

# ***MINUTES***

**OF THE**

***Seventy-Second Annual Session***

**OF THE**

## **Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association**

**CONVENED WITH**

***Bethel Church***

**MARVEL, ALABAMA, ROUTE 1**

***September 28 through October 1, 1950***

### **OFFICERS**

Moderator.....A. J. Lambert  
Brilliant, Alabama

Assistant Moderator.....Dewey F. Isbell  
Leeds, Alabama

Clerk.....H. A. McSpadden  
Route 7, Box 272-A, Birmingham, Alabama

The 73rd Session of the Cahaba River Association of Free Will Baptist  
Will Meet with North Birmingham Church, 2808 North 32nd Avenue  
Thursday Night before the First Sunday in October 1951



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**Baptist Association**

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	Elder R. H. Howard Sterrett, Alabama	M. D. Harper Marvel, Ala., Rt. 1	J. E. Hodgens Chelsea, Alabama	Dewey Isbell Leeds, Alabama	W. O. McDonald 4224 No. 29th St., B'ham, Ala.	H. L. Mitchell 1429 No. 20th St., B'ham, Ala.	R. K. Franklin 2213 31st Ave., No., B'ham, Ala.	A. J. Lambert Brilliant-Boston, Alabama	H. M. Black Adamsville, Alabama	Earl Isbell Dunnivant, Alabama	J. J. Staab 2313 No. 33rd Ave., B'ham, Ala.	J. W. Marlow 2525 No. 34th Ave., B'ham, Ala.
Churches Pastored.....	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Sermons Preached.....	24	196	15	125	11	165	124	169	15	74	120	161
Baptized.....	0	0	0	1	0	2	16	10	0	0	3	11
Funerals.....	0	0	0	2	0	16	3	2	3	1	0	8
Marriages.....	0	0	0	1	0	18	1	1	3	0	3	1
Revivals.....	0	4	0	1	0	4	1	5	0	1	2	2
Miles Traveled.....	620	4,240	500	3,000	400	9,600		6,000	469	1,412	1,700	10,000
Offerings.....	5.15	723.00	0	343.33	0	475.00	700.00	2183.25	0	0	1300.00	1,537.16
Expense.....	5.72	112.00		343.33	0	150.00		300.00	14.65	0	60.00	700.00



## PROCEEDINGS

The seventy-second annual session of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association met with Bethel Church at Marvel, Alabama, Rt. 1, on September 28, 1950, at 7:30 P. M.

The service began with congregational songs conducted by Elder A. J. Lambert. Prayer by Sister Myrtle Smitherman.

Devotional service conducted by Elder J. E. Hodgens.

Evening message by Elder M. D. Harper. Scripture reading: Proverbs 29:18.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 9:00 A. M.

After song service, the clerk called the business session to order.

The business session of the conference opened by Elder A. J. Lambert, the assistant moderator. Brother Lambert expressing the deep regret of the loss of our moderator, Brother E. M. Fields, who was such an efficient moderator of our 1949 session, and had been re-elected moderator for 1950. A devoted man of God who passed away February 1950. The conference stood in utter silence for a moment in respect to Brother Fields, which indeed was a sacred moment.

Prayer led by Elder J. W. Marlow, giving thanks to our God for having let us have such a one in the true fellowship of our Saviour, praying that God would comfort our hearts and those of his loved ones in knowing that when this life is finished we would meet in that better Kingdom where heartaches and disappointments are unknown.

Devotion by Brother A. J. Lambert reading Ephesians, 4th Chapter on Unity.

Welcome address by the Pastor, Elder D. F. Isbell.

Sentiment of delegates by Brother Fowler.

### Church Letters Called For And Read

Bethel: Sisters Mary Anne Harris, Inez Kitchens, Minnie Pickett.

Pleasant Valley: Brothers L. W. Kindrick, Cecil Hodgens, Sister J. E. Hodgens.

Mt. Olive: Brothers Earl Isbell, Frank Minor, Sister Sarah Isbell.

Sylacauga: Sisters S. J. Fowler, A. L. Harmon, A. J. Lambert, Brother Taylor.

Union Hill: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Parker, Sister Inez Isbell, Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Parker.

North Birmingham: Brothers James Pickett, D. B. Moore, Sisters Mavern Pickett, Laura Langford.

Shady Grove: Brother and Sister Earl Carroll.

Mt. Pleasant: Brothers J. W. Barnett, Elmore Johnson, Sister Phoebe Hodgens.

Fairview: Brother and Sister James Taylor, Brother Emmit Lee.

Lindburgh: By Letter

Davis Chapel: Sisters Ola Howard, Lenora Davis.

Oak Grove:

A motion to receive letters and seat delegates.

A motion to seat delegates of Women's Auxiliary.

### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Devotional: D. F. Isbell, R. H. Howard, Henry Pickett.

Credential and Standing of Ministry: C. R. Dean, Felix Smith. L. W. Kendrick.

Business: J. W. Marlow, J. E. Hodgens, J. W. Isbell.

Ordaining Council: Elders J. E. Hodgens, J. R. Weaver, W. O. McDonald.

Resolutions: Sisters H. L. Mitchell, A. L. Harmon, Mary McSpadden.

Family Religion: Brother Emmitt Lee, Sister S. J. Fowler, Alberta Hughley.

Sunday School: League and Literature, Eugene Howard, J. W. Barnett.

Temperance: James Pickett, R. H. Howard, Frank Harris.

Deceased Members: Ola Howard, Lenora Davis, Earl Isbell.

Intermission 15 minutes. Adjourn until 1:30 P. M.



## 11:00 A. M. SERVICE

The Keeton Sisters sang a special song "When They Ring Those Golden Bells" while there was an old time fellowship meeting and handshaking service with much rejoicing. Prayer by Eugene Howard.

After singing and prayer, Elder J. W. Marlow brought the message, subject, "Redeem the Time for the Days Are Evil," Ephesians 5th chapter.

Song "After While"

Prayer.

NOON: Lunch, really an hour of refreshment when old friends meet and new ones are made as we enjoyed the fine lunch served.

1:30 P. M.: Several good choir songs and specials were sung as body re-assembled.

Regular conference was called back into order by moderator.

Report for night service by devotional committee.

Brother A. J. Lambert to conduct service before Ministers Conference.

Sunday School, League, and Literature Committee report.

The Sunday School, League and proper religious literature is without question one of the greatest assets to the church and means of combating juvenile delinquency. No sacrifice is too great to maintain these means of training for our church, and the upbuilding of our civilization "raise up a child in the way it should go, and when it is old it will not depart from it" cannot be substituted.

Eugene Howard, J. W. Barnett.

Songs: "Where the Soul Never Dies," "An Old Account Was Settled."

Report of Family Religion:

The practice of family prayer and Bible reading is in keeping with our church covenant, and is the background for our church and a heritage to our children. Alberta Hughley, Emmitt Lee, Earlene Fowler.

## DECEASED MEMBERS

We, your committee, wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to the families and friends of our deceased loved ones who have gone to their reward.

Brother Charlie Kendrick..... Sylacauga Church

Brother Jack Cox ..... Union Hill Church

Brother E. M. Fields ..... North Birmingham Church

(Moderator of our Association)

Sister Anna Allen ..... Bethel Church

Sister D. H. Cramer..... North Birmingham Church

Sister Eddie Click ..... Shady Grove Church

May our memory of them make us stronger in our Lord.

The congregation stood in reverence to God "who doeth all things well" and sang "In the Sweet By and By."

Brother Earl Isbell, Sisters Lenora Davis, Ola Howard.

Partial Report of Business Committee.

Article No. 1: A motion to receive.

Article No. 2: A motion to accept article and table until following day.

Article No. 3: A motion to receive and abide by this section.

Article No. 4: A motion to accept.

Note: (See general report)

A report from Elder H. M. Black asking for prayer by association. Accepted.

## Resolution Committee Report

Due to lack of funds in our treasure we resolve that each member of our association endeavor to raise \$1.00 each this coming year to build up our treasure. Give your donation to your church clerk and have your name recorded as soon as possible.

Mrs. H. L. Mitchell, Mrs. Mary McSpadden, Mrs. A. L. Harmon.

A motion to leave session open. Carried.

Dismissed by prayer.

## FRIDAY NIGHT 7:00 P. M.

Service began by singing several good hymns and sacred songs.

Devotion by Elder Earl Isbell, a good spiritual testimony service by the ladies.

Song: "Love Lifted Me."

A request for prayer by Elder W. O. McDonald for the healing of his body. Prayer by body.

The message by Elder A. J. Lambert. Scripture I John, 1st chapter, said like Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration, "it is good to be here."

Brother Lambert spoke for the Children's Home as Brother Ryland was in revival work and could not attend association.

A collection of \$100.00 was received for the home as songs "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "I'll Live On" were sung.

## MINISTERS CONFERENCE

Called to order by the clerk, H. A. McSpadden, then a motion that Brother A. J. Lambert act as moderator of meeting.

The By-LAWS were read by Elder M. D. Harper. A motion to accept for discussion. The BY-LAWS were discussed and accepted.

A motion to print same in minutes. (See BY-LAWS)

New members: Brothers James Pickett, J. R. Weaver, Frank Harris, Bill Pickett, James Kitchens, Eugene Howard, Frank Minor and C. R. Dean.

A motion to receive new members in full fellowship and extend the right hand of fellowship.

A motion that this body consider Brother J. U. Keeton in full fellowship. Carried.

A good talk on the tithes of the tithe by Brother C. R. Dean.

A request for certificate of standing by Elder R. K. Franklin, who is doing pastoral work in another field given to business committee.

Elder J. W. Marlow was elected moderator, Elder H. L. Mitchell was elected as assistant moderator.

After other discussions the body adjourned.

## By-Laws of Ministers' and Deacons' Conference of Cahaba River Association

- (1) The clerk or assistant clerk, or the Senior Minister in years, may call the meeting to order and shall have charge until moderator assumes his place.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll all ministers present who are in good standing. If there are questionable characters they shall be referred to an appointed credential committee for advice but not for trial. They may be seated if found worthy, if not they are referred to their church.
- (3) Each meeting shall be opened with scripture reading and prayer.
- (4) By a two-thirds vote any decision of the moderator may be overruled.
- (5) This meeting shall sit with open doors unless it goes into a committee as a whole.
- (6) Any person, not a member of the body shall be allowed to take part in discussion, with moderator's permission, but shall have no vote.
- (7) All members of the body are expected to be present throughout the session unless excused by moderator.
- (8) No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one officer or committeeman if his nomination is elected.
- (9) The moderator must not allow any discussion to be carried on in an unchristian spirit.
- (10) The person who desires to speak, must first arise and address the moderator and when recognized shall proceed.
- (11) The votes on any question must be counted upon request of one-fifth of members present.
- (12) No member shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes, nor twice on the same subject unless given permission by moderator.



## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1950

9:00 A. M. Service began with song, "There Is Power In the Blood." Devotional by Sister James Pickett, reading in Psalms 24, a very inspiring talk and testimony service. Prayer by Sister Earlene Fowler.

Oral report of minutes. (As minutes had been destroyed by fire.) Accepted.

Devotion report: Eugene Howard to conduct the devotion, Elder A. J. Lambert to preach at 11 A. M.

Financial report of Treasurer (see report).

Elder A. J. Lambert asked for letter of dismissal as he has left this association for another field of work.

A motion that Business Committee form a letter for Brother Lambert from this Association. Carried.

Song: "Jesus Hold My Hand" and "Some Day."

Recess for 10 minutes.

Song: "I'll Live On."

### Election of Officers

Elder H. L. Mitchell elected as moderator, Elder D. F. Isbell elected as assistant moderator.

A motion to re-elect clerk, passed.

H. A. McSpadden as clerk, M. D. Harper as assistant clerk.

Elder H. L. Mitchell elected trustee for Children's Home for Cahaba River Association.

Executive Committee, Charles R. Dean, A. J. Smith, M. D. Harper.

Business adjourned until 1:30 P. M.

### SATURDAY 11:00 A. M.

Special Songs: "This Life Is Just A Proving Ground," and "If We Had No Jesus," by Brother J. W. Isbell and wife.

Message by Elder A. J. Lambert, reading in Acts 15th chapter, 18th verse, "Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world."

A very inspiring message as he brought out the mysteries of God's words.

NOON: Lunch very graciously served by ladies of the church and enjoyed by entire body.

### SATURDAY 1:30 P. M.

Several good choir songs and specials were sung as body re-assembled.

### LADIES AUXILIARY

Sister Harry L. Mitchell President

Reading by Sister Mary McSpadden from Matthew 5th chapter, a good talk to ladies of auxiliary on giving support, cause of benevolence.

Letters called for and read.

Church reported.

North Birmingham delegates. Sisters H. L. Mitchell, Alberta Hughley, Mary McSpadden.

Auxiliary meets first and third Wednesdays at 9:30 A. M., they have bought shrubbery for church, sent money to Miss Bernard in India, sent flowers to funerals, and helped support the Children's Home. They sent \$5.00 for support of Annual Conference.

Total collection for year \$84.36

Expense 80.86

3.50

September collection 3.57

Balance \$ 7.07

President: Sister Sarah Parsons

Vice President: Sister H. L. Mitchell

Secretary and Treasurer: Sister Alberta Hughley

Fairview: We have built and painted 20 seats for our church this year. Cost \$300.00.

President: Mrs. Gilbert McLaughlin

Secretary: Mrs. Dave Harris

Sylacauga: Delegate Sister A. L. Harmon, church had a balance forward from 1949 \$ 12.44

Dues, Tithes and Offerings 164.34

Chicken Dinners and Donations 914.66

Paid to Building Fund and Treasurer 653.00

Children's Home 55.90

Foreign Mission 10.10

Unified Program 9.51

Charity 61.85

Flowers 106.45

Trays Carried .32

Sick Visits 3.79

Hospital Visits .67

Poundings Given to Needy 41.32

Coupons Sent to Children's Home 4.013

Can Goods Sent to Home 15 qts.

Potatoes Sent to Home 1/2 bu.

Total for Year \$1,078.06

Total Expense 1,069.00

9.06

### Recording Secretary and Treasure Report

North Birmingham \$ 9.20

Sylacauga 4.40

Shady Grove 5.00

Retiring Secretary 14.28

\$32.88

Paid State Association \$ 5.82

Paid National Association 18.20

\$24.02

Balance on Hand \$ 8.86

Mrs. Earl Carroll

4141 Fairmont Way, North

Birmingham, Alabama

Bethel Church organized auxiliary with 10 members.

Sister A. L. Harmon elected 1st Vice President in vacancy left by Mrs. A. J. Lambert who has left this district and has gone to another field of work.

Sister H. L. Mitchell elected as State Delegate.

Report from Children's Home read, and collection of \$12.66 for home received as song "I'm Going that Way" was sung.

A motion to retain same officers for next year.

A motion to adjourn.

### LADIES AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Sister Joe Brazzell President, 33 Twin St., Sylacauga

Sister A. L. Harmon 1st. Vice Pres., Rt. 3, Box 260F, Sylacauga

Sister H. W. Grice 2nd Vice Pres., Sylacauga, Ala.

Sister H. L. Mitchell 3rd Vice Pres., 1429 N. 20th St., Birmingham

Sister Alberta Hughley 4th Vice Pres., Birmingham, Ala.

Sister John Poe 5th Vice Pres., Rt. 2, Trussville, Ala.

Sister Earl Carroll Recording Sec'y and Treas. Birmingham



## GENERAL BUSINESS REPORT

1. We recommend Brothers S. J. Fowler and James Pickett to the ordaining council.
2. We recommend that each church tithe their income as follows:  
25 per cent of tithes to home missions, 25 per cent of tithes to Annual Conference, 25 per cent of tithes to Children's Home, 15 per cent of tithes to Foreign Mission, 10 per cent of tithes to Super Annuation, and if passed by body to take place of Article 10 in Constitution.  
Carried by unanimous vote.
3. We recommend that clerk correct wording of Covenant and Articles of Faith in minutes to conform with wording in Treatise. Accepted.
4. We recommend that Executive Board assist Fairview Church in obtaining pastor if the church so desires. Carried.
5. We recommend a certificate of standing for Elder R. K. Franklin and Brother J. U. Keeton. Carried.
6. We recommend a letter of recommendation to Elder A. J. Lambert, who is leaving our association to another field of work. Carried.
7. As some of our ministers and deacons have failed to abide by our treatise and apparently ignored their obligations, we recommend that henceforth those guilty of same be disciplined accordingly, and we desire that all associations do the same. Accepted.
8. We recommend that this body consider the selection of an evangelist and some means of financing this work as soon as possible.  
J. W. Marlow, J. W. Isbell, J. E. Hodgens.

## TREASURER REPORT 1949-1950

Cash from Churches	\$ 90.75	
20 Ministers—\$1.00 each	20.00	
44 Deacons—\$1.00 each	44.00	
North Birmingham Ladies Auxiliary	5.00	
Special Collection	37.50	
Money Sent to Clerk after Association	13.00	
	<u>\$212.25</u>	
Moderator	\$ 25.00	
Clerk	25.00	
Minutes	86.70	
State Association	15.00	
National Association (Cahaba River)	5.00	
500 Ministers Certificates	4.50	
500 Deacons Certificates	4.50	
36 Ministers, Deacons Ord. Blanks	3.60	
Postage (Minutes)	4.12	
Postage (Clerk)	3.00	
Treasurer Overdrawn 1948-1949	37.48	
	<u>\$213.90</u>	213.90
	Overdrawn	1.65
Refund by Treasurer on '48-49		18.74
		<u>17.09</u>
To Balance on Hand		17.09

Rev. Henry L. Mitchell, Treasurer

## Money Received for Conference in Church Letters

Davis Chapel	\$ 10.00
Fairview	6.00
Mt. Pleasant	12.00
Shady Grove	7.00
North Birmingham	43.82
Union Hill	8.00
Pleasant Valley	5.00
Sylacauga	15.00
Mt. Olive	10.00
Bethel	10.00
Money Received from Delegates	
Shady Grove	10.00
Union Hill	11.00
North Birmingham	10.00
Sylacauga Woman's Auxiliary	5.00
North Birmingham Woman's Auxiliary	5.00
M. D. Harper	2.00
J. E. Hodgens	1.00
J. U. Keeton	2.00
James Pickett	1.00
Mrs. H. L. Mitchell	1.00
B. Martin	.50
Mrs. A. L. Harmon	1.00
Mrs. W. T. Wolfe	1.00
S. J. Fowler	.38
Ministers Enrolled	13.00
Deacons Enrolled	20.00
Total	<u>\$210.70</u>

## STANDING OF THE MINISTRY

We request this body to give Elder J. R. Weaver, a certificate of Standing for Life.

We request a certificate of standing for ministers and deacons, whose churches have recommended same.

(See ministers and deacons roll.)

North Birmingham Church, 2808 North 32nd Avenue, voted next place of Annual Association.

Elder H. L. Mitchell elected as Cahaba River Association delegate to state conference.

## STANDING CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Charles R. Dean, Eugene Howard, J. U. Keeton.

## HOME MISSION BOARD

J. W. Isbell, 3 years; Earl Carroll, 2 years; A. L. Harmon, 1 year.  
\$95.18 in Home Mission treasure.

## Ordaining Council In Ordination Service

Elder James Pickett ordained as minister, Brother S. J. Fowler ordained as deacon with their wives present. It was a very solemn and sacred occasion as the council explained the sacredness of their calling and the necessity of the complete sacrificing of themselves to their calling.

A rising vote of thanks to the church and community for so graciously administering to the comforts of the delegated body and the sweet fellowship we enjoyed.

Song: "God be With You till We Meet Again." Prayer.

Adjourn.



## SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

7:00 P. M.

Elder James Pickett brought the message.

Elder J. E. Hodgens administered communion and footwashing service.

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by Faith in Christ, and adopting the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves one to another by the will of God, in this solemn Covenant.

We promise, by His Grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearances of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy confirmity of the world; from all sanction of use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship, and by self-denial, faith and good works, endeavor to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for Church conference, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the purpose of the Church of its poor and benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reprove with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the spirit" in the bond of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring and, as far as we are able, promote the success of the church of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom may come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of education and denominational enterprises, the evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

## CONSTITUTION

### Article I

The Association shall be known as The Cahaba River Association of the Free Will Baptist.

### Article II

The Association shall be composed of Ministers, Deacons and Delegates of different churches forming the same.

### Article III

All ministers and churches wishing to become members of this body must willingly submit to the articles of constitution and all rules of same.

### Article IV

Each church composing this Association shall be entitled to three (3) delegates of the first one hundred members and one (1) for each additional fifty (50) or fraction thereof.

### Article V

This body shall have a standing Credentials Committee composed of three (3) members. Two ordained ministers or deacons and one (1) layman, whose duty shall be to examine all church letters and applications for membership of churches and ministers and make a report of the same to the body.

### Article VI

The officers of the Association shall be composed of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer. They shall be elected by body each year, at the end of each session. The Treasurer shall serve for a term of two (2) years. He shall handle all money of the Association and shall be bonded.

### Article VII

The committees of this body shall be composed of standing members to alternate each session. They shall be composed of three to five members each. The committees are as follows: Credentials, Executive, Ordaining Council, Standing of Ministry, Business, Education, Sabbath School, Family Religion, Literature, Resolutions, Temperance, Deceased Members, Home Missions and Auditing. The Ordaining Council and Standing of Ministry to be composed of ordained men. Any committeemen absent for two (2) consecutive years to be filled by new members.

### Article VIII

The General Board shall be composed of the officers of the Association and chairman of each committee. The Moderator to be chairman of this board. The duties of this board will be found in our Treatise, page 61, Section No. 3, 4, 5.

### Article IX

This Association shall meet on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October of each year.

### Article X

Each church shall pay tithes of their income thus: 25 per cent of tithes to Children's Home, 25 per cent of tithes to Annual Association, 25 per cent of tithes to Home Mission, 15 per cent of tithes to Foreign Mission, 10 per cent of tithes to Super Annuation.

### Article XI

Each minister and deacon belonging to this body shall pay an annual fee of \$1.00.

### Article XII

The clerk shall be paid the sum of \$25.00 annually. The Moderator shall be paid the sum of \$25.00 annually. All other expenditures not specified herein shall be by decision of the body.

### Article XIII

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Association by two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present, provided proposed amendment or alteration be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

### Ministers' Report to Association

No. of Churches Pastored..... No. of Sermons Preached.....

No. Baptized..... No. of Funerals Conducted..... No. of Marriages

Performed..... No. of Revivals..... No. of Miles Traveled.....

Amount of Offerings..... Expense.....

Elder.....

Address.....



## TREATISE

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

#### Chapter I—The Holy Scriptures

These are the Old and the New Testaments; they were written by holy men, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and are God's revealed word to man. They are a sufficient and infallible rule and guide to Salvation and all Christian worship and service.

#### Chapter II—Being and Attributes of God

The Scriptures teach that there is only one true and living God, who is Spirit, self-existent, eternal, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, independent, good, wise, holy, just, and merciful, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of the universe; the Redeemer, Savior, Sanctifier, and Judge of men; and the only proper object of worship.

The mode of His existence, however, is a subject far above the understanding of man—finite beings cannot comprehend Him. There is nothing in the universe that can justly represent Him, for there is none like him. He is the fountain of all perfection and happiness. He is glorified by the whole creation, and is worthy to be loved and served by all intelligence.

#### Chapter III—Divine Government and Providence

1. God exercises a providential care and superintendence over all his creatures, and governs the world in wisdom and mercy, according to the testimony of His Word.

2. God has endowed man with power of free choice, and governs him by moral laws and motives; and this power of free choice is the exact measure of man's responsibility.

3. All events are present with God from everlasting to everlasting; but His knowledge of them does not in any sense cause them, nor does He decree all events which He knows will occur.

#### Chapter IV—Creation, Primitive State of Man, and His Fall

##### Section I—Creation

1. OF THE WORLD. God created the world, and all things that it contains, for His own pleasure and glory and the enjoyment of His creatures.

2. OF THE ANGELS. The angels were created by God to glorify Him and obey His commandments. Those who have kept their first estate He employs in ministering blessings to the heirs of salvation and in executing His judgments upon the world.

3. OF MAN. God created man, consisting of a material body and a thinking, rational soul. He was made in the image of God, to glorify his Maker.

##### Section II—Primitive Man, and His Fall

Our first parents, in their original state, were upright. They naturally preferred and desired to obey their Creator, and had no preference or desire to transgress His will until they were influenced and inclined by the tempter to disobey God's commands. Previous to this, the only tendency of their nature was to do righteousness. In consequence of the first transgression, the state under which the posterity of Adam came into the world is so different from that of Adam that they have not that righteousness and purity which Adam had before the fall; they are not willing to obey God, but are inclined to evil. Hence none, by virtue of any natural goodness and mere work of their own, can become the children of God, but they are all dependent for salvation upon the redemption effected through the blood of Christ, and upon being created anew unto obedience through the operation of the Spirit, both of which are freely provided for every descendant of Adam.

## Chapter V—Of Christ

### Section I

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, possesses all divine perfections. As He and the Father are one, He in His divine nature, filled all the offices and performed the works of God to His creatures that have been the subjects of revelations to us. As man, he performed all the duties toward God that we are required to perform, repentance of sin excepted.

His divinity is proved from His titles, His attributes, and His works.

1. HIS TITHES. The Bible ascribes to Christ the titles of Savior, Jehovah, Lord of hosts, the first and the last, God, true God, great God, God over all, mighty God, and the everlasting Father.

2. HIS ATTRIBUTES. He is eternal, unchangeable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, and is to be worshipped.

3. HIS WORKS. By Christ the world was created, He preserves, and governs it; He has provided redemption for all men and He will be their final Judge.

### Section II—The Incarnation of Christ

The Word, which in the beginning was with God and which was God, by whom all things were made, condescended to a state of humiliation in being united with human nature and becoming like us, pollution and sin excepted. In this state, as a subject of the law, He was liable to the infirmities of our nature, was tempted as we are, but lived our example, perfect obedience to the divine requirements. As Christ was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, He is "the Son of man," and as the divine existence is the fountain from which He proceeded, and was the only agency by which He was begotten, He is "the Son of God," being the only begotten of the Father, and the only incarnation of the Divine Being.

#### Chapter VI—The Atonement and Mediation of Christ

1. THE ATONEMENT. As sin cannot be pardoned without a sacrifice, and the blood of beasts could never wash away sin, Christ gave Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and thus made salvation possible for all men. He died for us, suffering in our stead, to make known the righteousness of God, that He might be just in justifying sinners who believe in His Son. Through the redemption effected by Christ, salvation is actually enjoyed in this world, and will be enjoyed in the next by all who do not in this life refuse obedience to the known requirements of God. The atonement for sin was necessary. For present and future obedience can no more blot out our past sins than past obedience can remove the guilt of present and future sins. If God pardoned the sins of men without satisfaction for the violation of His law it would follow that transgression might go on with impunity; government would be abrogated, and the obligation of obedience to God would be, in effect, removed.

2. MEDIATION OF CHRIST. Our Lord not only died for our sins, but He arose for our justification, and ascended up to heaven, where, as the only Mediator between God and man, he makes intercession for us, until he comes again.

3. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons are only subject to the first death, which was brought on by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any one of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin for of such is the Kingdom of God.

#### Chapter VII—The Holy Spirit

1. The Scriptures ascribe to the Holy Spirit the acts and attributes of an intelligent being. He guides, knows, moves, gives information, commands, forbids, sends forth, reproves, and can be sinned against.

2. The attributes of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit.



3. The works of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit; creation, inspiration, giving of life, and sanctification.

4. The apostles assert that the Holy Spirit is Lord and God.

From the foregoing the conclusion is that the Holy Spirit is in reality God, and one with the Father in all divine perfections. It has also been shown that Jesus Christ is God—one with the Father. Then these three: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one God.

The truth of this doctrine is also proved from the fact that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are united in the authority by which believers are baptized; and in the benedictions pronounced by the apostles, which are acts of the highest religious worship.

### Chapter VIII—The Gospel Call

The call of the Gospel is co-extensive with the atonement to all men, both by the word and strivings of the Spirit, so that salvation is rendered equally possible to all, and, if any fail of eternal life, the fault is wholly his own.

### Chapter IX—Repentance

The repentance which the Gospel requires includes a deep conviction, a penitential sorrow, an open confession, a decided hatred and an entire forsaking of all sin. This repentance God has enjoined on all men; and without it in this life the sinner must perish eternally.

### Chapter X—Faith

Saving faith is an assent of the mind to the fundamental truths of revelation, an acceptance of the Gospel, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, and a firm confidence and trust in Christ. The fruit of faith is obedience to the Gospel. The power to believe is the gift of God, but believing is an act of the creature, which is required as a condition of pardon, and without which the sinner cannot obtain salvation. All men are required to believe in Christ; and those who yield obedience to this requirement become the children of God by faith.

### Chapter XI—Regeneration

As man is a fallen and sinful being, he must be regenerated in order to obtain salvation. This change is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Spirit, whereby the penitent sinner receives new life, becomes a child of God, and is disposed to serve Him. This is called in Scripture being born again—born of the Spirit, being quickened, passing from death unto life, and a partaking of the divine nature.

### Chapter XII—Justification and Sanctification

1. JUSTIFICATION. Personal justification implies that the person justified has been guilty before God, and in consideration of the atonement of Christ, accepted by faith, the sinner is pardoned and absolved from the guilt of sin and restored to the divine favor. Christ's atonement is the foundation of the sinner's redemption, yet, without repentance and faith, it can never give him justification and peace with God.

2. SANTIFICATION is the continuing of God's grace by which the Christian may constantly grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Chapter XIII—Perseverance of the Saints

There are strong grounds to hope that the truly regenerate will persevere unto the end, and be saved, through the power of divine grace which is pledged for their support, but their future obedience and final salvation are neither determined nor certain, since through infirmity and manifold temptations they are in danger of falling; and they ought therefore to watch and pray, lest they make shipwreck of their faith and be lost.

### Chapter XIV—The Sabbath

This is one day in seven, which from the creation of the world God has set apart for sacred rest and holy service. Under the former dispensation, the seventh day of the week as commemorative of the work of creation, was set apart for the Sabbath. Under the Gospel, the first day of the week, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, and by authority of Christ and the apostles, is observed as the Christian Sabbath. On this day all men are required to refrain from secular labor and devote themselves to the worship and service of God.

### Chapter XV—The Church

A CHRISTIAN CHURCH is an organized body of believers in Christ, who statedly assemble to worship God, and who sustain the ordinances of the Gospel according to the Scriptures. Believers in Christ are admitted to this church on giving evidence of faith in Christ, obtaining consent of the body, being baptized, and receiving the right hand of fellowship.

The Church of God, or members of the body of Christ, is the whole body of Christians throughout the whole world, and none but the regenerate are its members.

### Chapter XVI—Tithing

Both the Old and New Scriptures teach Tithing as God's financial plan for the support of His work.

### Chapter XVII—The Gospel Ministry

1. QUALIFICATION OF MINISTERS. They must possess good, natural and acquired abilities, deep and ardent piety, be especially called of God to the work, and ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands.

2. DUTIES OF MINISTERS. These are to preach the Word, administer the ordinances of the Gospel, visit their people, and otherwise perform the work of faithful ministers.

### Chapter XVIII—Ordinances of the Gospel

1. CHRISTIAN BAPTISM. This is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ, the death of Christ, the death of Christians to the world, the washing of their souls from the pollution of sin, their rising to newness of life, their engagement to serve God, and their resurrection at the last day.

2. THE LORD'S SUPPER. This is a commemoration of the death of Christ for our sins, in the use of bread which He made the emblem of His broken body, and the cup, the emblem of His shed blood, and by it the believer expresses his love for Christ, his faith and hope in Him, and pledges to Him perpetual fidelity.

It is the privilege and duty of all who have spiritual union with Christ to commemorate His death; and no man has a right to forbid these tokens to the least of His disciples.

3. WASHING THE SAINT'S FEET. This is a sacred ordinance, which teaches humility, and reminds the believer of the necessity of a daily cleansing from all sin. It was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ, and called an "example" on the night of His betrayal, and in connection with the institution of the Lord's Supper. It is the duty and happy prerogative of every believer to observe this sacred ordinance.

### Chapter XIX—Death

1. DEATH. As a result of sin, all mankind, is subject to the death of the body. The soul does not die with the body; but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the character here possessed.



## Chapter XX—Second Coming of Christ

The Lord Jesus, who ascended on high, and sits at the right hand of God, will come again, to close the Gospel dispensation, glorify His saints, and judge the world.

## Chapter XXI—The Resurrection

The Scriptures teach the resurrection of the bodies of all men, each in its own order; they that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil to the resurrection of damnation.

## Chapter XXII—The Final Judgment and Final Retribution

1. THE FINAL JUDGMENT. There will be a final judgment, when time and man's probation will close forever. Then all men will be judged according to their works.

2. FINAL RETRIBUTION. Immediately after the final judgment, the righteous will enter into eternal life, and the wicked will go into a state of endless punishment.

### MINISTERS ROLL

Elder J. E. Hodgens	Chelsea, Ala.
Elder Maxwell Harper	Talladega, Ala.
Elder C. E. Harbin	P. O. Box 2873, Birmingham, Ala.
Elder J. R. Weaver	Marvel, Ala.
Elder William Pickett	Marvel, Rt. 1, Birmingham, Ala.
Elder Jack Rollins	Rt. 1, Adamsville, Ala.
Elder Roy Johnson	Rt. 1, Adamsville, Ala.
Anna Farris	(Liscensed)
Elder H. L. Mitchell	1429 No. 20th St., Birmingham, Ala.
Elder Roy Benson	Adamsville, Ala.
Elder J. M. McKay	Sterrett, Ala.
Elder J. T. Oakes	
Elder Earl Isbell	Dunnavant, Ala.
Elder Dewey Isbell	Dunnavant, Ala.
Elder R. H. Howard	Sterrett, Ala.
Elder J. W. Marlow	2525 No. 34th St., Birmingham, Ala.
Elder J. J. Staab	2313 No. 33rd Ave., Birmingham, Ala.
Elder W. O. McDonald	4224 No. 29th St., Birmingham, Ala.
Elder H. H. Blanchard	
Elder James Pickett	Ensley, Alabama
Elder H. M. Black	Adamsville, Ala.
Elder A. J. Lambert	Rt. 3, Box 260-F, Sylacauga, Ala.
Elder Lonnie Goodwin	Leeds, Ala.
Elder R. K. Franklin	

### DEACONS ROLL

H. T. Rogers	James Kitchens
Charles Stone	Frank Harris
J. M. Nichols	Ed Harkins
Johnnie Parker	Frank Pickett
J. W. Isbell	Jimmie Rollins
H. A. McSpadden	Roy Kuykendall
W. T. Wolfe	Curtis Broke
Charles R. Dean	Joe Click, Jr.
Thurmond Kimbrough	Cecil Franklin
S. J. Fowler	Percy Stokes
T. A. Armstrong	Eugene Howard
Curtis Easterling	Frank Minor
H. W. Grice	Calvin McCreless
Felix Smith	A. J. Smith
A. L. Harmon	Ellis Goodwin
Grady Collins	Robert Harris
J. U. Keeton	D. N. Davis
Ed Goodwin	C. S. Kendrick
Henry Pickett	B. E. Martin

W. N. Hodgens



Name of Church

Clerks

Name of Church	No. Members	No. Baptized	No. Ministers	Members Received	Deceased	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Paid Orphanage	Home Mission	Foreign Mission	Unified Program	Conference Expense	Sunday School Av. Attendance	League	Auxiliary	Property	Clerks
Pleasant Valley	24	0	0	2	0	350.00	60.00	131.70	0	0	0	5.00	40	0	0	2,750.00	Mrs. Cecil Hodgens, Chelsea, Alabama
No. Birmingham	62	9	6	23	2	1,300.00	227.95	368.59	53.82	32.29		53.82	55	0	14	10,000.00	Mr. Charles R. Dean, 1623 11th Ct., No., Birmingham, Ala.
Union Hill	68	0	1	0	1	256.00	50.00	25.00	50.00		0	8.00	0	0	0	2,500.00	Mrs. Hattie Parker, Sterrett, Alabama, Route 1
Mt. Pleasant	23	0	0	0	0	358.00	63.00		0	0	0	12.00	12	0	0	2,500.00	Mr. J. W. Barnett, Sprott, Alabama
Bethel	76	0	5	0	1	358.11	0					10.00	51	0	10	3,000.00	Mrs. Minnie Pickett, Marvel, Alabama, Route 1
Lindburgh	56	8	3	12	0	383.00	216.00		0			0	50	0			Mrs. Curtis Brake, Adamsville, Alabama, Route 1
Shady Grove	34	0	2	5	1	377.00	12.50	158.82	0	0	0	7.00	50	0		800.00	Mrs. Joe Click Jr., Adamsville, Alabama, Route 1
Fairview	83	4	0	5	0	533.50	126.17	191.45	29.00	14.00	0	6.00	60	yes	yes	2,000.00	Mr. Ed Goodwin, Trussville, Alabama, Route 2
Mt. Olive	48	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	1,200.00	Mr. Earl Isbell, Leeds, Alabama, Route 1
Davis Chapel	32	0	2	0	0	364.00	29.00	22.50	0	2.00	0	10.00	34	0	0	2,500.00	Mr. Willie L. Caudle, Sterrett, Alabama
Oak Grove		0	1	0	0	119.21	0	155.00									Mrs. Lorena Sorenson, Birmingham, Alabama, Route 7
Sylacauga	140	1	1	1	1	1,835.00	124.50	106.00	11.00	26.64	35.15	15.00	120	52	yes	6,510.00	Mrs. Dorris Tolley, Sylacauga, Alabama
TOTAL	646	22	23	48	7	\$6,233.82	\$909.12		\$143.82	74.93	35.15	\$126.82	512	52		\$33,760.00	