

Morning Star Baptist Church
"I am a Baptist Because..."
The Blessed Book
2/25/07

Introduction

Isaiah 34:16 Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.

Why are Baptists so different and seemingly intolerant compared to other Protestant and Interdenominational groups? Is it our traditions? Or our narrow minded Bible Colleges? Or our prejudiced preachers? Are we just insecure and afraid to accept change? This set of twelve messages entitled "I am a Baptist Because" will answer those questions and others.

Most (evangelical) churches claim to go by the Bible. But many others diminish, dilute, or totally ignore The Word of God.

I. The Blessed Book Gives Divine Jurisdiction

- A. The Bible is the Word and words of God and was given to the Lord's Church **John 17:1-14 (vv. 6, 8, and 14)**.
- B. As with Israel in the Old Testament, the New Testament Church was given the Oracles of God.
- C. The NT Church must teach believers to observe all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded.
- D. What a library we have! Doctrines, prophesies, the Gospel, Heaven and Hell, and how to live in harmony with God. We also have the blueprint for how to administer a NT church.
- E. The Church has no higher authority than the Holy Word of God. Not tradition **Mark 7:8-9, 13**. And not popular opinion **I Timothy 4:1-6**.
- F. Baptists go by the Book **I Thessalonians 2:13** and **I Peter 4:11**. What do we uphold? **I Timothy 3:15**. Therefore we contend for the once given faith of **Jude 3**, the Book with a Mesoretic Hebrew Old Testament and a Majority Greek Text from Palestine, the KJV.

When Sir Walter Scott was dying he asked his son to bring him the book. "What book?" the son asked. "There is but one Book," was his reply.

II. The Blessed Book Gives Divine Instruction

- A. The Divinely Inspired Holy Bible contains a wealth of knowledge that is alive, always fresh and relevant.
- B. It is profitable; a sure investment that always pays returns **II Timothy 3:16**.
- C. It is a great therapist and a Divine X-ray machine **Hebrews 4:12**.
- D. It is wonderful nourishment **I Timothy 4:6**.

II Corinthians 2:17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

III. The Blessed Book Gives Divine Sanctification

A. The Book of Books has a way of separating the true church from all other dissenting churches **John 17:17-20**.

B. Because the True Church goes by the Book, all modern trends and methods have to square with the scripture.

C. Like the church at Ephesus, **Revelation 2:1-3**, such churches will be unpopular in this day and age.

I Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

IV. The Blessed Book Gives Divine Production

A. Fruitfulness depends on this glorious book **John 15:1-8**.

B. It promotes growth among believers **I Timothy 4:6**, and verse **16** of the same chapter, promises lives saved.

C. The Word washes the church **Ephesians 5:26** and the church will grow and avoid false doctrine **Ephesians 4:14**.

Conclusion

Revelation 3:7-10 The church at Philadelphia received no criticism from her Divine Head because she kept God's Word. Today Baptist churches are forsaking the Bible by using new translations, ignoring divine authority, and allowing pragmatism to take over. Stay with the Baptist Church that stays with the Book.