



**“Bible Is Our
Sole Authority”**
2 Timothy 3:14-17
June 1, 2014

What We Believe About the Bible...

“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.”

Baptist Faith and Message: www.petalfbc.com/our-beliefs
or the complete one @ www.sbc.net/bfm/bfm2000.asp

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. Instructive
6. _____

What is my Call?

1. We need to get the Word of God _____ us
2. We need to get the Word of God _____ us
3. We need to get the Word of God _____ of us

Our Response:

- + Have you clearly understood the Word of God this morning or this week that you need to become a Christ Follower? It's as simple as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner, **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!!
- + Be willing to step over the line this morning and be obedient in what He is calling you to do. Maybe it is join this church family and honor Him by **not attending but joining** His family and being a part of bringing the good news to our community and to the ends of the earth!
- + We must be certain that we clearly believe that the Bible is God's written word to us and is the sole authority in our daily lives and is the roadmap on how we are to live!
- + We need to spend time reading God's Word every day. We can study it, sing it, pray it, meditate on it, preach it, live it, model it, and apply it.
- + We need a plan to read most effectively.
 1. Use the Reading Plan on Our Website or other ones you can find online or in a devotional book
 2. Read a Chapter a day from the NT
 3. Read a Psalm and a Proverb a day
- + Ask the right questions as you read and find ways to not just read it but apply it. What promises do I see? What change do I need to make? What sin do I need to confess? What do I learn about the Lord? What do I learn and see about myself? What is He saying to me?

WHY WE ARE BAPTISTS?

“Bible is Our Sole Authority”

2 Timothy 3:14-17

June 1, 2014 AM Worship

First, you are either a believer or not, a child of God or not, there is no middle ground. A Christ Follower or not!

Our identity is wrapped up in the cross and the Word of God

Once you have encountered the cross and the Word of God and that impacts us and changes us, we are never the same and we have a new identity in Christ. **That is first and foremost.**

It's not about where you go to church, if your parents went or grandparents, or you used to be a member, you must know, love, serve Jesus and have been transformed by the His power

We then make a clear decision about where we go to Church. And this is Biblical – you and I must be an active, serving member of a local church. There many in our denomination and others who say it isn't necessary, but let me clearly say, if we are to be obedient to the Lord Jesus and His Word then we will be a vital part of a local Church.

I say this without pride or that we are better than other denominations but my convictions led me to be and remain a Southern Baptist.

Denominations are on the decline as a whole in our nation – but I say there is nothing wrong with them. Southern Baptists are not perfect and don't have the corner market on everything. However, I believe they get it as close to the Word of God as I can understand it and follow it. Again, let me be clear, this doesn't mean other denominations aren't good or that we are always right and they are wrong – we humbly believe what we believe.

So secondarily, we are Baptists behind being Christ Followers, but what does that really mean that we choose to be Southern Baptists.

What is the Cooperative Program, Mississippi Baptist State Convention, NAMB, IMB, Baptist Faith and Message, how many seminaries, how many hospitals, how many missionaries?

We are going to take a look over the next 8 weeks at some Baptist distinctives, what makes us different, why in the world are you a Southern

Baptist, is it by accident or by choice, is for what you believe or it just seems convenient, what is the reason?

We need to know what we believe and why we believe it, and not be afraid to have convictions based upon God's Word and then be willing to live out those same convictions.

What defines us a Baptists? Well, we have the Baptist Faith and Message which states what it is that Southern Baptists believe and that will be the launching pad for our series over the next several weeks. It is not a creed but simply a statement that was first put together in 1925, revised in 1963 and then added to in 2000. It is a confession, not the final say on all we believe, but lays out the majority of what is that we believe and how exactly that defines us.

It is a defining document that helps us to see what we believe and are the tenants of our faith yet all these are clearly and solely based on the Word of the living God!

The latest revised version is the 2000 version.

What ultimately defines who we are is the first part of our acrostic this morning, BAPTISTS, the B stands for the BIBLE

* Our Sole Authority The Bible, (the song,)

We must start here, stand here, and stay here!

Here is what the Baptist Faith and Message says about Scripture.

“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.”

What Matters the most, is what God says, found in His Word.

As Baptists, we are called people of the Book, yet more Southern Baptists are converted every year to Mormonism and Jehovah Witnesses, than any other denomination

It's time to come back to who we are in Jesus, I am Christian first, a Southern Baptist and that is by choice. It's on purpose.

There has been such a debate over the Bible, is it God's Word or not? Even in Southern Baptist circles over the last several decades but finally it is clear for Southern Baptist what we believe about the Bible – It is God's Word – period! There have been many debates and some even rage still today over the Bible, and to be honest I am tired of the battle over the Bible, it's time to start living what the Bible says!!

We need to be the Bible, so people can see us & read the Bible in our lives!!

So what is it that makes the Bible our sole authority, why should we view it in such a manner?

1. Inspired

Through the Holy Spirit, God inspired the writing of the Holy Scripture through people. The perfect God used imperfect people and impressed upon their hearts what to write down and what to say. (2 Peter 2:19-21) literally means, breathed out by God, He orchestrated the whole process God used over 40 human authors, He spoke through them, uniquely through each of them, over a 1600 year period and was then canonized – meaning the decision was made about what to include as Scripture because there were other books that were written, but they didn't pass the test of the criteria to be considered Scripture

Why do we have 66 books they met the criteria 39 in the OT and 27 in the NT, what about the Apocrypha? It did not meet the criteria to be Scripture.

2. **Infallible Inerrant** There is no error, we either believe the Bible as a whole, or we don't believe it all. We must be crystal clear here! If we deny the inerrancy of Scripture then we deny the perfection of God. There is no way! It is the truth, it is exactly what God wanted us to have. It is sufficient too – nothing needs to be added or taken away from it. **Deuteronomy 4:2 & Revelation 21:18-19** “We accept the Scriptures as an all-sufficient and infallible rule of faith and practice and insist upon the absolute inerrancy and sole authority of the Word of God.” J.M. Frost

3. **Immovable** God's Word does not change or waver, because He is the same yesterday, today and forever, so too is His Word. It doesn't change with the whims of society and the change of the times as most every other religions' does. That's what makes it an incredible book because it does not change and not only that it is just as relevant today as it was when it was written. How is that possible? Because, it is God's Word. Isn't that what we need in this ever changing world? Something that will not change, that is constant and sure! People will try to make their own interpretation as to what it says, but it hasn't changed and it will not change! They are there in black and white!

4. **Inspiration**

It gives us the inspiration to live our lives every day in the midst of a world that can be incredibly discouraging and disappointing, God's Word reminds us that we have a reason to live. Isn't that just what we need – inspiration to live this Christian life in an unchristian World? It is also convicting – **Hebrews 4:12** “It is a living and pulsating Book which is used by the Holy Spirit to constrain without compelling and to lead without forcing. It is a Book through which the Holy Spirit works to lead men to the living Christ and guide in the Christian way.”

William J. Lumpkin

5. **Instructive**

It tells us about God, about His love affair with mankind, how we can know Him personally, and how to live this Christian life. It tells us how to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and sets forth God's clear path of how to live a godly life that shows the difference He has made in us!

The Bible “is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its' end, and truth...for its matter.”

“The Bible lays no claim to being a textbook of history, literature, philosophy, psychology, or science. Yet it contains true elements of all these and more. It is not designed as an encyclopedia containing answers to all of man's questions. Yet it answers the vital and ultimate inquires of the heart, mind, and spirit. It may not tell man all he wants to know, but it does tell him all that he needs to know about his moral and spiritual duty and destiny. “ Herschel Hobbs It also tell us when we have sinned and fallen short and how we can be made whole again.

6. Indestructible It is eternal sufficient

Not only can you cannot change God's Word nor can you destroy, many people of tried it over the centuries, but His Word has remained. How? Because it says here in God's Word that, "[The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.](#)" Isaiah 40:8 NASU

What is my Response?

1. We need to get the Word of God on us

* We need to get the Word of God on us, so that we might be equipped for every good work. ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#))

It needs to become our armor, our shield, or fortress,

Our lives should be covered with and by the Word of God.

The Word of God, our source, and our roadmap and just like a GPS the Word of God when in front of us will do just that.

2. We need to get the Word of God in us

* Get the word in, so that we might be encouraged – and it needs to be in us before those times of difficulty come so we can lean on them or at least know where to go to find them.

([Romans 15:4](#)) how to endure

[Psalm 119:105](#) Thy Word

Been a time I have gotten discouraged, go to God's Word and we get encouraged.

* Get the word in, so that we might have hope

3. We need to get the Word of God out of us

* Get the word out, so that all nations might be evangelized

We have a message worth delivering

[Romans 16:25-26](#)

We need to start getting out what we know, and sharing. We know the stories and promises of Scripture but we aren't applying them to our own lives nor sharing them with someone else.

Too often most of us believe that this is the Word of God, but too often, we don't obey it, we don't live it. It is not a part of us

Our behavior does not line up with our beliefs.