

MISSIONARY BAPTISTS CLASSIFIED

as to

PRACTICE and TEACHINGS

THE SECOND EDITION

Price 10 Cents

BY MISSIONARY R. Y. BLALOCK

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTION

I have just read a manuscript prepared by Brother R. Y. Blalock of Concord, California.

The title of the Manuscript is "Missionary Baptists Classified as to Practice and Teachings." In this document he sets forth in a clear, lucid way, the teachings of these various classes of Baptists, all of which the writer knows to be true, and can vouch for the truthfulness of the same.

I heartily recommend this little book to anyone, to read and to keep for reference, so as to be informed in regard to the methods of work outlined.

Brother R. Y. Blalock has done more real missionary work on the Pacific Coast through the years, than any other man, having been missionary through a period of fifty years. I have known him personally many years, and have known of his work for at least forty years. During all his long useful career he has never wobbled: and as he sends this little book out on its mission he is as active as a young man in this great work.

Our prayer to our Heavenly Father is to spare him for many more years of active service.

ELDER G. W. CRAWFORD, Missionary,
Redlands, California

**MISSIONARY BAPTISTS CLASSIFIED
AS TO PRACTICE AND TEACHINGS
THE SECOND EDITION
By MISSIONARY R. Y. BLALOCK,
Concord, California.
Fifty Years Pastor and Missionary on the
Pacific Coast.**

In this small work the writer does not pretend to give thorough diagnosis of all doctrines and practices of the Baptist organizations we mention, but to give a clear statement of the main outstanding features from their own minutes and leading officers and preachers among such group of Baptists mentioned in each chapter of this work.

I do not pretend to put it in any flowery language, but in simple plain English that anyone can understand. I want the reader to get an understanding of the true status of these Baptists that you may align yourself with the class you approve, and where you may do the most good to the glory of God, and reap for yourself rewards in eternity.

CHAPTER I

CONVENTION MISSIONARY BAPTISTS: This system of missionary work started in England in 1792 by Baptist ministers forming a missionary society. Then in America in the City of Philadelphia in 1814. Their objects no doubt, were good, but their methods led them away from the source of the power of true missions, the sovereign Churches of Christ to which the commission was given.

Being in possession of a Minute of the Southern Baptist Convention, I will use it. It gives the general system of Conventionism.

The Constitution on page 11, says, "The Messengers from missionary societies, churches, and other religious bodies of the Baptist denomination in various parts of the United States met in Augusta, Georgia, May 8, 1845, for the purpose of carrying into effect the benevolent intent of our constituents by organizing a plan for eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the denomination for the propagation of the Gospel."

They were incorporated by a special act of the "Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia." Approved December 27, 1845.

In this Charter it says, "SAID CORPORATION BEING CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELICITING, COMBINING AND DIRECTING THE ENERGIES OF (Caps Mine) the BAPTIST DENOMINATION OF CHRISTIANS." (Caps theirs) Article II. It is "to promote foreign and home missions, and other important objects connected with the Redeemer's Kingdom," it states in this article, "which shall fully respect the independence and equal rights of the churches." Article III. "The convention shall consist of messengers who are members of missionary Baptist churches co-operating with the Southern Baptist Convention on the basis of one messenger for every church contributing to the work of the Convention and one additional messenger for every \$250 actually paid to the work of the Convention, provided no church shall be entitled to more than ten messengers." (Note: This contradicts the "equal rights of the churches" in Article two.)

This whole system is an outside corporation. Churches and missionaries who work with them are SUBJECTS of this corporation, as I see it.

SOME OF THE FALSE TEACHINGS the Convention propagates:

1. They teach the invisible church theory. In Oklahoma City, when convened in May, 1939, they endorsed the following, as printed in the minutes for that year, also printed in a tract by the Sunday School Board and sent out over the country:

"We hold that the church of Christ, which in the Bible is called 'the body of Christ,' is not to be identified with any denomination or church that seeks to exercise ecclesiastical authority, but **INCLUDES ALL THE REGENERATED WHOEVER AND WHEREVER THEY ARE** as these are led by the Holy Spirit."

In a tract I have, published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and sent out by them, which is written by Dr. John R. Sampey, in commenting on Matt. 16:18, he says, "The reference here is not to a CONGREGATION OR TO A GROUP OF CONGREGATIONS, BUT TO CHRIST'S SPIRITUAL CHURCH COMPOSED OF ALL TRUE BELIEVERS. (Emphasis mine) Christ is the head of his general church, but it has no external organization on earth."

Christ was speaking to a local church of baptized, called-out believers, as "my church." It was the first church of Christ. He instituted it, and he was speaking of it in the institutional sense, that of those going out from it with the "One Lord, one faith, one baptism"; "I will build" "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." To this institution of true churches He said He would give "the keys of the kingdom" V.19, not to an invisible something. In Matt. 18:15-18 He instructed this church in discipline, not an invisible something. This invisible church false teaching is propagated and preached by the leading Convention preachers. October 1st, 1944, I heard Dr. M. F. Ham preach it in Jackson, Tennessee. Elder L. H. Brown of that city was with me, and will verify this statement. I went yesterday, November 12th, 1944, to the dedication of the Southern Baptist Church of this City, Concord, California. The preacher that preached the dedication sermon preached it. They had a Presbyterian preacher pray the opening prayer, and the Christian (Campbellite) minister pray the closing prayer of the service. I thought it was a very fittingly arranged program for the Convention Baptists' false teaching.

2. **THEY TEACH THE INVISIBLE KINGDOM THEORY:** In 1925 The Convention recommended a confession of their faith, which I have, and they publish and send out by the Sunday School Board. In Article XXV, on "THE KINGDOM," it says, "The Kingdom of God is the reign of God in the heart and life of the individual in every human relation, and in every form and institution of organized human society."

Every Scriptural reference they give for this contradicts what they say. Luke 16:16, "the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." How can men press into an invisible kingdom? "The violent take it by force." Matt. 11:12. How can they take an invisible thing by force? Daniel said, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed." Dan. 2:44. When Jesus, the "God of heaven" called out His church, He said to them, "Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God." Luke 6:20.

This Convention, that assumes authority to propagate the Gospel of the kingdom destroys the kingdom of God set up by His Son, and sets up an imaginary invisible one that the Word of God knows nothing of. They become the destroyers of that which they assume to propagate.

3. **THEY PROPAGATE THE EVOLUTION TEACHING:** It is common knowledge that many of the Convention Schools and Colleges have or have had evolution teachers in them. The Convention Co-operates with the "World Baptist Alliance" which is

run by well known modernists. Dr. W. O. Lewis, the secretary, is an avowed modernist. I have a book in my possession, written by Dr. E. Y. Mullins, Copyrighted 1920 by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, sold by them, that I will here quote from.

"1. First of all, then, nature predicts and implies immortality. Nature ascends from lower to higher stages. Progress is the key to the meaning of all the processes of nature. She begins with the crystal. She mounts upward to the plant. From the plant she rises to the animal. From the animal she ascends to man, and there the process abruptly ends. In other words, she begins with the inorganic, and ascends to the organic, from the non-living to the living. Then from the living she ascends to the sentient or feeling animal, and from the sentient she ascends to the moral and intelligent and spiritual being man. At man nature seems to stop. And yet she leaves man with a yearning for something higher-an eternal hunger and an unconquerable belief in the future life.

A poet has expressed it thus:

'A fire-mist and a planet, A crystal and a cell,
A jellyfish and a saurian,
And a cave where cavemen dwell; Then a sense of law and beauty,
And a face turned from the clod-Some call it evolution
And others call it God.'

For my own part, I call it God" Page 47-48.

This false teaching undermines faith in God's Word. When one supports the system he is supporting this death-dealing teaching.

4. Alien Immersion is received by many of the Convention churches, especially in the large cities. The minutes of Tennessee Baptist Convention for 1919, page 42, show that the Convention received a whole Freewill Baptist Association. The First Church of Georgetown, Ky., had a Campbellite preacher in her membership, who was president of Georgetown Baptist College for a time, supported by the Convention. The Convention never makes any pronouncement on the question. It was estimated by Elders E. E. Rice and J. Boys Taylor, some twenty years ago, that about 25 percent of the churches in some of the Southern states received it.

I will say here that I believe there are many sound churches and pastors in the Southern Convention that do not indorse her heretical teachings. But as we are building for eternity, how they can support the system which is so rotten, I cannot understand. They should heed the exhortation of the Spirit, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partaker of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4.

What I say of the Southern Convention is much more applicable to the Northern Baptist Convention, for all these evils are much worse, or more common among them.

CHAPTER II

THE WORLD FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP: This movement of Baptist missionary work was organized in the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, in 1932, by a group of Baptist preachers and laymen. It was incorporated in the "County Tarrant, State of Texas." Then Dr. J. Frank Norris published in the Fundamentalist, April 29, 1938, a picture of the charter of this corporation incorporated in State of Michigan, "filed the 18th day of April, 1938." He said, "Back of this charter are 300 Fundamental Baptist pastors." So we see it is an organization of preachers.

1. THEIR METHOD OF WORK: In the Fundamentalist of January 22, 1943, is an account of a meeting of Fundamentalists on December 10th, 1942, where a committee of three was "appointed to gather information and give it out concerning the work of the World's Fundamental Baptist Mission Fellowship." The committee was "Rev. Luther Peak, Rev. Luther Bradley, and Rev. George Crittenden." They gave the workings of the "Fellowship" in "104 questions and answers," printed in the Fundamentalist, January 22, 1943. From these questions and answers we get something of their methods of work.

"Question 1. Is the World's Fundamental Baptist Missionary Fellowship a Corporation?" Answer: "Yes. This is necessary in order to have financial responsibility, and own property." Note, this is not correct. Most of our Baptist churches that own property are not incorporated.

"Question 21. How many, and how are the Directors of the Fellowship elected?" Answer: "Seven in number, and they are elected in the open annual meeting of the Missionary Fellowship."

"Question 22. What are the duties of the Directors? Answer: They are trustees only, and act in such capacity to carry out the will of the Fellowship. It is their duty to bring an Annual Report of all work of the Fellowship, to have the books audited by bonded auditing company, to employ the secretary of the Fellowship office, and see that the secretary is bonded and all the records kept in an orderly manner."

We have not space in this small work to take up all the items. But we see from these given that they have seven directors who constitute an executive board, while they say, in answer to question 22, "They are trustees only, and act in such capacity to carry out the will of the Fellowship," which is in meaning the same as an executive committee or board. We see by the answer to question 34, that the Directors select a special missionary who is to "enlist new churches." In reading the answer to question 59, we see Luther Peak is appointed by the Directors to the office of "selecting and appointing evangelists." They say, "No man in the Fellowship is better qualified to do the 'Pauline act' of selecting and appointing evangelists than Brother Luther Peak." Where did they get that idea that Paul selected and appointed evangelists? Here we have a man appointed in the Holy Spirit's place. We have given enough that you can see their methods are no better than those of the Convention system, and if there is any difference it is more autocratic and fraught with more danger to the sovereign churches of Christ.

2. Their Doctrine And Teaching: I have in a scrapbook, taken from the Fundamentalist, October 30th, 1936, "What Fundamentalists Believe," which was adopted by a group of them, April 21, 1936. This is purported to be the "New Hampshire Confession of Faith" brought up to date, which I consider sound, on the whole. But there are two points of heresy that are common among them, that this confession does not repudiate or mention:

1. The invisible church and kingdom theory. They make no statement on the Kingdom of Christ or Kingdom of God. But in the teaching of many of them they put forth the theory of the invisible church and kingdom.

2. On the reception of alien immersion in their churches, they make no statement. If their statement on baptism were strictly adhered to it would cut out the reception of it. But some four years ago, I sent a questionnaire to the Seven Directors asking about their belief and practice, and just one of them answered that he and his church opposed its reception, and opposed open or free communion with other denominations. So they are largely alien immersionists and open communionists. Nearly all on this Pacific Coast and in the North are known to be such. Their missionaries, with perhaps a few exceptions are of that belief. I wrote Dr. Fred Donelson, their leading missionary, asking him as to his belief, and practice in China of alien immersion. He did not answer me, although I sent him a self-addressed stamped envelope. Their practice and teachings are so conflicting that the word "Fellowship" in their name is spurious or a misnomer. Their practice of receiving alien immersion destroys Baptist churches, puts them down to the level with human institutions. Many of these churches on the Pacific Coast we personally know to be nothing more than community churches with persons of all denominations as members. One I know, called a Fundamental Baptist Church, has a pastor baptised and ordained by another denomination.

3. SOME OBSERVATIONS: In the Fundamentalist, April 29th, 1939, Dr. Norris published "What Do Baptists Believe," by Rev. John Shearer, M.A., President of Baptist Union of Scotland, and Norris says, "This statement of Faith by Dr. John Shearer, while not in the same language as the Confession of these two churches, is essentially the same." Dr. Shearer, in his confession, speaking of the church of Christ, says: "Its glorious beginnings are faithfully recorded in the Acts, and the CHURCH WHICH CAME INTO BEING AT PENTECOST is manifestly a Baptist Church." (Caps mine) Dr. Norris here seems to endorse the Campbellite teaching of the founding of the church on Pentecost whereas the Church of Christ was founded by Christ, while He was here. Matt. 16:18. Luke 6:12, 13.

In the 104 questions and answers, the Committee, in No.26 and 27, wrests the Scriptures concerning the seven Deacons in a church, and applies it to an outside corporation. Their misapplication of Scriptures, and inconsistencies are too numerous for me to refer to in this small work. But no people can uphold and propagate an unScriptural system without doing violence to the Word of God.

CHAPTER III

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION: This body of Baptists was first organized as The General Association in Texas 1905, and changed to The American Baptist Association in 1924.

This organization, in their "Articles of Agreement," provides for the election of a Secretary-Treasurer in Article VII: and in Article IX a Missionary Committee, members of which are to be executives of the Association. Their articles of agreement, Article VIII, Sec. 3, say: "All funds of this Association shall pass through the hands of the Treasurer in a manner hereinafter provided for." In fact the whole system is a modified form of the Convention system. They use the word "Committee" instead of the word "Board" used by the Convention system. But they mean about the same. This committee may not take all the authority that the Boards of the Convention do, but as an executive committee they are given authority to elect a "treasurer or corresponding secretary." Article VII, Sec. 6, says they are "TO ACT AS AN EXECUTIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION, BETWEEN THE SESSIONS, TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTS OF THIS ASSOCIATION, ATTEND TO ALL NEEDED MATTER NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR BY SPECIAL PROVISION, and to render an annual report of this work to the association." (Caps mine) We see this is a messenger body giving authority to a committee to do work it assumes. The churches have no right to delegate to messengers the work God gave them to do. So these messengers assume the authority to do missionary work, and elect a treasurer and committee to which they redelegate the authority that belongs to the churches.

This system builds up an ecclesiastical institution over and above the sovereign churches of Christ. Dr. L. S. Ballard, aptly says: "Association Baptists claim that the commission to evangelize was given to the local church and to none other, yet we turn right around and practice redelegated church authority * * * we hold the truth and preach the truth but practice contrary to the truth we preach." (In Orthodox Baptist Searchlight, Feb.25, 1943.)

THEIR DOCTRINE AND TEACHING: In doctrine The American Baptist Association preachers are generally sound. Some ministers among them may hold some erroneous teachings. I have known of and heard two or three to preach "the reason Christ had no sin, was that children inherit their sin from the father, and as Christ's Father was God, He inherited no sin." I think that is as modernistic as the evolution theory. It is taking the miraculous power out of Christ's overcoming all sin, inherited or acquired. It is contrary to true science as to heredity, and the teachings of God's Word. Heb. 2:16-18. 4:15.

Then a very erroneous statement, made by some leaders of the association to get churches to represent in the meetings is to say: "You don't join anything," which is deception. They should have principles and working methods they are not ashamed to ask people to join in and help support.

The Word of God says, "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, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

The Scripture is given by the Holy Spirit. He does not contradict Himself. He leads nobody contrary to what He has written. By the word we are to judge people whether they are led by the Spirit.

1. The Word, in Acts 13:1-4, gives an example of who is to send out missionaries and how. Sometimes the American Association has assumed that right or authority.

2. The Holy Spirit has said: "Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Rom. 12:17. Then in 2 Cor. 8:21, "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men." These Scriptures are violated by the association as well as the convention, in that their treasurer gives no public account of the individual receipts from the churches, and who paid to, etc., which gives room to embezzle funds.

3. The Holy Spirit has said to a church, "Render therefore to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." Rom. 13:7. The American Association, as well as the Convention, violates this Scripture, by not honouring the churches that give when they send funds to a missionary, stating that it is from the association, and not telling what churches gave it. It is honouring the Association, in place of the church to which the honour is due.

4. The Word of God says to the church, "Ye are the light of the world"--Read Matt 5:14-16. The convention system puts the light of the churches "under a bushel"--the convention. So the American Baptist Association puts the light of the churches under a "bushel"--the association. Yet some will say the American Association is not in any sense like the convention system.

Their teaching as to a Missionary-treasurer, that all should send their mission money to so that he could pay all alike, is the commonest idea: to have a general boss to handle all funds and treat all alike in pay. It does away with the Holy Spirit's work of looking after the needs of His missionaries, sent out by churches that He directs. He knows better what each missionary needs, and deserves, on each field. It takes it out of the hands of God and His churches. It teaches churches to shift responsibility, and let some one else do it. It keeps the churches in ignorance as to the missionary, and the needs of the field. Every church and each member should be kept informed. It is unScriptural and unBaptistic to shift responsibility.

CHAPTER IV

DIRECT OR GOSPEL MISSION BAPTISTS: These Missionary Baptists were so called by Dr. Harris, president of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, about fifty-four years ago, when Dr. T. P. Crawford and some other missionaries in China left the Board and appealed to the churches for support direct. Dr. Harris called them "Gospel Missioners." There is no indication that he did not mean it was the Gospel plan of Missions. Before Association or Conventions were organized that is the way mission work was done.

Their method of work is for a missionary who feels called by the Holy Spirit to go to a mission field to let his church know it, and if the church feels led by the Spirit that he is a God-called man, according to Acts 13:1-4, they set him apart "or the work whereunto" the Holy Spirit has called him. If his church is not able to support him, he is commended to other churches of like faith, that may, if the Spirit so leads, elect him as their missionary to help support. So a group of three or a dozen or more may be led to help support him. They take monthly or quarterly collections, and send direct to him. He receipts them, and reports each quarter what he has received from each church or individual, and has it published in a missionary paper that all may see what he has received. It honours the church for what it gives, and provides for honest things in the sight of all men, as the Scriptures teach. It is simple, economical, and Scriptural. No man has devised such a noble plan with no middle man between church and their missionary. No grades among the ministers, but all are brethren.

No central treasurer to handle great sums of mission money to cause the devil to lead some unworthy person to get in and embezzle mission money, as has been the case a couple of times in the Southern Convention, since I can remember.

IS THIS PLAN WORKABLE? Hear what Dr. L. S. Ballard says about it. "But they say that the church plan of missions is the Gospel Mission plan, is therefore unworkable. If it is unworkable then quit preaching it. If it is unworkable then God gave us the impossible. If it is unworkable it is because our people do not have the Christian courage to take their stand for what they know to be the truth and throw overboard unscriptural, man-made institutions which have taken the work of evangelism out of the hands of the churches. The fact that God's plan is not working today is chargeable to the cowardice of Baptist preachers. Rather than suffer for truth's sake and be called Gospel Missioner or branded as offshoots from the denomination through fear of the 'Great Diana of the Ephesians,' the Baptist Denomination, they allow themselves to be whipped into line and put under machine rule. Don't be a coward, brother, and let the fear of losing your job prevent you from taking a stand for the truth. 'God will take care of you.'" (In Orthodox Baptist Searchlight, Feb.25, 1943.)

THE DOCTRINE OR FAITH OF DIRECT MISSION BAPTISTS

They accept the old Baptist Confessions of faith such as J. Newton Brown's and J. M. Pendleton's with a few changes. Many of our churches, when endorsing them, change Article XIV on Baptism, adding: "By authority of a Missionary Baptist Church", so as to eliminate the practice of receiving alien immersion. I have just put out "A Missionary Baptist Manual" that gives the true faith of Direct Missionary Baptists as I have known them for more than

fifty years. You can get this Manual, which contains our Faith, and Baptist rules of order in transacting business, for 15 cents by sending to R. Y. Blalock, P.O. Box 322, Concord, California.

They believe Jesus Christ established His church and set up His Kingdom during His personal ministry, that it was a Missionary Baptist church, and such of like faith and practice have been all the way from that day to this, and that there will be true Baptist churches here when He comes for His own. They believe Jesus Christ is the only head of His Churches, and the Holy Spirit the only director and leader of the churches in missionary work, that any man or set of men taking charge of that work outside of His church is a usurper of the Holy Spirit's work in churches, that no church has the right or authority to shift its work to a board or committee or central treasurer. The obligation is to do as commanded by Christ in His farewell charge to His church in Matt. 28:19, 20.

We have several Missionary Baptist Associations of Direct Mission churches. We believe in associations for Spiritual fellowship and counsel, with a few statements of cooperation, but make no laws, elect no executive committees or officers, only such as necessary for order of business. They elect no missionaries. That is the business of the churches under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The Cumberland River Baptist Association of Kentucky, older than any Convention in the United States, is a Direct Mission Association.

In this association there has arisen a faction of late, which opposes the missionaries on the foreign field having rules, and as a mission withdrawing from a missionary who becomes a heretic or is unfit morally. This faction would destroy liberty. If it is right for a church to withdraw from such, it is right for her members, in groups or as individuals to do so. The Scriptures are clear on that--See 1 Cor. 5:10, 11. 2 Thes. 3:6. Rom. 16:17. Titus 3:10. If missionaries on the field should tolerate and fellowship such, they would be unworthy of the support of the church that sent them out. They would lose their moral standing with true churches. So true Direct Missionary Baptists wish their missionaries to withdraw themselves from unworthy missionaries that may leave the truth or become unfit, and then report the facts to the churches and especially to their own church for discipline.

There are two or three associations in Tennessee, and North Carolina whose churches practice that method of work. There are many churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, also the true churches of Colorado largely believe and practice Direct Mission work. It is the Bible plan. All confess it is Scriptural. No one will deny it. Then why not all practice what we preach? If we will, the churches will be honored, and God will be glorified, and millions will hear the truth that will not otherwise know of Jesus Christ as the Saviour of lost men.

I may seem to be prejudiced because I have pointed out some of the errors and heresies as I see them. But I realize there are many good and great men under each of these systems who do not personally believe in and endorse these things I have pointed out, and who do a great work in soul-winning in spite of the system they work under. But if I am logical in my reasoning they are guilty with them to a certain extent in helping to propagate the system and their false teachings. I am sure the honest men among them will not condemn me for being honest in the convictions that I have expressed.

It is clearly taught in the Word of God, that we are to be rewarded for our works that are true, and that we will suffer loss if we build of "wood, hay, stubble", which shall be burned. 1 Cor. 3:11-15. We should want all God has for us, and not lose our rewards. He is coming soon, and He will reward us for our true works. The Spirit of Christ is to do God's

will. His will is recorded in the Bible, and by His Word we shall be judged, John 12:48. Then it behooves us to obey it.

CHAPTER V

FASCISM AND COMMUNISM AMONG BAPTISTS

Fascism is a nationalistic movement to combat communistic tendencies. Communism is a social system that puts property, capital and industry under control of the government.

Both Communism and Fascism are destructive to democracy. Their systems are for the government control of the people, while the aim of democracy is for the people to control and run the government.

Baptists ever since Christ formed them into a church have been a democratic people. Jesus taught them to be such. He says, "Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." Matt. 20:25-27.

The principle, here placed in the charter of the first Baptist church by our Lord, is for one who wishes to be great, to earn it by being a servant to others, and not being a ruler over them. In Matt. 23:8-12 He says, "But be not ye called Rabbi; for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth; for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

This Baptist charter is violated by almost all Protestant sects, and to be like those round about us, some Baptists have built up human systems that have human heads, that the individual members and churches must look up to, and obey as leaders. It is now a slogan among our Convention Baptists that we must have "trained leaders." What is the real meaning of this? Is it not that we must have men trained to follow us, and lead their people to follow with them? The Holy Spirit as a leader is forgotten or ignored.

The communistic theory denies God His authority in ruling the individual conscience of man.

He must be trained to think and follow human leaders, and be a slave to a head man, or men. Jesus says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36) God's children are free to do right, and there is no just law to prevent it. They are free to do as they please, for they please to do right. Righteousness is the tie that binds God's people together. When their hearts are made right by His Spirit, it is pleasing to them to walk together in love and fellowship.

To make human conventions, or associations of Baptists that centralize into human heads, is to communize Baptists, and follow after the world and worldly ways, which undermine the Bible, the Baptist charter given to His Church.

I give here the dates of the founding of the most prominent religious organizations calling themselves Christians who have more or less of the practices of Fascism, or Communism in their system:

1. Roman Catholics separated from the Baptists about A.D. 251, and gradually drifted into the Papacy. The first universal Bishop or Pope was Boniface III, who was made such by Emperor Phocas, A.D. 606.
2. Lutherans split off from the Catholics, and organized by Martin Luther in A.D. 1530.

3. Presbyterians split off from the Catholics in France, organized by John Calvin in A.D. 1535.
4. Episcopalians were organized by King Henry the VIII, pulling off the English people from the Catholics in A.D. 1540.
5. Congregationalists were organized by Robert Brown in A.D. 1580.
6. Quakers, organized by George Fox in A.D. 1648.
7. Methodists split off from the Episcopalians and organized by John Wesley A. D. 1729.
8. Freewill Baptists organized by Ben Randall in A.D. 1780.
9. Campbellites, that call themselves "The Christian Church", and "The Church of Christ", were organized by Alexander Campbell, A.D. 1827.
10. Mormons, now many of them call themselves "Latter Day Saints", were organized by Joseph Smith, A.D. 1830.
11. Seventh Day Adventists, organized by William Miller, A.D. 1843.
12. Russelites, now calling themselves "Jehovah's Witnesses," organized by Charles Russel, A.D., 1884.
13. "Christian Science," so-called, organized by Mary Baker Eddy, A.D., 1884.
14. Nazarenes, organized in Los Angeles, by P. F. Bresee, A.D., 1895.
15. Four Square Church, organized by Aimee Semple McPherson, A.D., 1925.
16. The Northern Convention Baptists, organized in Philadelphia, A.D., 1814.
17. The Southern Convention Baptists, organized in Augusta, Georgia, A.D., 1845.
18. Amercian Association Baptists, organized in Texas, A.D., 1905, as The General Association then changed to The American Baptist Association, A.D., 1924.
19. The World Fundamental Baptist Missionary Fellowship, organized in Ft. Worth, Texas, A.D., 1932.

I know most all the Baptist organizations, as well as many others, will deny that they, in any way, practice Fascism or Communism. But you read after them, and their minutes of meetings, and how they select missionaries, and officers, setting their salaries and calling on the churches, and Baptists generally to support them, and you will see they practice what I say.

Any system that presumes to rule over others, has the tendency to slavery. It destroys liberty. Liberty destroyed brings slavery. True liberty is righteousness. No man has a right to rule over another unless he rules righteously. He who is right needs no man to rule him, for the Spirit of Christ in him leads him to do right. So he is free.

Fascism and Communism are as old as sin. It is the devil in man that wants to dominate over others. But Baptists who have been "born of the Spirit" should fight against that old devil in us. He comes into the fleshly mind of God's children to lead them off from the Baptist Charter Christ gave to His Church when He started her out into the world. So life as a true Baptist, is a warfare. May God help us to fight as true men of God, humbly and meekly, to please Him who redeemed us by His precious blood.

Yours in His name,

R. Y. BLALOCK

January 1945