

Acronym of **BAPTISTS**

**B** – Biblical Authority

**A** – Autonomy of the Local Church

**P** – Priesthood of the Believer

**T** – Two Ordinances: Baptism and the Lords Supper

**I** – Individual Soul Liberty

**S** – Saved, Baptized, Church Membership

**T** – Two Offices: Pastor and Deacon

**S** – Separation of Church and State

## BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

“And that from a child thou hast known the **holy scriptures**, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All **scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (II Timothy 3:15-17)

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the **word of God** which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the **word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” (I Thessalonians 2:13)

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the **scripture** is of any private interpretation. 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. (II Peter 1:20-21)

Baptists believe that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of belief and practice, because the Bible is inspired by God and bears the absolute authority of God Himself. Whatever the Bible affirms, Baptists accept as true. No human opinion or decree or any church group can override the Bible.

It would seem logical that all who call themselves Christian would believe in the absolute authority of the Bible. But such is not the case:

- \* Many have creeds or written confessions of faith which they hold equal to, or even above, biblical teaching.
- \* There are those who even put the traditions of their church over clear Bible truth. (see Mark 7:13)
- \* Some place emotion or experience over the word of God.
- \* Scholarship is sometimes placed over the Bible.

The Baptist position has always been that the Bible is our sole authority in all matters of belief and practice. Historically this position, and those who held to it, has been despised by both Catholic and Protestant alike. But it is the only position which is consistent with what the Bible says about itself.

- \* the phrase “it is written” occurs 80 times in the Bible
- \* the phrase “thus saith the Lord” occurs 415 time in the Bible
  
- \* “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth; for **thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**” (Psalm 138:2)