

TRUE *AND*  
FALSE  
THE TWO LINES OF "CHURCH" HISTORY



WHY  
BAPTIST?  
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR FAITH AND HERITAGE.

JAMES A. ALTER

## SECTION 1: WHY BAPTIST? PUTTING THE CHURCH BACK INTO CHURCH HISTORY

### What is a church?

A called out assembly of born-again, baptized, **believers** meeting voluntarily in a specific location for the purpose of fellowship and support, observing and defending the ordinances, carrying out the Great Commission and doing all things whatsoever the Lord commanded.

### INTRODUCTION:

#### I. WHAT WERE THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE EARLY CHURCH?

- ASSEMBLY ACTS 2:1
- WORSHIP ACTS 4:21, 23
- PRAYER ACTS 4:31
- MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE ACTS 11:27-30
- TEACHING AND PREACHING THE BIBLE ACTS 13:1-2,5,14-16
- MISSIONARY ENDEAVORS ACTS 16
- AS A TESTIMONY FOR JESUS CHRIST TO THE PAGAN POPULATION AMONG WHOM THEY DWELT. ACTS 16:5
- THE WORD FOR THIS IS CALLED OUT ASSEMBLY.

#### II. WHAT WERE THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE EARLY CHURCH?

- IT WAS SELF-GOVERNING. (AUTONOMOUS) ACTS 6
- IT CHOSE ITS OWN PASTORS AND DEACONS. I TIMOTHY 1:1-12
- ITS PASTOR WAS ITS VISIBLE HEAD ON THIS EARTH. HEBREWS 13:17, I TIMOTHY 5:17
- IT SUPPORTED POOR SAINTS. ROMANS 15:25-26, I CORINTHIANS 16:1-3
- IT IMMERSUED ITS CONVERTS IN WATER. ACTS 16:33
- IT SENT OUT EVANGELISTS AND MISSIONARIES. ACTS 13:1-4; 16:1-4



III. WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ HAVE?

- NO CARDINALS, NOVENAS, NUNS, ABBOTS, MONKS, PRIESTS.
- NO BEADS.
- NO SACRAMENTS.
- NO PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD.
- NO REVERENCE SHOWN FOR MARY.
- NO STATUES AS AIDS TO WORSHIP.



IV. THE EARLY CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS IS HARASSED AND PERSECUTED BY \_\_\_\_\_. ACTS 24

- ROME BEHEADED JAMES. ACTS 12:1-2
- IMPRISONED PAUL. ACTS 28:16
- WHIPPED AND CRUCIFIED JESUS CHRIST. MATTHEW 28
- DID ROME CEASE TO KILL AND IMPRISON CHRISTIANS AFTER THE 313 AD EDICT OF MILAN?

◇ This is from 325 AD through 500 AD.

The church state organized under Constantine pronounced the death sentence on every Bible-believing Christian in the Empire and every pagan in the Empire who did not subscribe to its own council decrees.

V. WHAT THE EARLY CHURCH DID \_\_\_\_\_ DO.

- THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT NEVER COMMEMORATED ANYONE'S BIRTHDAY.
  - THEY NEVER PRAYED TO MARY.
  - THEY ARE NEVER CAUGHT SPRINKLING BABIES.
  - THEY DID NOT HAVE CHURCH COUNCILS.
- ◇ When the word occurs in the Bible it is always in reference to a group of religious hypocrites assembled to carry out the will of Satan in suppressing the truth.
  - ◇ Acts 4:15, 22:30, 24:20, 6:12
  - ◇ Mark 13:9, Luke 22:66
  - ◇ John 11:47
  - ◇ Acts 6:15

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*

• EVERY CHURCH HISTORIAN INCLUDES AT LEAST 8 CHURCH COUNCILS.

- ◇ Nicaea 325
- ◇ Constantinople 381
- ◇ Carthage 387
- ◇ Ephesus 431
- ◇ Chalcedon 451
- ◇ Constantinople 553
- ◇ Constantinople 680
- ◇ Nicaea 787

- IF THE COUNCILS OF MARK, LUKE, JOHN, AND ACTS WERE A SATANIC OPERATION WHY IS THIS NEVER MENTIONED IN THE HISTORY BOOKS?  
 SEE SCHAFF VOLUME 1

VI. WHAT DID THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE EARLY CHURCH LOOK LIKE?



- THEY HAD ORDAINED ELDERS (PASTORS AND DEACONS)
- THEY DID NOT HAVE:
  - ◇ Priests
  - ◇ Nuns
  - ◇ Monks
  - ◇ Archbishops
  - ◇ Cardinals
  - ◇ Popes

• **AN ARCH-BISHOP ACCORDING TO WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY, WOULD BE AT LEAST ONE SPIRITUAL RANK HIGHER THAN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**  
**1 PETER 2:25**

VII. A MINISTRY OR PRACTICE THAT IS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE IS NOT NECESSARILY \_\_\_\_\_

- EXAMPLES OF INNOCENT PRACTICES.
  - ◊ Sunday School
  - ◊ Bus Ministry
  
- WHEN A CLEAR CASE OF VIOLATING OR CONTRADICTING SCRIPTURE ARISES WE MUST CONDEMN IT.
  - ◊ Repeated sacrifice. Hebrews 10:8-14
  - ◊ Bloodless sacrifice. Hebrews 9:22
  - ◊ Calling a religious leader father. Matthew 23:9
  - ◊ Praying to more than one Mediator. I Timothy 2:5
  - ◊ Sinlessness of Mary. Luke 2:22



VIII. WHO WAS THE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ MADE OF?

- BAPTIZED BELIEVERS WHO BELIEVED THE WORD OF GOD.  
 I THESSALONIANS 2:13

IX. WHAT WAS THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE EARLY CHURCH TOWARD:

- BIBLE PREACHING AND TEACHING? 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13
- SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY? COLOSSIANS 2:8, I TIMOTHY 6:20
- THE SECOND COMING? HEBREWS 10:25



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## SECTION 2: WHY BAPTIST? KEYS TO UNLOCKING CHURCH HISTORY

“I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times.”  
Psalms 77:5

For enquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers: 9 (For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow:) 10 Shall not they teach thee, and tell thee, and utter words out of their heart?  
Job 8:8-10

### I. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE EMPHASIS GOD PLACES ON OUR UNDERSTANDING \_\_\_\_\_.

#### A. GOD REVEALS HIS \_\_\_\_\_ THROUGH HISTORY.

1. Job 8:8-10
2. Isaiah 42:9, 46:9-10

#### B. GOD REVEALS \_\_\_\_\_ IN HISTORY.

1. Job 41:33-34 Satan changes his face.
2. God will not conceal it.

#### C. HISTORY \_\_\_\_\_ ITSELF.

1. Ecclesiastes 1:9
2. Ecclesiastes 3:14-15

#### D. HISTORY \_\_\_\_\_ US TO OUR HERITAGE.

1. Proverbs 22:28
2. Proverbs 23:10



### II. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE BOOK OF \_\_\_\_\_.

#### A. IT IS A BOOK OF \_\_\_\_\_.

1. From an Old Testament structure to a New Testament structure. Hebrews 9:16-17
2. From the Law and Jewish Gospels, to the church epistles.
3. From the Jew to the Gentile; a kingdom of heaven message to a kingdom of God message.

- Matthew 10:6
- Acts 7 Stephen
- Acts 8 Phillip
- Acts 9 Saul
- Acts 10 Cornelius

#### 4. From Peter to Paul

- Acts 1-12 Peter
- Acts 13-28 Paul

#### 5. From Jerusalem to Antioch

- In Jerusalem they are waiting for the kingdom of heaven. (They had all things common)
- In Antioch they send out missionaries.

### B. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE USE OF THE WORD \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

1. It is used 27 times. 26 times it is negative. (The positive being Acts 6 where some priests are saved.)
2. Priests beat believers.
3. Priests imprisoned them.
4. Priests commanded them not to preach.
5. The high priest commanded others to smite Paul on the mouth. Acts 23:2
6. The word is not found in any of the church epistles.

### III. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE \_\_\_\_\_ GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS IN HISTORY.

#### A. ANTIOCH OF \_\_\_\_\_

1. First deacon to preach. Acts 6:5
2. First Gentile revival. Acts 11:19-21
3. Barnabas sent to Antioch bring Saul.
4. First called Christians there. 11:26
5. Known for the first Bible teachers.
6. Missionaries sent out and then return to Antioch to give report.
7. All references to Antioch are positive.



B. ALEXANDRIA \_\_\_\_\_.

1. A school is established by Philo in Alexandria Egypt . He is influenced by Plato, Socrates and other philosophers combined with the Old Testament.
2. Egypt is always a picture of the world.
3. There are 37 references to God bringing His people out of Egypt.
4. Coming out of Egypt is a picture of salvation.
5. Genesis 47:29 Jacob prayed “bury me not in Egypt.
6. Genesis 50:24-25 Joseph asked them to “carry up my bones” from Egypt.
7. It is a picture of a downward move.
  - Exodus 20:2
  - Deuteronomy 4:20, 17:16
  - Isaiah 31:1
8. What does God say about Alexandria in Acts?

Egypt is always a picture of the world in the Scriptures.



- Acts 6 those from Alexandria disputed with Stephen.
- Alexandria is Identified with bad Bible teaching.
- The first mention of Antioch and Alexandria together is in Acts 6
- A ship from Alexandria took Paul to Rome and death.

C. \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Rome slaughtered innocent babies in Matthew 2:13.
2. Rome beheaded John the Baptist in Matthew 14.
3. The Local church in the book of Acts is harassed and persecuted by Rome. Acts 24
4. Rome beheaded the Apostle James. Acts 12:1-2

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5. Rome Imprisoned Paul. Acts 28:16
6. Rome whipped and crucified our precious Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 28

### SECTION 3: WHY BAPTIST?

#### BUILDING A BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF CHURCH HISTORY

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ PERIODS OF CHURCH HISTORY. REVELATION 2
- A. Ephesus; (Fully purposed) Revelation 2:1: From the Apostles (Matthew 10) to AD 90  
Montanists—They had left their first love.
  - B. Smyrna; (Myrrh) Revelation 2:8 AD 90-325 AD  
Novatians
  - C. Pergamos; (Much Marriage) Revelation 2:12 AD 325 - AD 500  
Donatists
  - D. Thyatira; (Odor of Affliction) Revelation 2:18 AD 500 – AD 1000  
Paulitians
  - E. Sardis; (Red Ones) Revelation 3:1 AD 1000 – AD 1500  
Cathari, Bogomils, Albigenses, Waldenses, Henricans, Bulgarians,  
Petrobusians, Arnoldists, Lollards, Hussites, Anabaptists.
  - F. Philadelphia; (Brotherly Love) Revelation 3:7 AD 1500 – 1900
  - G. Laodicea; (Rights of the People) Revelation 3:14 1900-?

- II. WHAT DO THESE PERIODS OF CHURCH HISTORY TEACH US THAT WILL HELP US IN UNDERSTANDING \_\_\_\_\_ HISTORY?

A. EACH ERA ENDS IN \_\_\_\_\_.

1. This is opposed to the \_\_\_\_\_ approach to church history.
2. What we learn is that \_\_\_\_\_ has a lively interest in the affairs of men and has had his way with the majority of them since Genesis 3
3. He is alive and well and has his days of greatest power and authority yet \_\_\_\_\_ him.

B. A HISTORY (SACRED OR SECULAR) THAT REFUSES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF AN INTELLIGENT, ACTIVE, PERSISTENT, AGGRESSIVE PERVERSION OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ (GENESIS 3) IS NOT A HISTORY TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY ANYONE WHO IS ENGAGED IN FINDING THE TRUTH.

1. II Corinthians 2:11 "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."
2. II Corinthians 4:4
3. Revelation 12:9 "which deceiveth the whole world."

III. NO BIBLICAL HISTORIAN CAN BE \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE STUDY OF CHURCH HISTORY.

A. IF GOD HAS A \_\_\_\_\_, SATAN HAS A \_\_\_\_\_.  
II CORINTHIANS 11:4

B. IF GOD HAS \_\_\_\_\_, SATAN HAS \_\_\_\_\_.  
II CORINTHIANS 11:15

C. IF GOD HAS A \_\_\_\_\_, SATAN WILL HAVE AN \_\_\_\_\_.  
MATTHEW 24:5, LUKE 21:8



D. IF GOD HAS A \_\_\_\_\_ WHO IS A CHURCH AND A CITY; SO WILL SATAN.  
REVELATION 21:9-10, 17:1-5, 17:18

IV. NO BIBLICAL HISTORIAN WILL EVER FALL INTO THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE PHILOSOPHERS.  
"WHAT IS TRUTH?"

A. THE WORD OF GOD IS TRUTH. JOHN 17:17

B. JESUS IS TRUTH. JOHN 1:1-3

C. WE ARE TO BE FAITHFUL WITNESSES NOT CONVENIENT POLITICIANS. I CORINTHIANS 4:1-2

V. SINCE EACH CHURCH AGE ENDS IN APOSTASY THE STUDENT OF HISTORY SHOULD BE VERY ATTENTIVE TO ANY \_\_\_\_\_ OR MISAPPLICATION OF THE WORD OF GOD IN EACH PERIOD OF CHURCH HISTORY, FOR APOSTASY CANNOT SPRING OUT OF THE GROUND.

A. A LIE MUST HAVE \_\_\_\_\_, A FOUNDATION, BUILDERS, PROMOTERS, ADVERTISERS, AND BUYERS.

B. SEEDS OF DEGENERATION WILL BE FOUND IN EVERY PERIOD BECAUSE, AFTER ALL, IT IS THE CORRUPTIBLE SEED IN MAN THAT PUTS HIM IN THE GRAVE.