed religious persecution
6. However, this liberty does not exempt one from responsibility to the Word of God or from accountability to God Himself.

F. _____, BAPTIZED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

- ◇ Acts 2:41-47 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continue stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.
 - ◇ II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
 - ◇ Ephesians 4:3-6 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
1. Local church membership is restricted to individuals who give a credible testimony of personal salvation in Christ and have publicly identified themselves with Him in believer's baptism by immersion, following salvation.
 2. When the members of a local church are believers:
 - ◇ There is purity.
 - ◇ There is unity.
 - ◇ There is power.
 - ◇ There is purpose.
 - ◇ There is peace.

G. TWO _____.

- ◇ I Timothy 3:1-13
- ◇ Acts 6:1-7

- ◇ Acts 20:17-38
- ◇ Philippians 1:1

The two offices of pastor and deacon exist within the local church, not as a hierarchy outside or over the local church.

1. The Bible mandates only two offices in the church-- pastor and deacon.
2. The three terms--"pastor," "elder," and "bishop," or "overseer"--all refer to the same office.
3. The two offices of pastor and deacon exist within the local church, not as a hierarchy outside or over the local church.

H. SEPARATION OF _____ AND _____.

- ◇ Matthew 22:15-22 “Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.”
- ◇ Acts 15:17-29
- ◇ I Timothy 3:14-15

1. God established both the church and the civil government, and He gave each its own distinct sphere of operation.
2. The government's purposes are outlined in Romans 13:1-7 and the church's purposes in Matthew 28:19 and 20 and the Church Epistles.
3. Neither should control the other, nor should there be an alliance between the two.
4. Christians in a free society can properly influence government toward righteousness, which is not the same as a denomination or group of churches controlling the government.

