

Why I am a Baptist
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

I'm sure some of you have wondered why we are a Baptist Church.

In an age where many, if not most, Churches do not even brand themselves at all, and other formerly Baptist Churches have removed the name Baptist, here we are; still Baptist; and not only that, glad of it!

There are very good reasons that we ARE a Baptist Church.

Why we are a Baptist Church stems all the way back to the day of The Resurrection itself.

John 20:19-31

19 Then the same day at evening,
[meaning the same day of the resurrection]
being the first *day* of the week, when the
doors were shut where the disciples were
assembled for fear of the Jews, came
Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith
unto them, **Peace** *be* unto you.
20 And when he had so said, he shewed
unto them *his* hands and his side. Then

were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, **Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, **Peace be unto you.**

27 Then saith he to Thomas, **Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.**

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment:

1John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

These illegitimate groups are everywhere, there have even been some that came from this Church.

There are many others, some of them very large and materially well-to-do.

Many religious groups are easily identifiable as illegitimate, some are not.

I don't know about all the others, but I know about this one.

We have the authority and we have the muscle; we have the presence of the Lord, the conviction of the Holy Spirit, doctrinal truth, and sinners regularly coming to know Jesus.

I count it an absolute honor to be a part of this BAPTIST Church! I hope you do, too.

became known as “Anabaptists” or “Re-baptizers”;

From which came the name “Baptist”.

Now you know why I am a Baptist; a real one.

There is no other line of Churches that cannot be traced back to a human founder.

Let me also add, you can stick the name Baptist on anything.

The name is not enough.

The lineage must be there. Sound doctrine and practice must be there.

Being without the name Baptist doesn't necessarily mean a Church is not legitimate; some real have chosen (poorly in my opinion) to remove the name.

There are also numerous illegitimate groups that came from real Churches.

Acts 15:24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain **which went out from us** have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

For the next forty days; that's a full month and ten days, Jesus spent this time meeting with the Church as well as many other believers. This first Church wasn't called Baptist yet; that would take about another 500 years.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

A month and ten days is not some quick-and-then-gone-again unverifiable appearance. Word spread quickly; within days, everyone heard that Jesus was alive from the dead.

Hundreds of people saw him and spent time with him.

This created all kinds of speculation; much of which is still going on today.

Many, like Thomas, refused to believe - unless they could see and touch Him themselves.

Others expected Him to usher in the new Kingdom, to put down Roman rule and to set up His Kingdom.

What was He up to; why was He having all these meetings with twelve here, and two over there, and five hundred another time and one hundred twenty another time?

Why did He set up this new form of communication by literally placing His Spirit in them as we read in **John 20:22**?

different than what we preach and teach here every week.

5. We preach exactly the same doctrine that was preached in all those early New Testament Churches.

6. Salvation by grace through faith; not of works!

7. The eternal security of the believer.

8. The authority of the local Church.

9. Baptism of believers only...and much, much more.

Conclusion:

Adherence to baptism of believers only is how we became known as Baptists.

We don't baptize babies or by proxy for dead people...nor do we teach baptism as a sacrament to help get you saved.

Somewhere about the 5th or 6th century, real Churches who would baptize new believers who had formerly been sprinkled as a baby or some other form before they were saved

3. It should not surprise us when re read

Matthew 7:21-23

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

4. Jesus' promise means **that there has never been a time that Jesus abandoned His Churches**, and thus, men were forced to go start new ones on their own.

5. This explains why all those Churches founded by men, including the Catholics under Constantine, the protestants that came from them and all the others started by various individuals at various times after that, like the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Assemblies of God, Church of God, Church of Christ, Unity Church, and dozens, if not hundreds of others that can all be traced to human founders; **preach another gospel and doctrine that is far**

Jesus at this point has already established His Church. It has swelled to great numbers and now, because of persecution, stands at about 120 faithful men and women.

It is not time to set up the Kingdom. There are millions of lost sinners throughout the world and more coming into the world every second of every day.

Our salvation has been accomplished...but the good news has not yet been spread. And that, dear friends, is where we come in!

During this time after the resurrection, Jesus sets forth:

I. His Great Commission.

*A. Jesus' plan for His Church has become known as **The Great Commission**.*

1. And rightly so; this is the greatest commission from God to men since God commissioned Noah to build the Ark.

2. Mark 16:14-15

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

3. Later, in Galilee, Jesus lays out His plan in even greater detail.

4. **Matthew 28:16-20**

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

B. Later, after Jesus ascended back into heaven, as now guided by the Holy Spirit, God's plan for His Churches becomes more and more specific.

1. **Acts 13:1-2**

1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers;

Lighthouse Baptist Church from which came Iglesias Bautista El Faro and Lighthouse Indian Baptist Church and others.

B. According to Jesus' promise, there has never been a time in history that His Churches, over which He is the direct head, have not been in operation, led by Him...throughout all ages, and will be "even unto the end of the world". AMEN!

1. We, and other Churches like us, exist today because Jesus has kept the promise He made in Matthew 28.

2. We have the authority and we have that same "dunamis", that same **power** with which that first Church was endowed and has been passed down to us.

V. Where then did all these other kinds of Churches come from?

A. Jesus' promise brings us to some obvious conclusions.

1. Churches that are started by men without the authority that Jesus placed in His Churches simply don't have any.

2. Nor do they have the dunamis.

IV. God's Plan is now in Action.

A. *Jesus made an awesome promise to His first Church.*

1. **Matthew 28:19-20**

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, **lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.** Amen.

2. Jesus, through His Holy Spirit, has kept this promise to every one of His Churches?

3. From the Church in Jerusalem came the Church at Antioch;

4. From the Church in Antioch came the Church at Ephesus, and Philippi and Colossae and others.

5. And from them the Gospel was brought west, Churches coming from Churches even unto the uttermost part of the world.

6. And Berean Baptist Church came from her mother Church up in Fort Worth, and from Berean Baptist Church came Austin Avenue Baptist Church which later became

as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

2. **Acts 13:3-5**

3 And when they [the Antioch Church] had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to *their* minister.

3. **Acts 15:3** And being brought on their way **by the church**, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

4. The Church (there was only one at first but soon there would be many more) sends out men chosen of God to preach the gospel, win souls, baptize the new

believers and organize them into new Churches.

5. This plan is to extend far beyond the lifetimes of those first Church members; it is to continue “**always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**”

This young first Church was:

II. Facing the impossible.

A. I am certain that those who just yesterday were doubting even the resurrection are wondering, “How on earth are we going to do that”?

1. Go into all the world?
2. Teach all nations?
3. Teach them all things Jesus has commanded us?
4. It would obviously take a lot more than human ability to accomplish this!
5. How is Jesus going to enable His disciples to accomplish such a monumental task?

From [G1410](#); *force* (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous *power* (usually by implication a *miracle* itself): - **ability**, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, **strength**, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

4. This is the **strength and ability** to actually get it done!

5. Jesus baptized [[He immersed](#)] His 120-member Church, which had already existed for about three years now; who had already received the Holy Ghost (John 20:22), in His Holy Spirit.

6. [Acts 2:1-4](#)

- 1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
- 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
- 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

B. Well, to His Church Jesus also gave the muscle!

1. **Acts 1:4-9**

4 And, [Jesus] being assembled together with *them*, [the Church] commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

2. This power Jesus promised His Church in Verse 8 is not authority.

3. This power is the **dunamis** *doo'-nam-is*

B. The Lord was already in the process of bringing us the New Testament.

1. **John 20:31** But **these are written**, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

2. **2 Peter 1:20-21**

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

C. Even then men of God were being chosen and called.

1. **John 21:15-17**

15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.**

16 He saith to him again the second time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

17 He saith unto him the third time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** Peter was

grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

2. Men of God are still being called to feed and care for the Lord's sheep.
3. Silas, Barnabas, Timothy, Titus, Luke, John Mark...and the list goes on and on and on even down to today.
4. Every man of God knows the calling of God.
5. But called or not, this still cannot be done in human strength.

The Lord Himself would have to provide:

III. The Power to get it done. There are two kinds of power necessary to accomplish The Great Commission.

A. First there must be authority.

1. This is the word we read in

Matthew 28:18-19a

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**
19 Go ye therefore...

2. **exousia** *ex-oo-see'-ah*

From G1832 (in the sense of *ability*); *privilege*, that is, (subjectively) *force, capacity, competency, freedom*, or (objectively) *mastery* (concretely *magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control*), delegated *influence*: - authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

3. This word "power" is authority! Jesus placed the authority to do his work in His Church; that was exclusively, by the way.

4. However, just giving someone authority is not enough.

5. What good is authority without the muscle to get it accomplished?

6. That would be like what some are trying to do by defunding our police departments today; send them with the authority but without weapons and equipment.