



Logos Class

What Baptists Believe *Session 2* *God the Father*

Class for May 17, 2026

Rooms 123/124 Adult Ed Building

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- *May 10, 2026. - What Baptists Believe Part 1*
- *May 17, 2026 - What Baptists Believe Part 2*
- *May 24, and 31 – Dr Scott Downing*
- *June 7, 2026. - Open for now*
- *June 14, 2026 - What Baptists Believe Part 3*
- *June 21, 2026. - What Baptists Believe Part 4*

Quick Update ...ICYMI

Middle East

- *Cease-fire off and on with Iran, Iran's economy is a shambles*
- *The Strait of Hormuz is still a flash point, with the US Navy controlling it*
- *Posturing by Turkey, Russia, Iran, and China to become more aligned*

US/World

- *Gov. Shutdown resolved and reopened*
- *Major battles between Democrats and Republicans: war, voting districts, Voter ID*
- *Anti-Israel sentiment growing in the US population (Pew research poll)*
- *The Russia-Ukraine war is going nowhere towards an end*

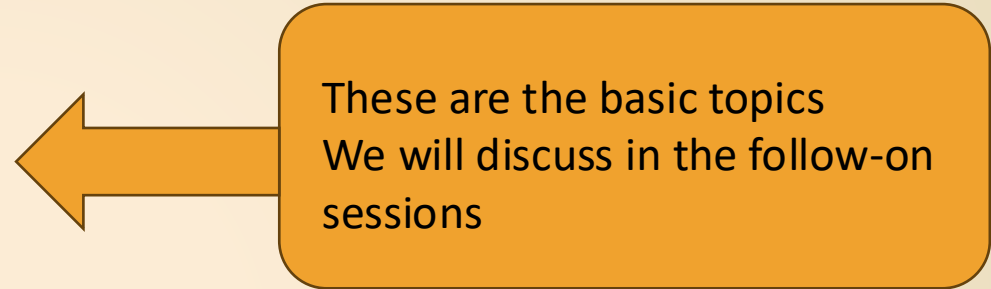
Earthquakes, Floods, volcanic eruptions, famine, and disease. Wars and rumors of wars.

- ***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*
 - ***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


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, 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.*

Baptist Churches and the World Today

If you understand us and how we came to be, you may understand what we do, but we may be seen as exclusive, narrow-minded, and too fundamental for widespread appreciation. This is a congregation-by-congregation difference (Westbury Baptist Ch). For the non-believer, we may be too “churchy”. Some churches have addressed this by being “seeker-friendly.”

Our answer to that is that the name Baptist is not critical, but it defines what we do and how we operate. For Baptists, if we are changing churches, it is a comfort to know what beliefs are underlying the services. We invite people to “Come and see”.

My personal feeling is this: I am not denominational and don't use the moniker Baptist as a shield or club. I am a Baptist because I totally believe in the structure and main theology we hold dear. That said, I am picky about which Baptist Church I align with because some of the non-essential issues to me are important and affect my ability to worship freely and in a supportive manner. They are not just semantic differences but affect all areas of church polity.

Some churches distance themselves from being known as Baptist (or Southern Baptists) to eliminate the negative connotation but still adhere to the Baptist Faith and Message.

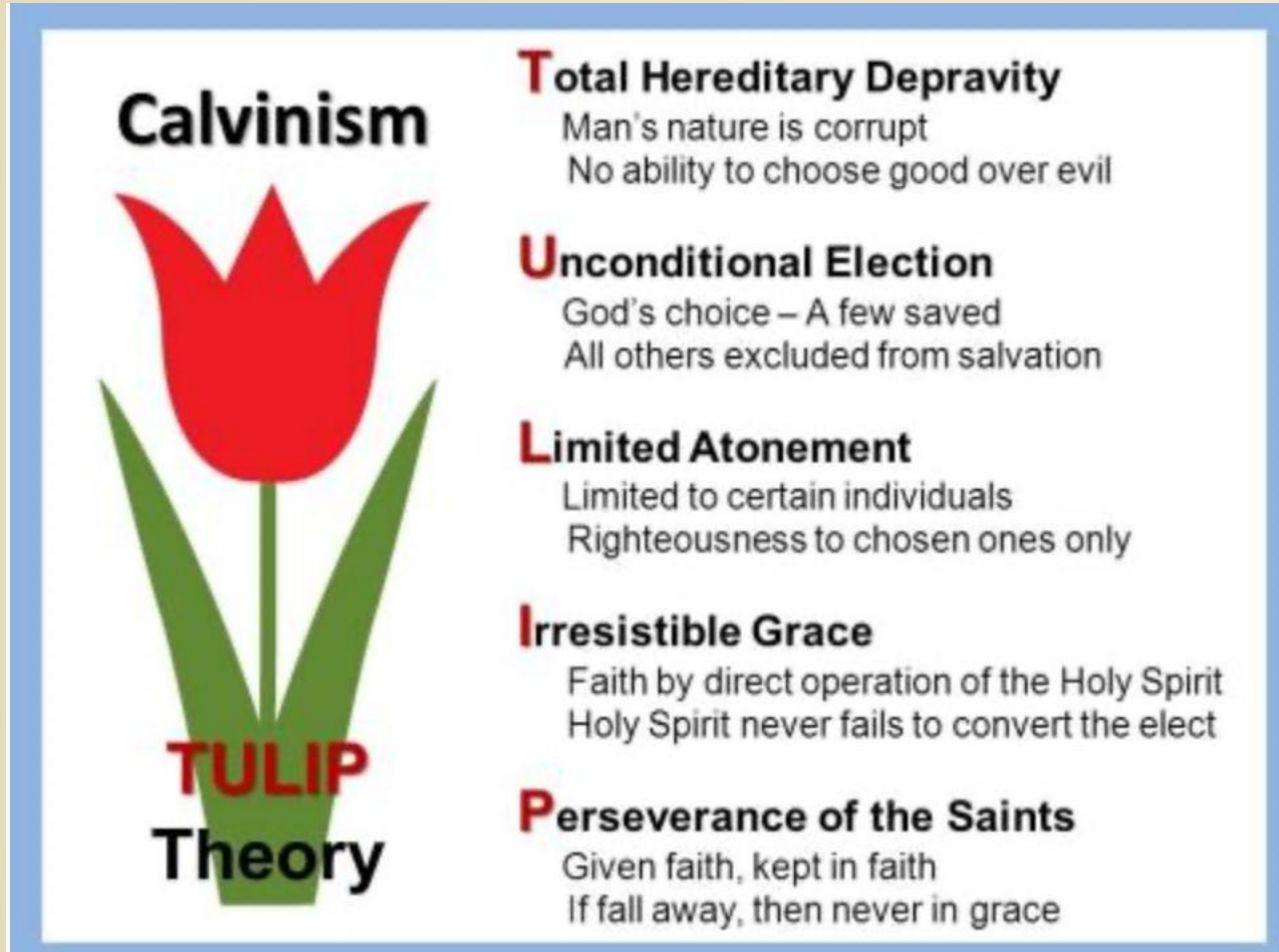
Many of the residual negatives from the slavery issues have been put aside, and there are many black churches in the SBC today

Baptist Denominations

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Size (US)</u>	<u>Theology</u>	<u>Key Features</u>	<u>Stance</u>
✓ Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)	13.5 million	Conservative Evangelical	Missions-focused, Bible inerrancy	Conservative
National Baptist Convention	7–8 million	Conservative Evangelical	Vibrant worship, gospel music	Social Justice + Faith
American Baptist Churches (ABCUSA)	1.2 million	Moderate to Progressive	Ecumenical, diverse theology	Progressive
Free Will Baptists	~300,000	Arminian	Free will, conditional security	Conservative
Reformed Baptists	Growing	Calvinist / Reformed	1689 Confession, deep theology	Very Conservative
Independent / Fundamental	Millions (scattered)	Very Conservative	Strong autonomy, separation from world	Very Conservative

Just to complete that thought of differences

- Calvinism is comprised of 5 basic tenets, called the **TULIP**



The infographic features a red tulip flower with green leaves on the left side. The word "Calvinism" is written in bold black text at the top left, and "TULIP Theory" is written in bold black text at the bottom left. To the right of the tulip, five tenets are listed, each starting with a red letter: Total Hereditary Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, and Perseverance of the Saints. Each tenet is followed by a brief explanation of its meaning.

Calvinism

Total Hereditary Depravity
Man's nature is corrupt
No ability to choose good over evil

Unconditional Election
God's choice – A few saved
All others excluded from salvation

Limited Atonement
Limited to certain individuals
Righteousness to chosen ones only

Irresistible Grace
Faith by direct operation of the Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit never fails to convert the elect

Perseverance of the Saints
Given faith, kept in faith
If fall away, then never in grace

TULIP Theory

Both Baptist Calvinists and Non-Baptist Calvinists

T- Man is broken due to the Fall and all are sinners

U- God chooses who can and will be saved, no "whosoever" of John 3:16

L - Christ died only for those chosen, no others need apply

I – If you are the elect, you cannot refuse, and if you are not, you cannot accept God's grace

P – Once Saved, Always Saved

Both traditions share Baptist commitments to believer's baptism and congregational governance, but their divergent understandings of how God accomplishes salvation—whether through predetermined election or through genuine human choice—represent genuinely substantial theological differences rather than mere semantic variations.

Q: Where do you fit? Where do I fit?

Resources and recommendations for further study

I have used 5 books as my main resources:

- *What Baptists Believe* – Herschel Hobbs
- *Baptist Faith & Message* – Charles Kelley, Jr, Richard Land, Albert Mohler
- *These Things We Believe* – Clyde Turner
- *The Baptist Way* – R. Stanton Norman
- *Church History in Plain Language* – Bruce Shelly
- *Holy Bible* – ESV Study Bible

Nature and Essence of God

Interesting note: The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God; *it simply declares Him.* (Gen 1:1)

- Belief in (a) God is nearly universal. Not always the same God, but a Divine Being. The Bible dismisses the atheist in a single comment: Ps 53:1 - *The fool says in his heart, “**There is no God.**”* (This is his wish, but his mind knows better.)
- *Three Hebrew names used in the OT to describe God*
 - **Elohim** – A plural word that is generally ascribed to God the Father in all his power. It is used 2550 times in the OT. “El” is a term for God. Elohim is plural. Michael = “who is like God?” or “A gift from God.”
 - **Adonai** – Lord is used 340 times in the OT, and is used as a personal relationship with God
 - **Yahweh** – Jehovah – The God of Israel, the true God, used 6823 times in the OT

Other ways His name is used:

- *Jehovah Jireh – The God who provides; What He does*
- *El Shaddai – God Almighty; His Power*
- *Yahweh Sabaoth - The God of Angel Armies (hosts) His Command*

Note: Check the introduction to your Bible to see how they will use these names to describe God. Some translations will combine names, like Lord God, or LORD God. Capitalization indicates a different use of the word, and smaller capitals may mean something else (next slide)

For Example, in the ESV translation

- *The ESV translation prioritizes conveying the specific nuances of meaning found in the original Hebrew and Greek words referring to God.*
- ***For the Old Testament, the ESV's approach centers on distinguishing between God's personal name and his general designations.** God revealed himself to Israel with the special **personal name YHWH** (the "Tetragrammaton," a Greek term for the four Hebrew letters).*
 - *Because Jewish tradition considered this divine name too holy to pronounce aloud, readers substituted the Hebrew word 'adonay ("Lord"), a practice followed by ancient Greek, Syriac, and Aramaic translations.*
 - *The ESV renders YHWH as "LORD" printed in **small capitals**. When 'adonay appears together with YHWH, the ESV renders them as "**the Lord GOD**," with "Lord" in lowercase and "**GOD**" in small capitals.*
- *In contrast, the more general Hebrew terms for God— **elohim** and its related forms 'el or 'eloah—are translated as "God" in lowercase letters. This distinction helps English readers recognize how both the personal and general names function throughout the Old Testament in referring to the One True God.*
- ***In the New Testament, the Greek word Christos is consistently translated as "Christ,"** though it originally meant "anointed" and specifically designated the Messiah among Jews of that era. The ESV maintains consistency and concordance in translating Christos throughout the New Testament, aligned with its "**essentially literal**" translation philosophy.*

God's Attributes

God is **ONE Person** in Three manifestations (Trinity)

- God the Father
- God the Son
- God, the Holy Spirit

God is a personal Spirit – John 4:24 ²⁴ *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*” He has no material body, except as He came to earth as Jesus (Yeshua) in carnate form. He is not limited by or in matter.

God's Attributes – 7 natural, and 4 moral attributes

- **Natural** - self existence, immutability, omnipresence, immensity, eternity (Isa 57:13), omniscience, omnipotence
- **Moral** – Holiness, righteousness, Truth, Love. Love is the attribute that envelops all others

Note: To think of God apart from all His attributes is to have an incomplete view of God. He is revealed fully in Jesus Christ, and the scripture, and through His Holy Spirit

Trinity

This word is not in the Bible. It was used in the second century AD by Tertullian to explain the truth taught in the Bible. It denotes the

- Triune God (Three in One)
 - Revelation of God as Father (Gen 1:1, Matt 6:9)
 - God the Son (John 8:36)
 - God as Holy Spirit (Gen 1:2, John 14:26)
- There are many ways men have tried to explain the trinity, such as a play with the main actor as God in the OT, Jesus in the Gospels, and the Spirit in the End Times. However, all three are present all the time. Others have used the analogy of water, as liquid, ice, and steam, but this is not a perfect analogy either

Truth is...we cannot really adequately explain it, but because the Bible teaches it, we believe it on Faith. With our finite minds, we cannot fully comprehend it

Sovereignty of God

***Truth:** God is the ruler of the universe, the earth, the natural events, and mankind. God rules both nature and mankind. (Ps 10:16, Jer 10:10).*

In the abstract sense, God has the power and right to do whatever He wishes to do, in whatever way He wishes to do it.

However, God has placed certain limits on Himself. This is critical, and God has limited Himself to not violate the free will of mankind (Gen 3), or His own nature (Gen 18:25)

He cannot (for example)

- *Ignore Sin, or*
- *Deny His Love, or*
- *Tell a Lie*
- *Cannot call evil good, or good evil*

The Sovereignty of God is dedicated to the accomplishment of His spiritual purpose in History.

It never violates man's freedom, but requires responsibility in man's choices

Fatherhood of God

The revelation of God, as Father, is uniquely that of Jesus Christ.

In the OT, there are allusions to God as Father (Job 1:6, Hos 11:1), and in the NT the fatherly nature of God is seen (Matt 5:45, Luke 15:11-32, Acts 17:28)

In the NT, God is seen spiritually as Father. Those outside of His children are called “tares”, “children of the wicked one”, while we are called the “good seed”, “children of the kingdom”.

Pharisees are called children of “their father the Devil”.

Jesus taught His Disciples (and us) to pray “Our Father, who art in Heaven..”

In the NT, “Our Father” is used 267 times. In the Gospel of John, it is used 122 times

The Unity of Father and Son is seen in John 10:30: “My Father and I are one.”

The NT teaches that Jesus is the Son of God, and men can become Sons of God

Becoming Sons and Daughters of God

*John 3:16 declares that “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes in him** should not perish but have eternal life”.*

*God is eternally Father in His nature, but claiming the free gift of salvation is how you become **a child of God**. This is a gift of grace, with no works on our part. All we have to do is accept it. (Eph 2:8-10)*

***Rom 8:17** ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

Love of God

1 John 4:8 ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, **because God is love.**
Love is grounded in the very nature of God

EY Mullins defines love as “the self-imparting quality in the divine nature which leads God to seek the highest good and the most complete possession of His creatures.”

Love is represented in the NT in many words, but the four we hear are:

Phileō- which means friendliness and brotherly love

Agapaō- means to esteem or like, **with specific intent** not based on emotion. In the New Testament, agapē acquired special meaning as a “volitional love” opposed to purely emotional love, a “self-sacrificial love,” and a “**love naturally expressed by God**” but not easily by humans.

Eros – means romantic love. Named after the Greek god of love, this word does not appear in the New Testament.

Storgeō denotes affection, particularly the affection between parents and children, and was also used for the love of people toward rulers, guardian gods, or animals. It appears in the New Testament only in negative compounds like astorgos (“heartless”) and in the positive compound philostorgos (“devoted”).

Agapē Love and the Apostle John

It is a favorite word of the Apostle John in both its verb and noun form

*In John's Gospel, **agapaō** appears 36 times, making it the most frequently used of any New Testament book. In 1 John, it occurs **31 times**.*

*The **agapaō** and **phileō** word groups appear with the highest frequency in John's writing overall—John uses these verbs 87 times across his 28,132 words, compared to Luke-Acts, which uses them only 15 times despite having 37,965 words.*

*An analysis of this love in 1 John 4:8-21 reveals
God loves us first, and His love flows down to us.*

We love Him and our love flows up to Him

Because of this love, we love mankind.

God's Love finds perfect fulfillment in the cross



The Wrath of God

The wrath of God is not angry passion, hatred, or vindictiveness, as this emotion is with mankind. It is His response to sin, by using punishment or discipline. This penalty results in spiritual death and the separation of the soul from God. God uses His wrath to bring a return...up to a point.

Two words in the NT are translated “wrath”.

Orgē – a rising justifiable anger for unjust actions (sin). This is the word used in every instance except one area in the NT, and in the Book of Revelation.

Thumos – a flashing boil-up reaction to sin that subsides. It is often rendered “indignity or fury”. In Romans 2:8, they are used together: *⁸ but for those who are self-seeking (contentious) and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be **wrath and fury (orgē and thumos)***

Wrath is God’s fixed reaction to sin, and as born-again believers were are not appointed to wrath (1 Thess 5:9)

Mercy and Grace of God

The mercy of God is directly related to His love.

God loves the sinner regardless of whether he repents or not. BUT His mercy is conditioned on repentance. Mercy is love expressing itself in forgiveness and remission of the penalty of our sin.

Mercy alone does not show the full extent of God's love. This is seen in Grace.

EY Mullins says, "Mercy takes the bitter cup of penalty and pain from the sinner and empties it. Grace refills it to the brim with blessings."

In our relationship with God, we seek Mercy and not Justice. We deserve Justice, but in His Love, He provides us with mercy.

Grace is one of the most powerful words in the Bible and deserves thorough study. Salvation and restoration are by Grace Alone. Sola Gratia

The Will of God

*The will of God is expressed in His Life, His activity of thought, feeling, and purpose.
(Ezra 7:18, John 1:13, Rom 12:2)*

Two words are used that are translated “will” or “willingly”

***Boulomai** – Deliberate will or purpose*

***Thēlo** – related to purpose*

They are used interchangeably, but perhaps the difference is that Boulomai may be a will that comes through deliberation, and Thelo is based on inclination.

In practical understanding there are forms of God’s will:

Judicial Will – His Commandments

Punitive Will – Consequences of Sin

***Q:** Does God’s will cause certain punishments, or just permit it? Many of the tragedies of life are because God’s permissive will allows things to happen to us. These may be because we violate His will, and even His mercy has a limit.*

The will of God is not always easy, but it is always right

Foreknowledge and Providence of God

Foreknowledge is based on His Omniscience. He knows everything at the same time. Nothing surprises Him. This understanding drove 3 theological positions in the early church:

- ***Calvinists** believe that since God knows what will happen, He willed it, and therefore the outcome is “predestined.”*
- ***Arminians** believe that even though God knows all things in advance, man is still free to make choices.*
- ***Socianians** (largely discounted today) believe God knows all that is knowable, but He does not know our choices in advance. So, God is not omniscient. This is considered a heresy today*

***Providence** is a word that means to see and provide in the future... for today. Provide – ence. His control and provision for the universe toward the end that he has chosen. The providence of God envisions a redeemed universe.*

There is much more to say about God

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

*Any Questions about what we have discussed either this
week or last week?*

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*

➤ *All of the prayers needed for our class 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