



# Logos Class

## *What Baptists Believe Session 3*

Class for June 14, 2026

Rooms 123/124 Adult Ed Building

# Before we get started...

- Thank you for coming and supporting the teachers while Vicki and I were trying to get some vacation time. We are glad to be home
- Special Thanks to Scott, Charlie, Randy, and all of you for pitching in and doing what needed to be done
- To our visitors, thanks for returning today, and Vicki & I look forward to meeting you and answering any of your Questions
- Today, we are going to pick up in our series of **What Baptists Believe** and continue through the key points...but before we do that, I want to take a related detour.
- While I will be doing most of the talking, ask your questions because the goal here is for us to discuss and understand what our beliefs are and should be. What we do not get covered today, I will just push into next week

# 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*

# Quick Update ...ICYMI

## *Middle East*

- *Iran war in a hazy area – Sanctions, Straits, Oil, attacks by all*
- *Oil-related products are very high: Gasoline, Diesel, Jet fuel*
- *Turkey is moving towards its destiny, and US/Israel relations are becoming a flash point*

## *US/World*

- *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 strained: cabinet picks, the economy, and war powers*
- *Christians are being slaughtered in African conflicts. Very little coverage*
- *Europe is in an immigration crisis, with danger everywhere*

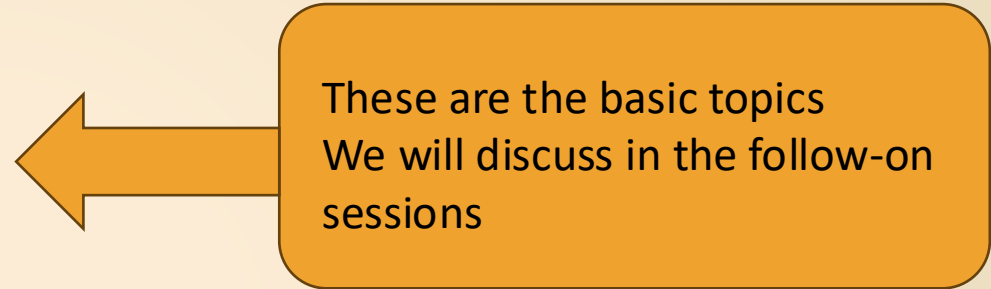
*Earthquakes, Floods, volcanic eruptions, **famine, and disease. Wars and rumors of wars.***

- ***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
- Marriage & Culture
- Family
- Government Relationship
- ✓ End Times – generally, not in detail
- Heaven/Hell



## 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*


# Quick Reminder: Distinctives – *What makes us Baptist?*


Many of our beliefs are common to other Evangelical churches, aside from structures, but here are some absolutes


 **Authority and Belief in the Bible as our sole authority** – Nothing added to this Word. Not Church tradition, elder writings, other books, not culture. A Baptist church is committed to a membership under the authority of Scripture - 5 SOLAs express this...

- ***SOLA SCRIPTURA*** – In the Scriptures alone- We are people of the Book
- ***SOLA GRATIA*** – In GRACE alone, no works
- ***SOLA FIDE*** – Faith alone (in Christ Alone), no Jesus plus
- ***SOLA CHRISTUS***– In Christ Alone
- ***SOLI DEO GLORIA*** – Glory to God alone

 **Ordinances of the Church** – Only two...Believers' Baptism by Immersion, and Celebrating the Lord's Supper

 **Priesthood of the Believer** – This means that no other person stands between us and the Lord, no intermediary, no priest, no confessional, no Saints. *Each of us can and must go straight to the Lord (see Matt 27:51)*

 **Soul Competency** – Each of us is able and responsible to stand before the Lord to account for our own sin. We do make exceptions for mental deficiency in the age of accountability. ***God has no grandchildren. There are some key points in the area of Salvation in this statement.***

 **Believer's Baptism** – Each person must make the **conscious decision** to choose the gift of salvation. This confirms their belief. This Baptism is not a salvation requirement but is an obedience issue. Infant baptism is not done. We generally do a baby dedication to affirm intentions to raise and support the child in the training of the Lord, but it is not baptism. *Baptism is by immersion and comes after salvation (regeneration)*

Last time we talked about God the Father

*Today, we will discuss **Jesus Christ** and the **Holy Spirit**, two other expressions of God*

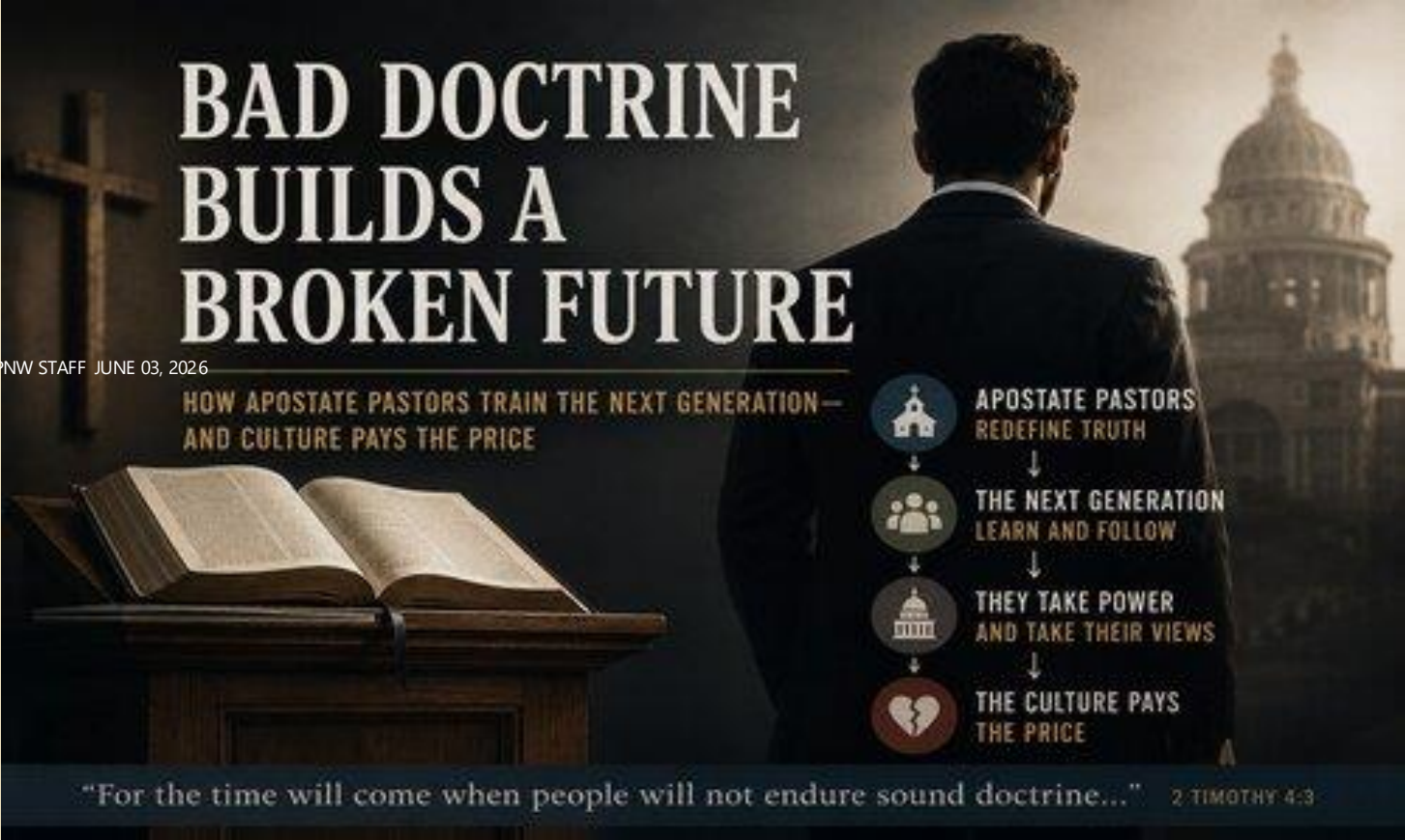
*Any Questions about what we have discussed in either of the two previous sessions?*

*I want to take a detour on a related topic and talk about an article that Vicki and I read, and what it all means for us.*

# The News is full of many articles about the Church and Staff

**Prophecy News Watch**, June 3, 2026

When Apostate Pastors Make Disciples:  
--- *The Dangerous Legacy of Progressives*



**St Andrews Presbyterian Church – Austin**  
Minister: Dr. Jim Rigby

*I have been **pastor** here at St. Andrew’s for over 35 years. I have a love of world religions and a passion for social justice. My hope for ministry is to help people discover the deeper aspects of their own lives, to share life together with other seekers, and then join together to be a catalyst for making our world happier and safer for the vulnerable ones of our world.*

**Disciple:** James Talarico, US Senate Candidate from Texas

# Article Summary

- *The article argues that pastors and church leaders leave a **spiritual legacy** by shaping the beliefs of the next generation.*
- *It warns that progressive Christianity, as represented by Jim Rigby and his influence on James Talarico, reinterprets Christian faith through modern cultural values rather than historic biblical teaching. (Lens of culture)*
- *The article presents criticism of the Apostle Paul within Rigby's church as evidence of a broader rejection of biblical authority.*
- *It contends that once Scripture is treated as flawed, outdated, or optional, **human opinion begins to replace God's Word as the final authority.***
- *The article criticizes efforts to revise traditional language for God, arguing that biblical descriptions such as Father and Lord are part of God's self-revelation.*
- *It identifies progressive positions on sexuality, gender, abortion, and inclusive Bible translations as **examples of theological accommodation becoming theological transformation.***
- *The article connects church teaching to public life, arguing that what pastors teach eventually influences political leaders and cultural institutions.*
- *It emphasizes that doctrine matters because ideas spread through discipleship, education, social media, politics, and public leadership.*
- *The article concludes by urging Christians to remain vigilant against false teaching, apostasy, and the erosion of biblical truth within the church.*

# Some topic discussions are in order...

## **False Teachers in Scripture**

Scripture repeatedly warns believers to recognize false teachers by their fruit, doctrine, and conduct. Jesus, John, Peter, Paul, Jude, and Acts all describe false teachers as deceptive, destructive, and often outwardly religious while inwardly corrupt.

False teachers distort the gospel, introduce destructive heresies, exploit believers with false words, and appeal to people's desires rather than sound doctrine.

The Old Testament establishes the same pattern by condemning prophets who speak from their own minds, offer vain hopes, or lead people away from the Lord.

## **Signs of Apostasy**

Apostasy develops through spiritual decline: sin becomes more attractive, repentance is delayed, correction is resisted, and wrongdoing is defended rather than confessed.

Persecution, affliction, and disappointment with professing believers can contribute to spiritual cooling and departure from faith.

Willful persistence in sin after exposure to the gospel, especially shrinking back from Christ, marks a serious apostate condition.

Apostasy shows itself both inwardly and outwardly through disbelief, speech, actions, and the abandonment or distortion of the true gospel.

A key distinction is whether a person remains concerned about God; temporary struggle differs from apostasy when concern for God and repentance remain present.

# Cults and Examples

## **Religious Cults and New Religious Movements**

*The term “cult” has different meanings depending on the perspective used: sociological, theological, or psychological.*

***Sociologically**, cults are minority religious movements outside mainstream traditions, often centered around a person, ideology, or cause.*

***Theologically**, cults are religious movements whose teachings and practices conflict with biblical Christianity.*

*Psychologically, cults are marked by leader-follower control, recruitment methods, identity reshaping, thought control, and authoritarian leadership.*

*Modern new religious movements have increased since the late 1960s and include groups influenced by mystical, Eastern, self-improvement, or human-potential ideas.*

## **Examples, Terms, and Practical Concerns**

*Groups such as Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormonism, Christian Science, Hare Krishna in the West, and UFO religions are presented as examples of modern religious movements classified by theology and history.*

***Sects** differ from new religions because sects break away from an existing parent religion, while new religions arise as novel movements without that same schismatic origin.*

***“Cult”** functions as a broader and more pejorative term that can include doctrinal error, social marginality, and coercive or authoritarian control.*

*Scott dealt with many of these topics during his discussions... Any questions before we move on?*

# Back to What Baptists Believe

## *What do Baptists believe about Jesus Christ?*



*Jesus Christ is part of the Godhead, FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT (not created)*

*Baptist Faith and Message book, p39*

- Christ is the **eternal** Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind, yet without sin.
- He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in **His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.**
- He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion.
- **He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God**, where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man.
- He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord

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

# How do we see Him?

Do we see Him in a Manger?

Do we see Him Teaching?

Do we see Him Healing, Walking, at the Transfiguration, in the Temple?

Do we see Him with the cross? Carrying it, being nailed to it, hanging on it?

Do we see Him with His Disciples at the Last Supper?

Do we see Him returning to the Father?

Do we see Him meeting us in the Clouds?, Returning to Earth?

Do we see Him coming in the Clouds for Judgment on a White Horse?

Do we see Him on His Throne in Heaven, on Earth?

How do you see Him when you think about Him

# How do we communicate with Him

We communicate through prayer, both spoken and thought

The Spirit in us connects us to the Lord and provides the conduit for Him to speak to us, and us to communicate with Him.

We also understand Him speaking through His Word...the Bible. It is the truth of God and His guide for our lives.

***Caution:** Heretics and false teachers have always directed their attacks on the doctrines most closely connected with Jesus Christ. The believing church must always confront these false teachings and doctrinal errors with vigor and truth*

## **Gal. 1:6-9 No Other Gospel**

*<sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> **But even if we or an angel from heaven** should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

*We must be ready to defend the virgin birth of Christ, His full deity and humanity, His miraculous acts, His bodily resurrection, His victorious return, and the substitutionary character of His atonement, as well as all other biblical truths about Jesus Christ.*

*Compromise on these doctrines will be fatal to our witness and subversive of our faith. We stand on the solid rock as we declare these great doctrines of Christian faith. Faithfulness to Christ demands that we cling to Him and serve Him all our days.*

# Next week

*We will continue 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*