



# **THE BANNER HERALD**

**FEBRUARY 2025**

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF PROGRESSIVE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS**

# THE BANNER-HERALD

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## OWNERS / EDITORS:

Elder Emerson Proctor, Elder Pat McCoy, Elder Dean Robbins, Elder Craig DeLoach

## E-Banner Editor & Webmaster:

Elder Andrew M. Tucker

**Send Church News, Denominational Activities, Announcements, Obituaries, Subscription and Address Changes, & Contributions to:**

THE BANNER HERALD

C/O Elder Dean Robbins

P.O. Box 125

Statesboro, GA 30459

[thebannerherald1918@outlook.com](mailto:thebannerherald1918@outlook.com)

## **Send Church Directory Information to:**

BANNER HERALD CHURCH DIRECTORY

C/O Elder Pat McCoy

14194 GA Hwy 74

Culloden, GA 31016

[pm4dmi@outlook.com](mailto:pm4dmi@outlook.com)

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*All contributions above the subscription price are now tax deductible.*





# Glorifying God By Evangelism

Matthew 28:16-20

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By:  
Elder Pat McCoy

### **Matthew 28:16-20**

*(16) Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. (17) When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. (18) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

I read a story about an atheist who was visiting an Indian tribe deep in the jungles. He spoke to an elderly chief and said, "I am so sorry you have been taken in by the Christians who came to you with the foolish story of Jesus Christ. You know people don't believe that anymore." The chief pointed to a huge rock and said, "You see that rock? That is where we bashed in the heads of our enemies. And You see that huge oven? That is where we roasted their bodies." If it were not for those Christians telling us about Jesus, you would be our next supper." This speaks powerfully about the work of missionaries and the need for missions around the world.

### **The Biblical Basis For Missions**

What is mission, and what is the principal foundation for the mission of the church? It is important to note first of all that the words: mission or missionary do not appear in the scriptures. However, the principles are taught in Scriptures. The word mission itself comes from the Latin verb *missio*, which means "to send." So, literally, missions has to do with sending. In the Scriptures, we see the verb to send being used over and over, in many ways. *Luke 9:2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

*Luke 10:1 - (1) After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.*

*John 17:18 - (18) As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.* There's a sense in which the whole life of the church and the whole experience of the Christian are rooted ultimately in sending out. The sending out is founded in the authority and the action of God Himself.

It is God who institutes, sanctifies, and mandates the mission of the church. One of the most famous passages in the Bible speaks to this mission: “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16). Many people know this verse, but how many know the next verse? “*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*” (v. 17). The motive behind the divine action of redemption contained in John 3:16 lies in the action of God in sending His Son into the world. The purpose was not negative but positive; God didn't send the Son for the purpose of judgment, but rather for the purpose of redemption. Verse 34 reveals more about that mission: “*For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.*” Who is the one whom God had sent? It's Jesus Christ, and He was sent speaking the words of God and giving the Holy Spirit without measure.

In his book *Early Christians of the Twenty-First Century*, Chad Wallace makes a powerful statement:

“Millions of Christians live in a sentimental haze of vague piety, with soft organ music trembling in the lovely light from stain-glass windows. Their religion is a pleasant thing of emotional quiver divorced from the intellect, divorced from the will, and demanding little except lip service to a few harmless platitudes. I suspect that Satan has called off his attempt to convert people to agnosticism. After all, if a man travels far away enough from Christianity, he is always in danger of seeing it in perspective and deciding that it is true. It is much safer from Satan's point of view to vaccinate a man with a mild case of Christianity so as to protect him from the real disease.

Are you and I vaccinated with a mild case of Christianity, or do we have the real disease? Are you and I excited or embalmed by the truth? Our contemporary church is suffering from an identity crisis. It is like the severe amnesia victim crying, “Who am I?”

Professor Howard Hendricks says:

“If you read the New Testament about the character of the New Testament church, one is compelled to conclude that the relationship between the New Testament church and the contemporary church is one of contrast rather than one of comparison.”

But why? Why the tremendous difference between the church of the 1st century and the church of the 21st century? I’ll tell you why. The 1st century church never lost sight of its mission. They never forgot Jesus’ last message to them. They knew why they were still on earth and not with Jesus in heaven. Do we know why we are still here on earth and not in heaven with Jesus?

Matthew closes his Gospel with Jesus’ final message to his disciples. The final words of any person are often very important words. Let us read Matthew 28:18-20: *(18) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

## **Our Ultimate Goal In Life Is To Glorify God**

The first question in the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, “What is the chief end [or goal] of man?” The answer given is, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” The reason we exist is to bring glory to God. God created us and all things for his own glory. I love this mission statement: The mission of His church is “to bring people to Jesus Christ and membership in His

church family, develop them to Christlike maturity, equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world, in order to magnify God.”

## **Evangelism & Missions**

One of the most important ways we glorify God is through our fulfilling the divine mandate given to us by God, and that is to “go into all the world” with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism and missions are ways by which the message of the saving work of God is carried and spread throughout the world. They are manifestations of the activity of God’s Word and Spirit. In both the Old and New Testaments, God calls believers to participate in advancing the message of the gospel among the nations. Although the gospel is the focal point of all evangelism, evangelism involves making and maturing disciples through the ministry of the Word of God.

Scripture sets out the God-ordained means, method, and end of evangelism and missions. Far from diminishing the need to evangelize, God’s sovereignty fuels the church’s evangelistic labors. Related to evangelism is God’s command for the church to carry the gospel to the nations. Missionaries, empowered by the Holy Spirit and sent out by Jesus (*Acts 1:8 - (8) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*), cross geographical, cultural, and language boundaries for the spread of the gospel and the salvation of the elect.

## **Explanation**

Evangelism and missions originated in the eternal council of God and commenced upon the fall of our first parents. Having rebelled against God, Adam and Eve hid themselves from His presence (*Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the*

*garden*). Scripture teaches that the physical act of hiding from God was representative of the spiritual condition of all mankind after the fall. All who descend from Adam and Eve by natural generation are born spiritually dead in sins and trespasses, under the influence of the devil and under the wrath of God. (1689 Confession of Faith 6.3) (*Ephesians 2:1–3 - (1) And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, (2) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, (3) among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*)

In love and mercy, God came down to man, to seek and save sinners through the saving work of Jesus Christ—the last Adam and Savior of sinners. After calling Adam and Eve out of hiding, God proclaimed the gospel to them. *Genesis 3:15 - (15) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.* This message of God’s gracious work in Christ includes the defeat of the devil, deliverance into God’s kingdom, atonement for sin, and the destruction of death. In the first preaching of the gospel, therefore, we discover the divine initiative and gracious nature of the message of salvation.

In redemptive history, God carried on His missionary purpose by calling Abraham and forming the nation of Israel. Israel was set apart by God to be a light to the nations. If the people of Israel had lived lives consecrated to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—in the hope of the coming Redeemer—they would have been the instrument of the evangelization of the world. However, by their perpetual disobedience and idolatry, Israel forfeited its role.

By God the Father’s directive, Jesus came as the true Israel of God in order to secure the Abrahamic blessing for the nations. Look at *Genesis 12:1–3: (1) Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. (2) I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.*



*(3) I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

Paul then points out that Jesus is the fulfillment of the whole world being blessed through Abraham. *Galatians 3:13–14: (13) Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"), (14) that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.* During His earthly ministry, Jesus sent His disciples to proclaim the good news throughout Israel. After His resurrection and ascension, He commissioned the Apostles to bear worldwide witness to Him in “*Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth*” (Acts 1:8).

Jesus gave the Great Commission to the church for the purpose of gathering a community of worldwide worshipers. When sinners are reconciled to God through the preaching of Christ, God adds worshipers to His church. The church carries out evangelism in two major ways: ministers and congregants carry the gospel to their loved ones, neighbors, and coworkers; and parents diligently teach their children Scripture and the doctrines and practices of the Christian faith.

Evangelism is the central aspect of outreach in local churches with respect to the unbelieving members of the surrounding community. The doctrinal and practical instruction of professing believers and their children may also properly be included in the definition of evangelism.

In missions, individual believers carry the gospel to areas of the world in which biblical local churches do not exist. Remember “missions” carries the idea of “being sent.” Jesus is the great missionary—the One sent by His Father to bring good news to this lost and perishing world. In the Apostolic age, evangelism and missions were virtually inseparable. The book of Acts focuses on the unique ministry of the Apostle Paul—the first missionary to the gentile nations. Since God is a missionary God, He calls His church to be a missionary church.

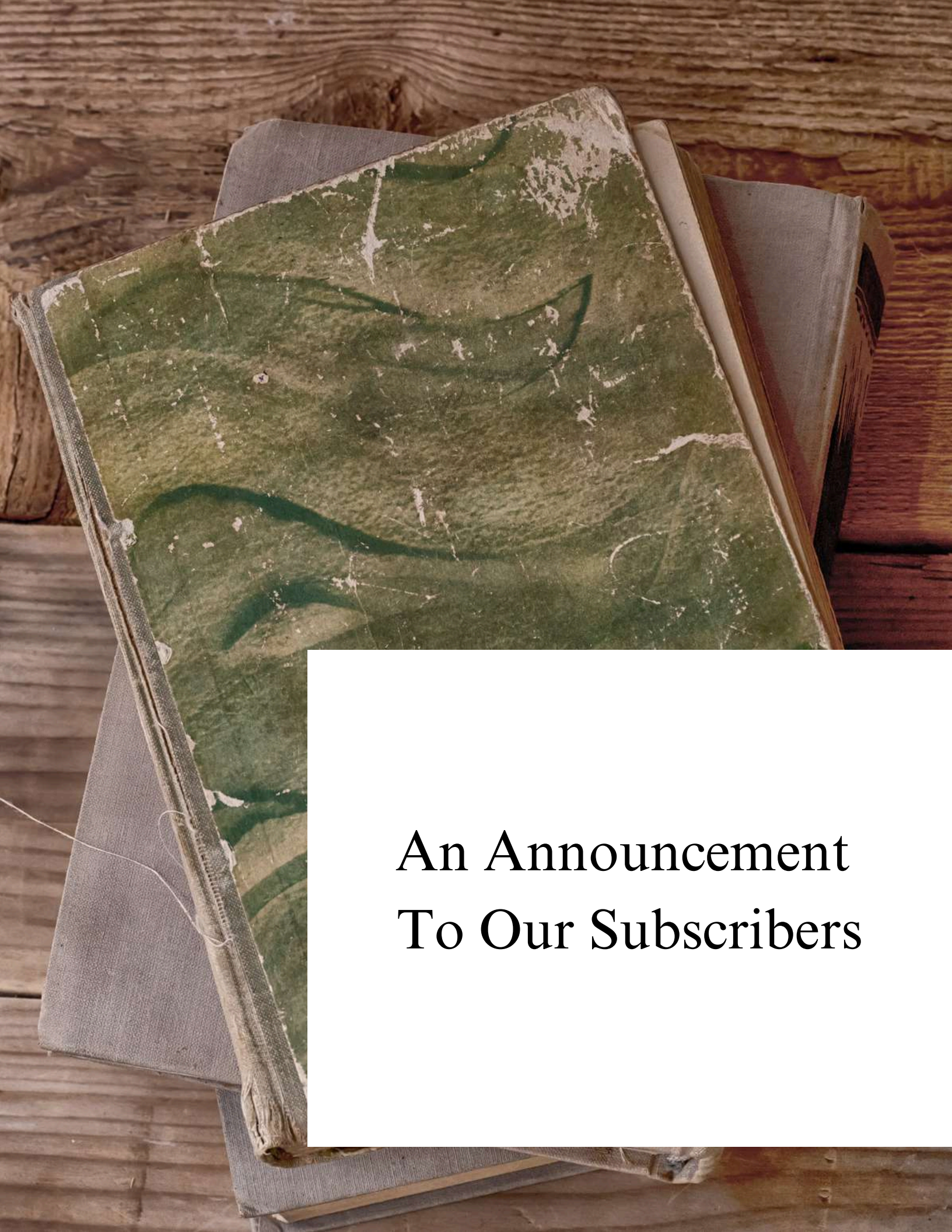
In Acts 1:8-9 we read of His ascension into Heaven after He gave them the commission to start where they were with the preaching of the Gospel and then spread out to other lands. This should be our pattern for missions. Some are called to be foreign missionaries, while some are called to be missionaries here in the USA, and ALL of us are called to be missionaries in our “world,” our circle of influence. Why should we be involved?

### **It Is A Command From The Lord**

Jesus gave the Great Commission and has entrusted with us the privilege of carrying the Gospel of Jesus Christ into all the world. All we do is for the Glory of God. Jesus said this in His prayer to God in John 17:

*(4) I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do... (18) As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.... (22) And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: (23) I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*





**An Announcement  
To Our Subscribers**

After a series of prayerful discussions among the owners of the Banner over the past year, a decision has been made to cease the publication of the Banner Herald effective at the end of June. The final issue will be the June issue.

Here are some of the reasons for the decision to end the publication of the Banner Herald:

**The decrease in the number of paid subscriptions** - for the past 20 plus years, there has been a decline in the number of subscriptions. Beginning in 2004, there was a total number of around 1000 subscriptions. With the January 2025 issue, that number has declined to 490 paid subscribers.

**The increase in printing and mailing costs** - For the past 5 years, we have not been able to keep up with printing and mailing costs with income from our paid subscriptions. For the past year, except for donations given, the Banner Herald ran a deficit for the year of around \$2,800. This has been the trend now going back 20 plus years.

**Advancement in Technology** - with the rise of online media, many print publications have ceased to exist. The younger generation has trended toward getting their news on the internet. Another example of how modern technology has impacted printed publications is in the publishing of church and denomination news. The Banner Herald used to be a source of information about our churches and Denomination events. This is no longer the case as this information is now more accessible online such as the email list that Bro. Elwyn Deal sends out. Very seldom is there now such news sent to the Banner.

**Finally, the decline in subscriptions** aligns with the decline in the number of people attending Church – Our denomination has been in decline for well over a half century. The Banner Herald once had over 2000 subscribers. The decline in the number of annual subscriptions mirrors the decline in the numbers of people attending Primitive Baptist Churches. Were it not for



financial donations received, the Banner would have had a deficit each month for the past year.

Our plan is to continue the e-banner which is published monthly on our webpage: [www.bannerherald.org](http://www.bannerherald.org). Those of you who have already received the Banner online will continue to do so. If you have not received the e-banner and are interested in joining and receiving the Banner online, please send your email address to Elder Dean Robbins at: [thebannerherald1918@outlook.com](mailto:thebannerherald1918@outlook.com). We will no longer have a yearly subscription policy as we have done in the past. However, to help us with the maintaining of the website along with the software needed to format and upload the articles we will ask for donations. The e-banner is e-mailed the first of each month to all who sign up to receive it. At the end of the month the edition is posted on the Banner web page.

With June of this year being the final printed issue, beginning with the month of February, we will cease sending out notices of renewal to both regular and church plan subscribers. However, current subscribers will receive the banners through June. Those who have renewed their subscriptions for the year beginning with August of 2024 and going through January of 2025 will be due to a refund proportionate to the months remaining on their subscription. The cost per issue is \$1.50.

Beginning with the August Subscription renewals, if any would like to be refunded the remaining amount of the yearly subscription, please email us at: [thebanner-herald1918@outlook.com](mailto:thebanner-herald1918@outlook.com). If you do not want a refund for the balance, the owners/editors have decided to donate funds to the Primitive Baptist Library and Archives. Over the 50 years of ownership the current owners have received no remunerations for work with the Banner Herald. None of the funds that remain in the bank account after June 30 will be dispersed to the current owners/editors.

This decision to stop publishing the monthly publication will not involve the printing of the yearly Banner Herald Directory. Elder Pat McCoy will still be overseeing this endeavor. He will send out the forms around the first of September

with a deadline for returning the completed forms on October 1st.

Again, we make this announcement with great sadness. The Banner Herald has been publishing issues since 1918 when The Pilgrim's Banner and The Primitive Herald joined together. The plans currently are to keep up the yearly Non-Profit Corporation registration with the State of Georgia. Therefore all contributions will be tax deductible.

The owners/editors wish to thank you for your support of this publication over the last five decades.

God Bless,

The Owners/Editors

Elders Emerson Proctor, Pat McCoy, Craig DeLoach, Dean Robbins

# JOEL

## Study Of Joel

(Part 3)

Chapter 1: Verses 5-12

By:

Elder Sam Bennett

So far in this series, we have observed:

**(1)** This is prophecy. It is the Word of the LORD that came to Joel. This author's name means Jehovah is God. His father's name is Pethuel, and his name means persuaded by God. The first verse declared that it is the word of Jehovah. Immediately, we know that it is trustworthy, and we are to give proper reverence to it. It is the word of God, not the word of a man. It is not a myth, nor a fable, nor a fairy tale. Prophets were given visions by God, which they then delivered to the people. Sometimes the visions were such that the prophets themselves may not have fully understood them, or the images in their visions were such that words failed to fully describe what they saw. Sometimes prophecies foretold of future events, and sometimes prophecies were forth-telling of current events, given as an explanation of what had happened and why.

**(2)** There are many unknowns about Joel's prophecy. We are not certain as to the time in history when Joel lived and prophesied. We are also not certain as to whether his message was first intended for Israel or Judah. Lastly, we do not know if this prophecy was given before the Babylonian exile or after the return from exile. For the sake of this study, we are assuming it is prior to Babylon.

**(3)** One other point to note is the presence of Hebrew poetry in the writing style of this book. We see the use of parallels, where consecutive verses compare or contrast similar lines of thought. And we see repetition of a particular word or phrase and this has the effect of elevating the importance of that particular word or phrase. Poetry in general often uses literary devices such as metaphors and similes which are used to describe things in ways that are not literal, but which help to emphasize the reach, the scope, or the size. For these reasons, we may see that Joel's prophecy is both a forth-telling of current events, and a foretelling of future events.



(4) In verses two through four, the prophet calls for the elders to hear. He calls for the inhabitants of the land to listen. He asks them to take inventory of their history to see if they can recall anything like this. It must be big and important if there is nothing to compare to it. He then commands everyone to remember and pass down this event to the fourth generation. The magnitude of this event is so great that nothing like it resides in the memory of the original audience, and they are to not forget it, nor are they to let the following generations forget it.

Waves of locusts have destroyed everything. There is nothing left in the forests, or the vineyards, or the orchards, or the fields. The locusts have brought about a complete and utter devastation. It was at this point in our last message from Joel that we turned our attention to the sovereignty of God. He has created all things. Therefore, He owns all things. All things come from Him. All things are sustained by Him. And all things are going to Him. He created all things, He owns all things, and ultimately, He is in control of all things. He does all of this without our help or counsel. He does all of this for His own glory. When we say all things, we mean ALL things. This necessarily includes the vegetation on the earth, the waves of locusts that consume those green things, and the weather. Our Almighty God is Sovereign over His creation, whether plant or insect or weather event. He is also in control of the affairs of men. Remember Proverbs 21:1 *“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”* The God of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps, and God Himself even controls the desires of the king.

We also noted in our last message from Joel that this was a warning to Joel’s hearers. That may prompt someone to ask if this prophecy is still relevant. Is it a warning to Christians today? Yes, it is. And we should understand why. As with almost every prophecy, the physical portion of it is only one part. There are spiritual implications as well. The physical, material world is oftentimes more easily understood. We have our God-given senses which allow us to hear and see and feel the world around us. The reality of the Spiritual world around us is not often so easily described. We cannot see or hear or touch spirits. We may have

strong feelings, but those feelings are not always easily described or expressed. So, the physical things of this world around us may be used by God in His Word to help us to understand spiritual realities.

Our text will show the immediate consequences of the devastation of the locusts in Joel's prophecy.

**Please read Joel 1:5-12.**

The news of this calamity must have been horrifying! The utter devastation is complete and the consequences are both far reaching and long lasting. Everything has been affected, and the scene was one of hopelessness and despair! This was a real event. It was a really bad situation that the people found themselves in. The people of Israel had inherited the land promised to Abraham by God. Israel had been given Canaan Land. They lived in houses which they had not built. They tended orchards and vineyards and groves which they had not planted. They enjoyed prosperity and peace by the mercy and grace of God. No longer were they in bondage in Egypt, as a nation without freedom. No longer were they nomads wandering in the wilderness, as a nation without a land. No longer were they a kingdom without a king. They had been chosen by God in Abraham, delivered by God through Moses, planted in a good place by God through Joshua, and governed righteously by God through King David. They were prosperous in all that they did. They had herds and flocks of livestock. They had fertile fields that produced an abundance of grain. And there was much fruit of the vines and the trees. Almighty God, the One True and Living God was their God, and they were His chosen people. God had promised to be a husband and a father to them. He had promised to nurture and guide and protect them. He commanded them to obey, and worship Him and love Him, and to treat others equally with dignity and respect.

But, over time, Israel did what people do. Their memories became short, and they began to forget all that God had done and was doing for them. Perhaps

they began to believe that they had made their own way and were solely responsible for the comfort, the peace, and the prosperity they enjoyed. Perhaps they had begun to forget that it is God who makes the flowers to bloom, the vines to produce fruit, and the herds to calve.

As they turned from being a grateful, dependent, and obedient people toward God, they lost sight of His constant care over them. They entered into agreements with their pagan neighbors, and they began to adopt worldly ideas. They spoke worldly language, and they walked in worldly ways. Eventually they even took up the worldly practice of worshiping pagan idols!

The blessed nation of Israel had turned from an abundance of blessings from Almighty God to the worship of dumb idols carved from wood and stone. God determined to show them the error of their ways and bring His chosen people back to Himself. Sometimes it becomes necessary for sinners to have their senses shocked that they might awaken to the reality of their errors.

Enter the locusts! Israel was struck by innumerable swarms of insatiable, voracious eating machines. There were clouds of flying locusts so thick that they blocked out the light from the sun. Locusts so utterly devastating that they ate every green thing in sight, thereby turning the fertile oasis of Canaan Land into a desert wasteland. The immediate scene was one of desolation. The vines were gone. The fruit, the leaves, and even the bark from the trees had been stripped. There was nothing but firewood standing on the dust as far as the eye could see. And all of this was due to the locusts.

Let us not forget that this is God's creation and He can do with it as He wills. God's locusts had erased all the things that had brought blessings of prosperity and happiness to God's people. There would be no wine, no grain, no fruit, and no grasslands for grazing. There would be no trees for shade. And it would not be long before starvation would be a stark reality for everyone in Israel. The people of God were under the chastening hand of God's judgment because of their own disobedience. He determined that He would bring His people back to

Himself. He had to have their undivided attention. He sent locusts to devastate their land and conquer their hearts. There would be weeping and mourning throughout the land as people began to realize their utter dependence on Almighty God.

This is somewhat foreign to our 21st Century, western ideas. It may be helpful for us to remember God's covenant with Israel. He had promised them blessing for their obedience to His Law. Israel enjoyed much blessing for many generations. God's covenant contained more than promised blessings for Israel's obedience. The covenant God made with Israel also contained promised curses for their disobedience. During the time of Joel's writing, Israel's disobedience had roused God's anger, and they were receiving the promised curses for their disobedience. Among those innumerate promised curses was the devastation by locusts.

This was not an unjust or cruel punishment. God intended to get the attention of His people. Mourning their losses, their broken hearts would be turned away from the worship of the idols of their pagan neighbors. They would come to realize the source of their blessings, and their hearts would be turned back to the One, True, and Living God. He used a physical chastening of his people through this calamity of locusts to reorient their spiritual compasses back to Him.

Is there a lesson for us? What must we learn from Joel's prophecy? As blessed as the nation of Israel was, consider the even greater and more abundant blessing that Christians have in Jesus Christ. Has God not showered us with grace and mercy and peace and love through Jesus? Has He not chosen us and bought us out of the bondage of our sin through the blood of His cross? Has the Father not also seated us in the heavenly places in Christ?

These things are true for all true believers. Regardless of where we are on the planet, regardless of when we are in time, regardless of our ancestry, believers have all these blessings from God in common. We ought to be the boldest,



happiest, most zealous people wherever we are! Almighty God loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die in our place, so that we might be reconciled to Him. As born-again believers in Christ, we can approach the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe without fear of condemnation, and we can call Him Father! Do we ever take this for granted? Or worse yet, do we ever forget that it is blessed privilege that we know and are known by Jehovah God?

Here are a few thoughts that may help us to focus our attention and set our priorities in proper order:

Where is our attention focused throughout the week, for the hours that we are not gathered here as the body of Christ for the purpose of worship?

Are we devoted to Christ, giving Him first place in our hearts and our minds, regardless of our circumstances?

Do we recognize Him as the provider of all that we need and enjoy?

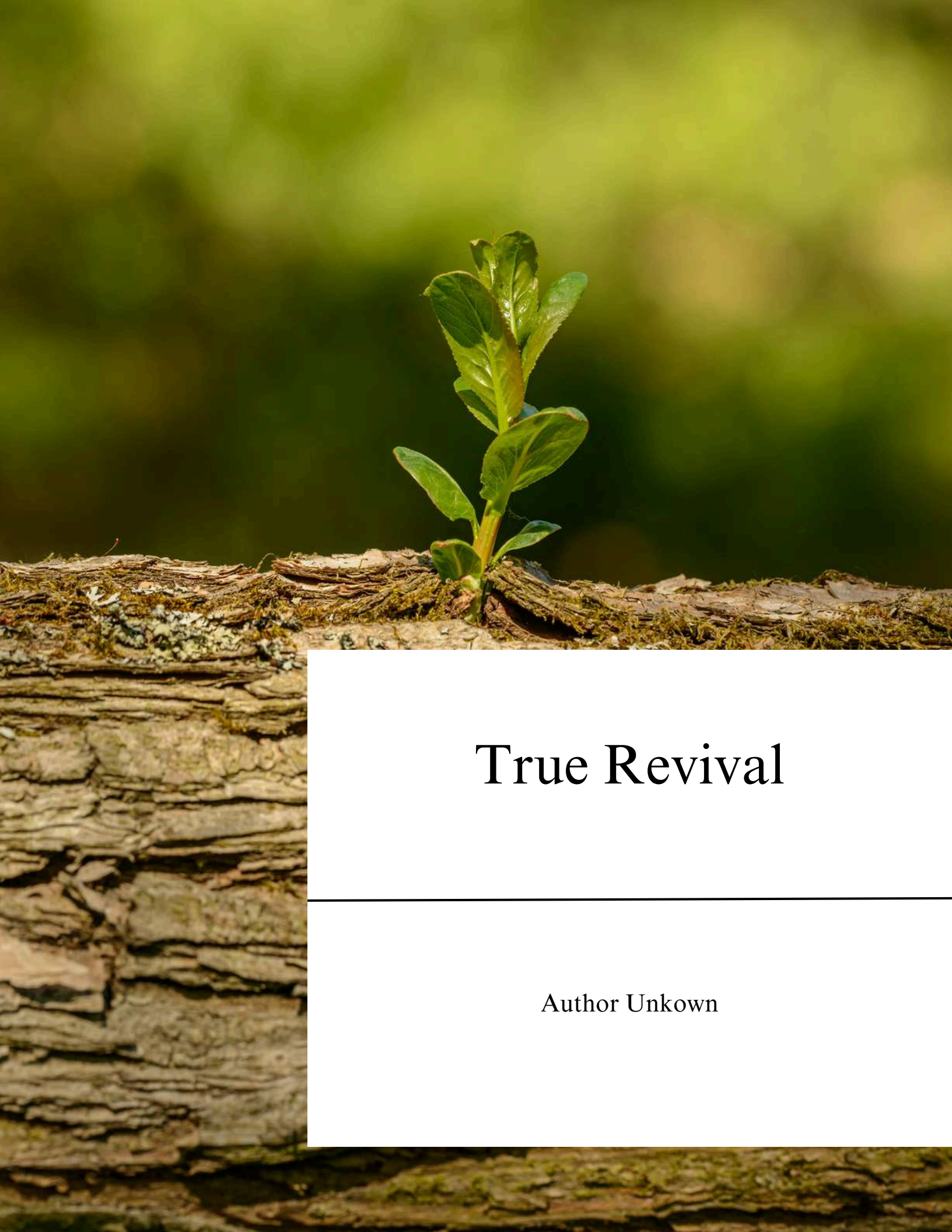
Are we worshipping Him with our entire being: heart, soul, mind, and strength?

Will it be necessary for us to endure some earthly calamity or catastrophe or devastation in order for God to get our attention and turn to Him who was made to be sin for us that we might be made righteous in Him?

If we are suffering, is it the chastening hand of God upon us, disciplining us and turning us back to Him?

Do we truly believe His Word: That He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think? Or, are we adopting the ways of the world, wringing our hands, gnashing our teeth, and wondering just how bad things will get, and when will the other shoe drop?

May God have mercy upon us. May He turn our eyes, our minds, and our hearts toward Him who loves us with an everlasting love.



# True Revival

Author Unkown

People often ask, "When true revival comes, what will it look like?" Revival is not legitimized merely by the increasing numbers of signs and wonders. Moses, Elijah and Elisha all had great signs accompanying their lives, but signs do not equate to revival.

Israel was often awed by manifestations, yet supernatural wonders never brought the nation to repentance.

What about powerful and exciting church services? Personally, I do not believe church services every night, even if they last until midnight, are themselves a sign of revival. Increased services and manifestations may accompany revival, but they are not, in themselves, evidence of revival.

### **What, then, should revival look like?**

On an individual, person-by-person level, a true revival looks like people being empowered to become like Jesus. It is righteousness, peace and joy coming forth from us while we are under pressure. I do not mean that we will merely become emotional or happy or animated about Jesus - as important as these things are.

I am saying that we can actually receive power (divine might in the inner man) so that we become like Him. Deep in our spirit an awakening occurs and we see Jesus, not only as the payment for our sins, but as the pattern for our lives. And we not only see that - we live like that - which means it happens in time and space - our priorities and our schedule changes. We change the way we spend time and money.

This is what happened at Pentecost. Fearful, prideful disciples were transformed into humble, powerful replicas of Jesus. They spoke the Word of God with boldness - just like Jesus. They healed people, just like Jesus; and they were willing to suffer for Christ, just as He willingly suffered for them.

You see, true revival is a hot lava-flow of courage being poured into the backbone of a once defeated people. It is radiant faces, purified souls and holy lips.

It is people becoming like Jesus.



# OBITUARIES

**COLLINS, Linda NeSmith –**

December 15, 1937 to January 15, 2025.

Bay Branch Primitive Baptist Church, Bellville, Georgia.



## STATEMENT OF FAITH

In accord with the historical position of the Primitive Baptists, the editors of the Banner Herald subscribe to the scriptural principles stated in the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith. The following is an abbreviated statement upon that confession.

- We Believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, inspired and inerrant, and the only rule of faith and practice.
- We Believe in the only true and living God. That there are three persons in the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and that these three agree in one, are coequal, coeternal, and coexistent.
- We Believe in the total depravity of the entire human family; that is, sin pollutes man's faculties - his heart, mind, and will - and he is unable to recover himself from his lost and ruined estate.
- We Believe in particular, eternal, and unconditional election, the effectual calling of the elect, and the final perseverance of the saints.
- We Believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God, the only Savior and Redeemer, and that Salvation is by His grace alone.
- We Believe that believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the ordinances of the church of Jesus Christ. We Believe the only baptism taught and recognized in the Bible is immersion. We Believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial of our Lord's death and should be regularly observed in the church. We Believe that the washing of the saint's feet is an example of humility and service to be observed by the church.
- We Believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper but such as are called by God and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery.
- We Believe in the resurrection of the just and the unjust; that the just shall be raised, changed, and fashioned like unto the glorious body of the Son of God, to dwell in heaven forever, soul and body reunited; and, that the unjust shall be raised, soul, and body reunited, and consigned to punishment in hell forever.