



Logos Class

What Baptists Believe Session 5

Class for June 28, 2026

Rooms 123/124 Adult Ed Building

Tonight's Freedom Celebration



Drop off Tents/Chairs/Tables at noon today

- Setup and placement
- Gather at 6:00 pm
 - Bring what you agreed to bring if you volunteered
 - Bring your own chairs to sit
 - Everyone bring your dinner/snacks/drinks or buy from food trucks
 - Sunscreen, bug spray, hats
 - Water, desserts, will be provided
- Festivities begin at 7:00pm
- Fireworks at dusk

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*

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*

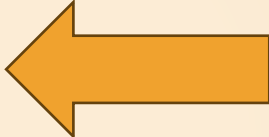
*Earthquakes, Floods, volcanic eruptions, **famine, and disease.** Wars and rumors of wars. California fault lines are under the most pressure for hundreds of years*

- ***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**
 - Marriage & Culture
 - Family
 - 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

The Bible

As Baptists, we are people of the Book

The Bible is our sole authority for our beliefs and practices

We believe it is God's Word to Mankind, given by the Spirit to specific men to reveal what God has done, is doing now, and will do in the future. It is the redemptive plan for mankind.

Baptist Faith and Message, p7

*"The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. **It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.** Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation."*

God's Revelation in the Bible

When we speak of the Bible or the Holy Scriptures, we are talking

- about God's Revelation to Man
- about 66 books divided into the Old and New Testaments. This Book is different from any other book, for it is not a collection of human opinions about God, but it is, in fact, God's own Word. Baptists love and respect God's Word.
- As God's written revelation of Himself to humankind, the Bible is one of God's most precious gifts to us. In His written Word that God has spoken to His people, taking the initiative to reveal Himself and to disclose Himself in a very real and understandable way. *Without this divine self-disclosure, we would have no certain knowledge of God, and all humanity would be left groping for answers in the dark.*
- Each individual would have his or her own idea about God's existence, character, and expectations of us. God's revelation is a beautiful demonstration of His love for us. He did not leave us in the dark.

The Bible acknowledges that God has revealed Himself to all humanity through creation itself. As the psalmist reminds us, **“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands”**. Psalm 19:1

God for Its Author

- Even though men wrote the words, the scriptures were authored by God Himself.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote: *This volume is the writing of the living God. Everywhere I find God speaking: It is God's Voice, and not man's. The words are God's words, and the words are eternal, the invisible, the almighty, the Jehovah of this earth. This Bible is God's Bible, and when I see it, I seem to hear a voice springing up from it, saying..." I am the book of God... Man, read me".*

In theological terms, we call this the "Verbal Plenary Theory." What does this mean? It means that the Bible, as a whole, is the Word of God, so that every part of scripture is both infallible truth and divine authority.

*The Bible's inspiration is **verbal** and extends to the very words themselves, and **Plenary** meaning full, complete, or absolute.*

So, In Baptist Belief about the Bible, we affirm

- **It is Authoritative** – Authority from God Himself
- **It is infallible** – God never fails, and neither does His word. *It will always accomplish God's purposes.*
- **It is inerrant** – Truth, all truth with *no mixture of error*
- **It is sufficient** - God warned us in both Deuteronomy 4:2 and in Revelation 22:18-19 not to add or take away from it. *It is all we need. No other books, no other writings, no other interpretation*
 - **Deut 4:2** ² *You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.*
 - **Rev 22:18-20** ¹⁸ *I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book*
- **It is eternal** – It is eternal because God is eternal.
 - **1Pet 24-25** ²⁴ *for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.”*

Reminder from Ken Boa's daily email

For as the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return there without
watering the earth and making it
bear and sprout . . . so will My word
. . . not return to Me empty.

Isaiah 55:10–11a

- Trust in the Word of the Lord
- We may not understand why or how it works to accomplish God's Purpose, but it does
- *Are we being watered by the Word of God?*
- *Are growing in Him?*

Man

- *Man is the **special creation of God, made in His own image**. He created them, **male and female**, as the crowning work of His creation. The **gift of gender** is therefore part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning, man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice, man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan, man transgressed the command of God and fell from his original innocence, **whereby his posterity (children) inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin**. (A sin nature)*
- *Therefore, **as soon as they are capable of moral action**, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, **every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love**."*

Baptist Faith and Message, p59

Because Adam and Eve were mortal

- *They had the power of Moral agency, or the right of choice*
- *This takes effect as one reaches the age of accountability*

Q: *What is the Age of Accountability?*

The Age of Accountability refers to the point at which God holds children responsible for their sins. *Once individuals reach this threshold, they face divine judgment if they fail to repent and believe the gospel.*

Practical Implications: *Young Children who die or are aborted have never reached this stage of “accountability.” Scripture implies that those dying before reaching an age of responsibility will not face condemnation but will instead receive eternal salvation, despite being sinners by nature and choice. This is by the Mercy of God.*

*Similarly, those who are **mentally impaired** and **unable to grasp the idea of sin and salvation** are, by mercy, spared the eternal condemnation that their sin nature has placed on them.*

These beliefs are part of the reason we do VBS, to save as many as early as possible.

The other reality is that once a person reaches the age of accountability, they are on the road to eternal judgment, and only belief in Jesus can save them.

Man's Relationship to God

- *God is God, and we are not*
- *God is the potter; we are the clay. He has created us for His own purposes.*
- *We are His Special Creation, being created in His Image, unlike other creations*
- *God loves us and has sacrificed His Son so we could have a path back to Innocence and fellowship with Him*
- *We are considered “Children of God” and brothers and sisters to our Lord and other believers*
- *The Lord Christ came the first time to make a way for us, and He will come again to the clouds, to bring those of us who accepted Him, to where He is, and be His Bride (the Rapture of the Church)*
- *He will come the final time to judge the unbelieving world, and redeem the Jews who will come during this time of “Jacob's Trouble” (also the Tribulation Saints)*
- *We will ultimately be with Him and all the redeemed saints of all time in Heaven forever.*

Salvation *Delivered from our Sin Nature*

"Salvation involves the redemption (regeneration) of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification".



There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Definitions:

Redemption/Regeneration is being “Born Again”. We are born physically, but this refers to being born again spiritually.

- It is a work of **God's grace** whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. ***Grace Alone...no works of Man***
- Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. **Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.**

Definitions...continued

Justification – God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

Being made right with God

Sanctification - the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart for God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life. ***This is the journey all Christians are on until death.***

Glorification - the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed."

Why did Christ have to die on the cross?

God reveals through the OT that for atonement for sin, a sacrifice of blood must be done. *Read Leviticus*. All OT sacrifices produced limited atonement for a time. There was no single permanent atonement that was available because all had sinned, and the closest we could get was an unblemished (outwardly) animal.

Jesus was without sin, and His death and blood sacrifice was a permanent atonement for the sins of mankind.

Mark 10:45 ⁴⁵ *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

John 1:29 ... *"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

2 Cor 5:19 ... *in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*

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

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 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 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 Peters 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***

One more thought...

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 and 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).

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.

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