



# FIRST BAPTIST of Hayden

**1/24/2024**

**The Baptist Faith and Message  
The Scriptures**



# Outline

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## **Preface**

We are Southern Baptist; but what exactly does that mean?

First, we are not a denomination in the traditional sense of the word. Our denomination is Baptist; while the SBC is a convention of churches that meets annually.

Secondly, we are an autonomous Baptist church that governs itself, without any hierarchy of ecclesiastical order. We do not recognize any controlling entity, or leadership that governs our local congregation.

Thirdly, we work in cooperation with other Baptist churches for both North American and international missions. We support missionary endeavors across the globe through the cooperative program.

Fourth, the cooperative program is stewarded through State boards of missions, which in turn, distributes and supplies the voluntary offerings of each participating church to the individual entities.

The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions takes the money that is given by each Alabama Baptist church and distributes it thus:



## 2022 Gifts Distributions



This is an excerpt from our State Board of Missions' website.

### **We Are the Cooperative Program!**

January 12, 2024

*The Cooperative Program (CP) is much more than money or a funding strategy. True, it has been Southern Baptist's main strategy for nearly 100 years to gather unified funds from autonomous SBC congregations and use them to carry the message of Christ to our neighbors and the nations.*

*The funding journey begins with you and your church, then continues to our state (50%), allowing Baptists the opportunity to impact Alabama with the Gospel.*

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*The balance of CP funds (50%) continues with a strategic budget allotment voted on by messengers at the SBC annual meeting each June.*

*Here are the approved percentages for the distribution of the \$192,270,000 (total of all church gifts across the U.S.) budget:*

- *50.41% to the International Mission Board*
- *22.79% to the North American Mission Board*
- *22.16% to Theological Education Ministries*
- *2.99% to the SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget*
- *1.65% to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission*

*Each Alabama Baptist whose church gives through CP can say “I Am the Cooperative Program,” supporting disaster relief, campus ministries, evangelism, church revitalization, church planting, Alabama WMU, The Alabama Baptist newspaper, University of Mobile, Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes & Family Ministries, and numerous other Great Commission Ministries across our state.*

*But behind this funding strategy, please note that WE are the Cooperative Program.*

*Every dime given by Southern Baptists represents believers who belong to the tribe called "Southern Baptists." The person in the pew is the principal giver through the CP.*

The Alabama Baptist are the largest donors to the CP. While we are not a hierarchal church entity, we do have a common and agreed-upon doctrinal statement that we affirm as biblical and sound.

These are our distinctives, some of which are agreed upon in other denominations. This should not surprise anyone, since most denominations in existence today have their common ancestry from Baptist, or Baptist churches throughout church history.

Tonight, we will deal with the first article of our Baptist Faith and Message.

## **Our Baptist Distinctives:**

### **1. The Scriptures**

*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.*

*Exodus 24:4 (ESV): And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.*

God ordained that "holy men of old" would receive his Word and write down what the Lord has said.

*Hebrews 1:1–2 (ESV): 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*



God first spoke through these prophets, but in the last days, the days leading up to the consummation of God's plan for the world, God gave his Son and spoke to the world through Jesus.

*Joshua 8:34–35 (ESV): 34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.*

We read the Word of God corporately on a weekly basis, and hopefully we read it personally on a daily basis.

*John 5:39–40 (ESV): 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.*

It is in the scriptures, the Bible that we receive the testimony of Christ. Both the Old and New Testaments declare God's message of redemption and life through Christ.

*Psalms 19:7–11 (ESV): 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;*

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*9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

Psalm 19 is a unique passage, and it begins in verse 1 with the name of God used in Genesis, representing God as the creator, Eloah, of Elohim – which is the pluralized form of the name of God. Verses 1-6 declare that creation praises and points us to God. The second part of the Psalm uses the name of God first introduced to Moses on the mountain before a bush that burned but was unconsumed – Yahweh, the name of God used more than any other name in the Old Testament.

David points out that both the creator and the Lawgiver are one and the same, and he gives us creation to draw our attention to his power, and he gives us his Law which draws our attention to his standard of living.

As Baptists, we have believed and affirmed throughout our history that we should make the Word of God the standard for our lives: *“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.”*

As believers, we should unite in our belief that the Bible is God's revelation of himself to man and strive with diligence and tenacity to rightly divide and understand it.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV 1900): *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Let us all in this new year renew our commitment to reading and rightly understanding the truth of God as he has given it to us in his Holy Word.

Additional Scripture for further reading:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.