



Logos Class

What Baptists Believe Session 6

Class for July 5, 2026

Rooms 123/124 Adult Ed Building

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *May 10, 2026. - What Baptists Believe Part 1- History & Distinctives*
- ✓ *May 17, 2026 - What Baptists Believe Part 2- God the Father*
- ✓ *May 24, 2006 – Dr Scott Downing - Free Will vs Predestination*
- ✓ *May 31, 2006. - Dr Scott Downing – Prophecy Overview*
- ✓ *June 7, 2026. - Charlie Owens – What Baptists Do - Missions*
- ✓ *June 14, 2026 - What Baptists Believe Part 3*
- ✓ *June 21, 2026. - What Baptists Believe Part 4*
- ✓ *June 28, 2026. - What Baptists Believe Part 5*
- ✓ *July 5, 2026. - What Baptists Believe Part 6*
- *July 12, 2026. -What Baptists Believe Part 7 (final session)*

Quick Update ...ICYMI

Middle East

- *MOU signed between The US and Iran. Israel is an unsigned party with hazy obligations*
- *Growing rift between US and Israel on the MOU, and its limitations on Israel's right to self defense*
- *The "world" applauds the deal, but many issues and unresolved items remain, especially for the security of Israel and it's citizens in the Northern part of the State*

US/World

- *Many are troubled by the Iran Peace Deal, but God's prophetic word WILL come to pass*
- *FIFA in North America brings huge security challenges*
- *Anti-Israel sentiment growing in the US population (Pew research poll)*
- *The Russia-Ukraine war is going nowhere towards an end.*
- *Relations between the President and Congress are strained: cabinet picks, the economy, and war powers, Iran*
- *Christians are being slaughtered in African conflicts. Very little coverage*
- *Europe is in an immigration crisis, with danger everywhere*

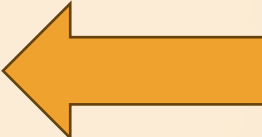
*Earthquakes, Floods, volcanic eruptions, **famine, and disease.** Wars and rumors of wars. California fault lines are under the most pressure for hundreds of years*

- ***Many signs of the Tribulation are appearing with more frequency***
 - *Natural Disasters, Isolation of Israel, Antisemitism, Apostasy in the church, **Peace in Israel to presage the Antichrist, Scoffers of Prophecy, and deniers of God. Time of Noah and time of Lot prophecies. Continuation of the Aliyah to Israel. Isolation of Israel, and end-time coalitions forming. Christian Apostasy and Lack of Unity. One World Religion***
 - ***Substantial European acts to move away from Western values and embrace one-world ideas.***
 - *Remember, Israel is God's timepiece for the End of Time. Israel is the hour hand, Jerusalem is the minute hand, and the Temple Mount is the second hand*

Basic Baptist Beliefs, subject to the caveats mentioned earlier

Belief in

- ✓ Nature and Essence of God
- ✓ Jesus Christ
- ✓ Holy Spirit
- ✓ The Bible, including the authority and interpretation
- ✓ Nature and Essence of Man
- ✓ Man's relation to God
- ✓ Salvation
- ✓ Worship Purpose, not so much style
- ✓ New Testament Church, including Polity/Structure
- ✓ Family
- ✓ Marriage & Culture
- ✓ Government Relationship
- End Times – generally, not in detail
- Heaven/Hell



These are the basic topics
We will discuss in the follow-on
sessions

Unity in Essentials, Diversity in Non-Essentials

- ✓ **Some of the non-essentials are important, even if not a salvation issue (Free will / Predestination beliefs. Some Baptists hold Calvinistic beliefs)**

We will cover details of these beliefs in future sessions

Review

I want to touch on a quick review of both Salvation and the Purpose of Worship. We covered them too quickly at the end of the last session.

*In today's culture, there is widespread **pluralism** and a **spiritual feeling** that is in sharp contrast to true Biblical Salvation*

Pluralism /ploʊr'ə-līz''əm/ **noun**

- 1. A condition in which numerous distinct ethnic, religious, or cultural groups are present and tolerated within a society. (pluralistic society)*
- 2. The belief that such a condition is desirable or socially beneficial.*

Spirituality (as defined by Psychology Today)

- Spirituality means different things to different people. For some, it's primarily about a belief in God and active participation in organized religion. For others, it's about non-religious experiences that help them get in touch with their spiritual selves through quiet reflection, time in nature, private prayer, yoga, or meditation.*
- Many people identify as spiritual but not religious: With a few exceptions, the percentage of adults who identify as religious in many industrialized countries is declining, while remaining generally high in less developed nations. Even as religious affiliation decreases, though, a sense of spiritual identification could remain steady or even increase.*

But aren't there many ways to God? *No, Only One*

The Baptist Faith and Message states that salvation *"is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior."* Citing the prophet Joel, the Apostle Paul asserted, *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13)*. In the most frequently cited verse in the Bible, Jesus told Nicodemus, *"God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)*.

Jesus, Himself said in John 14:6 ⁶ Jesus said to him, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

"God had only one plan of salvation for everybody everywhere – by Grace Alone, in Faith Alone, through Christ Alone"

Timothy George, Founding Dean, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University

Spirituality Discussion

Not all Spirits are from the Lord

1 John 4:1-3 *4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does **not** acknowledge Jesus is **not** from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

 Popular Ideas like the Force (from Star Wars), or the Cosmic spirits that guide all of nature do not acknowledge God and are therefore not from the Lord

Spiritual Spectrum



A LINEAR SPECTRUM OF SPIRITUAL BELIEFS

- *Being Spiritual is not the same as being filled with the Holy Spirit. Not all of us are completely filled with the Holy Spirit, but we should not have the spirit of the antichrist*

Purpose of Worship...meaningful worship

Worship can sound like a complex theological concept, but when you strip away the formality and language, its purpose boils down to these things:

 ***It is how we show our Acknowledgment, Honor, Praise, and Love for God***

Normally, we think about gathering to worship the Lord, but it is also our private attitude and humble acknowledgment of His Majesty, His Love for us, and our thankfulness towards Him.

When we worship the Lord, three main things happen: it shapes who you are, it shows what you actually believe, and it changes how you live.

- **It's a Training Ground (Formation):** Worship isn't just a weekly event; it's where Christians practice their relationship with God. Through preaching, prayer, and activities (like communion), it teaches basic faith habits and gives "Biblical centered training" for handling real life.
- **It's a Mirror of Belief (Revelation):** How a church worships tells you exactly what they believe about God, salvation, and humanity. It's where abstract theology becomes a real, visible confession of faith. Is the Power of the Holy Spirit in the midst?
- **It's a Launchpad (Transformation):** Worship doesn't end when the service is over. The habits, grace and mercy, plus the new life experienced during worship are meant to "send" people out to live differently in the world. It is a filling station for work to come.

Acts 1:8 says, ***"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."***

What is a “New Testament” Church

This topic will generate debate, and heated discussion. Baptist churches always want to be a new testament church, but styles and practices vary.

BF&M says this...

- A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.
- Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors (elders), and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.
- "The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation."
- We also want our “gospel” to be the Apostolic Teaching from the NT and based on Peter's confession in Matt 16:13-19 ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, ***“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ...and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hell(Hades) shall not prevail against it***

A Deeper Look...

Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do **you** say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, ***you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell (hades) shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.***”

These verses and their meaning have caused major divisions in Christian worship and denominations for centuries. I will try to clarify them and state what Baptists believe they mean

Keys, Binding, Loosing, Hell, Heaven and Earth

Complicated language, and let's dig a little deeper so we can understand what it means.

First, Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ, Messiah, or Anointed one, and was the Son of God. God revealed this to Peter and Jesus blessed Him because of it.

“On this Rock”...Baptists believe the Rock is the confession of Faith by Peter, not Peter himself.

Keys to the Kingdom – Christ is turning over to the church the gatekeeping responsibility for opening (sharing) the Gospel of Christ. Baptists don't believe this is the sole purview of Peter as gatekeeper (common imagery of Peter at the Pearly Gates comes from these verses)

Binding and Loosing - binding and loosing represent the church's delegated authority to make decisions—about discipline, forgiveness, doctrine, and community standards—with the assurance that heaven ratifies what the church does in Christ's name.

*Hell/Hades – mistranslation in KJV and carried on, but **Hades** is accurate and is used by Christ because of where he did the teaching (Panias).*

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Caesarea Philippi - Panias



If you have ever been on a tour of Caesarea Philippi in Israel, you are where this teaching took place.

Mythology says this town (Panias) is the lair for the god Pan, and this entrance is the entrance to the underworld, or Hades

Caesarea Philippi was originally established as a shrine to the Greek god Pan and later became a city under Herod Philip, who named it in honor of Caesar. It is biblically significant as the site where Peter declared Jesus to be the Messiah.

...on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell (hades) shall not prevail against it.

I can see Jesus pointing to this opening in the rock as the gates of Hades as He makes this statement.

Family, Marriage, and Children

I want to address what Baptists believe about the family next, because it is the foundational institution of human society

- It is composed of people related to one another by marriage, blood, and adoption.
BF&M page 157
- **Marriage** is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. Marriage is a model of the relationship between Christ and His Church, and is the covenant relationship for procreation of children, who are a blessing from the Lord.
- **Husbands, Wives, and Children are all image bearers of Christ**, and therefore are equally important and valued by God.
- **Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord**
- **Parents are to lead, model, and teach Godly values to their children**, and children are to honor and obey their parents

Confusion about Family in Culture

- **Confusion over the nature of the family has produced a context of great danger in modern times.** Few confessions of faith throughout the history of the church included articles on marriage and the family because Christians through the centuries have been united in a common understanding of God's plan for marriage, family, and children. In adding this article to *The Baptist Faith and Message* in 1998, Southern Baptists boldly declared a commitment to the biblical vision of the family as our standard and witness.
- The modern secular concept of the family is largely driven by **sociological theories** and assumes that marriage and the traditional family structure are **merely the products of human social evolution**. Thus, proponents of the secular view believe that because the family is simply a sociological development, it can be renegotiated and restructured to meet modern expectations.
- **Christians must insist otherwise.** We believe marriage, which was instituted by God before the fall, was a central part of God's design for humanity from the beginning (see Gen. 2:23-24).

Furthermore, we believe the family, consisting of a mother, a father, and their children, reflects God's glory in the right ordering of civilization and society

Salt and Light

Matt13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

- ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven

Government Relationship

In today's world, many believe Christians should not be involved in politics and should not even vote...But what does the Bible say?

The Establishment of Righteousness

- Christians believe that the government has very important responsibilities, including a divine mandate to punish evildoers and to reward those who do right (see Rom. 13:1-7). The good of the commonwealth is necessarily a matter of Christian concern. Therefore, when Christians oppose sin, both in individual and in cultural terms, we are motivated by Christian love and concern.*
- In addition, we do not speak if we were not sinners. We speak to the larger society as sinners who have been redeemed and reborn by the power of Christ.*
- A Christian bears responsibility to engage the political and cultural order and to do so in a way that is distinctively faithful to the commands of Christ. We understand that the church is the people of God and the only institution on earth that will exist in the age to come. Governments and social orders will all pass away; history records the rising and falling of countless empires, kingdoms, and nations.*

So, what are we to do? >>Read Matthew 5:13-16

We are to be Salt and Light

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount in **Matt 5: 13-16**

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven

 ***We are to preserve and illuminate our world***

 ***We do this by engaging in culture and politics, all in faithfulness to the Lord and His WORD***

Session Discussion for next week

I want to finish this study, cover two important topics, and then answer any of your questions.

I will cover:

- *End Times – generally, not in detail*
- *Heaven/Hell*

There are many other subjects that we could cover, but I have shortened our discussion to what I consider key beliefs. An index of the Chapters in the BF&M book

- Chapter 1: The Scriptures
- Chapter 2: God
- Chapter 3: God the Father
- Chapter 4: God the Son
- Chapter 5: God the Holy Spirit
- Chapter 6: Man
- Chapter 7: Salvation
- Chapter 8: God's Purpose of Grace
- Chapter 9: The Church
- Chapter 10: Baptism & the Lord's Supper
- Chapter 11: The Lord's Day.
- Chapter 12: The Kingdom
- Chapter 13: Last Things
- Chapter 14: Evangelism and Missions
- Chapter 15: Education.
- Chapter 16: Stewardship.
- Chapter 17: Cooperation.
- Chapter 18: The Christian and the Social Order
- Chapter 19: Peace and War.
- Chapter 20: Religious Liberty
- Chapter 21: The Family

Religious Liberty

Baptists have historically been fierce defenders of Religious Liberty

- God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men **which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it.**
Church and state should be separate.
 - The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others.
 - Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. **The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work.**
- The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind.
- The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. **A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power."**

Next week

*We will finish the detailed lessons on “**What Baptists Believe**”. This is an important study for all of us to recalibrate our beliefs regarding God’s Word and also be in harmony with FRC's beliefs.*

➤ *Pray for our Nation and its leaders*

- *Pray for both the Iranian War and the Russia/Ukraine wars to come to an end*
- *Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and Peace for Israel*

➤ *Our State and its Leaders, and the elections to come, for God to give us Godly leaders*

➤ *Our Church, the Pastors and Leaders*

➤ *Pray for the needs of our class members and families*

Thank God for his mercy and grace for each of us as we struggle with all the issues and problems we are facing