

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
DIBBLE ASSOCIATION
OF THE
CHURCH OF GOD
Denominated
FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH
Dibble Church, beginning on Wednesday night
before the second Sunday in September, 1933.

OFFICERS

Moderator,	Elder L. E. Ward,	Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't Mod.,	Elder E. E. Morris,	Blanchard, Okla.
Clerk,	Birdie Drennan,	R1, Tabler, Okla.
Ass't Clerk,	Elder John Nunnally,	Blanchard, Okla.
Treasurer,	Jack Hopkins,	Blanchard, Okla.

The next Annual Session of this Association will be held with the Hawkins Church, beginning on Wednesday night before the second Sunday in September, 1934.

Eld. L. E. Ward to preach the introductory sermon.

Form of Church Conference

1. Call Church in Conference.
2. Call for peace of Church.
3. Call visiting brethren to seats in council.
4. Reading minutes of previous meeting.
5. Unfinished Business.
6. New Business.
7. Are any sick or in distress?
8. What has been done for the support of the Ministry and other incidental expenses?
9. A call for confession.
10. Invitation for members.
11. Adjournment.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. House called to order by the Moderator.
3. Letters called for, read and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating of delegates.
5. Election of officers.
6. Petitionary letters called for.
7. Reading Rules of Order (By-Laws).
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of Committees.
10. Unfinished Business.
11. New Business.
12. Reports of Committees.
13. Miscellaneous Business.

RULES OF ORDINATION

1. Do you believe in the Total Depravity of the Human Heart?
Answer — I do not.

2. Do you believe that infants are saved while in a state of innocence? Answer — I do.

3. Do you believe in a Full and Free Salvation to all who accept it on the Gospel Terms? Answer — I do.

4. Do you believe in a Burial of a Believer with Christ in water after he has been baptized into Christ by the Holy Ghost, as the only Gospel Baptism? Answer — I do.

5. Do you believe any man has any right in the Gospel to repeat baptism to such a subject? Answer — No.

6. Do you believe that Communion, Feet Washing and Baptism are Gospel Ordinances, and are to be taught and practiced until He comes again? Answer — I do.

7. Will you solemnly pledge yourself to preach and practice the same, God being your helper? Answer — I will by the help of God.

8. Do you believe that none will be finally saved but those who persevere in holiness to the end? Answer — I do.

LETTER OF DISMISSAL

This is to certify that.....is a member in good standing of the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ at, and as such we recommend him (or her) to the fellowship of God's people, and is dismissed from us when united with another church.

Done in Church Conference this.....day of.....19.....

..... Pastor,

..... Clerk.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whomsoever he may request.

2. Ministers present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No Motion shall be discussed without a second.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded, and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?" If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken separately.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association, if necessary.

12. At all future sessions of the Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and the chair shall announce just before adjournment who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

13. These Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization of the Association.

14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

PROCEEDINGS

Dibble Association of Free Will Baptist met with the Dibble Church, at Dibble, Oklahoma, on Wednesday night before the second Sunday in September, 1933.

A large representation was present and a great work was done.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE

After singing, "Twill Be Glory By and By," Bro. Garth Pypus led in prayer

Introductory sermon by Elder L. E. Ward from 2 Tim. the fourth chapter.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing, "Leaning on Jesus." Scripture reading from 1 Peter 2-6. Prayer by Bro. J. Q. Moore.

Election of Officers

Moderator,	Eld. L. E. Ward,	Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't Mod.,	Eld. E. E. Morris,	Blanchard, Okla.
Clerk,	Birdie Drennan,	Rl, Tabler, Okla.
Ass't Clerk,	Luther Hudson,	Blanchard, Okla.
Treasurer,	Jack Hopkins,	Blanchard, Okla.

Letters from the different churches were called for, read and accepted, and delegates seated, with a good old fashioned hand shaking.

Call made made for petitionary letters. None received.

Rules of Order were read from the chair.

Invitation was given all visiting brethren and sisters to seats in council.

Motion carried to endue moderator with power to appoint the committees.

Appointment of Committees

Divine Service—Brothers Luther Hudson, J. Q. Moore and Jack Hopkins.

Resolutions—Brothers J. O. Hudson, Lee Hawkins, Frank Lee, B. J. Peters, Will Jervis, R. B. Lee, Jack Moore.

Finance—Sisters George Taylor, Hazel Gentry Rachael Wells, and Sister Jackson, and Brothers John Nunnally and Acie Harrell.

Obituary—Bro. J. C. O'Dell, Bro. Claggs, Sister Mattie Light, Sister Mary Voyles.

Sunday School—Sister Amy Manning, Sister Cox, Sister Mahurin, Bro. Warn Michner, Bro. Gartrell Harrell, Bro. Graham, Bro. Cox.

Temperance—Sister Fannie Smithen, Sister Jennie Clagg, Bro. Mahurin, Bro. Russell, Bro. Claunch and Bro. Cash Roberts.

Home Mission—Sister Lillian Shiry, Sister Ruth Drennan, Bro. Carl Smithen, Bro. George Taylor, Bro. Edd Nichols, Bro. Russell Wells.

Committee on Divine Service appointed Bro. Arthur Lee to preach at the eleven o'clock hour.

Motion carried that delegation be dismissed to meet promptly at one o'clock p. m.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Called together by singing, "Near the Cross." Prayer by Bro. W. L. Nance. Preaching by Bro. Arthur Lee. Dismissed for lunch by the moderator, Eld. L. E. Ward.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The associational body assembled while singing, "What A Friend We Have in Jesus." Scripture reading from 2 Thes. 2:1-7. Prayer by Bro. Luther Hudson.

Preachers' and Deacons' Day

Ordination of preachers and deacons discussed by Eld. E. E. Morris, Elder L. E. Ward and Elder Frank Lee (Mark 3:13-14).

Short discussion by Elder E. E. Morris. Subject, "I've Opened My Mouth Unto God and I Can't Go Back."

Divine Service committee reported Bro. J. O. Hudson to deliver the message at 7:30 p. m.

Delegates were appointed homes for supper.

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. B. J. Peters.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Congregation assembled while singing, "Christ's Love is All I Need." Devotional service conducted by Elder E. E. Morris. Prayer by Bro. J. A. Coffey. Preaching by Bro. J. O. Hudson from Rev. 20:11. Prayer by Bro. L. E. Ward.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Association assembled while singing, " 'Twill Be Glory By and By," and "I Am So Glad." Scripture lesson from 1 John 3:1-10. Prayer by Bro. E. E. Morris.

Short recess for committee work.

Motion carried to set a date for a league convention of Dibble Association. Time—Saturday night before the second Sunday in June. Place—Simpson church. President—Elder Frank Lee.

The State Convention of Free Will Baptist Leagues convenes with the Bryant church, near Lindsay, Okla., on Friday night before the first Sunday in September.

Business adjourned until one o'clock. Prayer by Bro. E. A. Russell.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

After singing, "Joy For the Reapers," a very spiritual devotional service was conducted by Bro. E. E. Morris. Preaching by Bro. Garth Pypus. Bro. Clay Richey was saved during this service, for which we are very thankful to God, as he has been called to preach the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; may God bless and prosper him is our prayer. Dismissed for lunch by prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Body assembled while singing, "Whosoever Meaneth Me." Scripture lesson from Heb. 2:1-8. Prayer by Bro. Bob Roland, after which a very spiritual devotional service was conducted by Elder L. E. Ward.

Divine Committee appointed Bro. Clay Richey to preach at eleven o'clock Saturday morning.

Motion carried that delegates be appointed to State Association, and that the moderator be given power to appoint them.

State Delegates as Follows:

Bro. N. C. Drennan,.....Hawkins church,
Bro. Lee Hawkins,Bryant church,
Bro. George Taylor,Bridge Creek church,
Bro. Cash Roberts,Dibble church,
Bro. John Nunnally, Iron Chapel church.

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. J. Q. Moore until the Friday afternoon service.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

After singing, Elder Frank Lee delivered the message. Dismissed for lunch which was served at the church by Bro. J.A. Coffy.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

After singing, "Twill Be Glory By and By," and prayer by Bro. Clay Richey, devotional service was conducted by Elder E. E. Morris. At the request of Bro. Coggins the congregation sang "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus." Message was delivered by Elder W. M. Coggins. Subject, "The Atonement."

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Edmondson.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Business was resumed after singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Scripture lesson read from Psalm 15. Prayer by Bro. N. C. Drennan.

Motion carried that the Dibble Association receive and seat Elder W. M. Coggins as a delegate from the Center Association.

Motion carried to adjourn business until one o'clock. Prayer by Bro. B. J. Peters.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Congregation assembled while singing "Higher Ground." Devotional service conducted by Elder L. E. Ward. Preaching by Bro. Clay Richey. Subject, "It Is Appointed Unto Man Once to Die, and After This the Judgment," which was well rendered. Seven precious souls were saved during this service. Dismissed for lunch.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Associational body was called together by singing, "Jesus Lover of My Soul." Scripture lesson Psa. 19:1-8. Prayer by Bro. Jack Hopkins.

Bro. John Bean delivered a very spiritual sermon on "The Beatitudes of Heaven."

Motion carried that Hawkins church pay \$5.00 as minute fund to the State Association.

Motion carried that no church in Dibble Association conduct a revival meeting during the session of the Ass'n.

Motion carried that we meet the second 5th Sunday instead of the first.

First quarterly meeting at Bridge Creek church.

Second quarterly meeting at Iron Chapel church.

Third quarterly meeting at Shiloh church.

Resolution—We wish to thank the Dibble church for their hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

W. G. JERVIS,
A. J. MOORE,
LEE HAWKINS,
W. F. LEE,
R. B. LEE.

Elder L. E. Ward was selected to preach the Introductory sermon at the next session of the Dibble Ass'n.
Benediction by Bro. Clay Richey.

Elder L. E. Ward, Moderator,
Birdie Drennan, Clerk.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Collected for year 1933	\$30.00
Balance carried over from 1932 report.....	72.42
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Total receipts	\$102.42
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Paid out for 1932 minutes	\$20.70
Paid to Association clerk	5.00
Paid for Deacons' blanks	1.15
Paid for State minutes	5.00
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Total amount paid out	\$31.85
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Balance	\$70.67
Amount received today, Sept. 9, 1933.....	30.00
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Balance now on hand	\$100.67

Jack Hopkins, Treasurer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolutions—No. 1—Be it Resolved, That we, the Dibble Association, authorize our treasurer to give Bro. Coggins the sum of \$3.00 per month, in appreciation for the service he has rendered to our Lord and for the cause of the Free Will Baptist.

Committee { J. O. Hudson,
 | W. F. Lee,
 | Lee Hawkins,
 | B. J. Peters,
 | W. G. Jervis.

Resolution No. 2—Lost.

Resolution No. 3—Be it Resolved, That this Association pay its clerk five dollars a year for her services.

Buck Roath, Chairman.

Finance—We, your Committee on Finance, report as follows: Amount received for minutes:

Iron Chapel church,	\$5.00
Simpson church,	5.00
Hawkins church,	5.00
Shiloh church,	5.00
Bridge Creek church,	5.00
Dibble church,	5.00

Total,	\$30.00
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Hazel Gentry, Chairman.

Home Mission—We, your Committee on Home Mission, believe that each church should have one to help the poor or anyone that is in distress.

Shiloh Mission has given \$6.00 for the support of the church and a small amount for the Junior league, and has helped to care for the sick.

Dibble Home Mission has done some repair work on the church building.

Bridge Creek Mission hasn't been able to do much on account of a shortage of funds.

Ruth Drennan, Chairman.

Sunday School—We, your Committee on Sunday School report as follows:

We recommend that this work be carried on and that each church maintain a Sunday school. We recommend that each church send an itemized report of their Sunday school with their church letter. We also recommend that each school have a Bible class.

We wish to make the following report of our Sunday schools in Dibble Association:

Bridge Creek, average attendance,	50
Simpson, average attendance,	50
Bryant, average attendance,	40
Atkinson, average attendance,	35
Iron Chapel, average attendance,	40
Hawkins, average attendance,	45

We also urge the use of Free Will Baptist literature.
Gartrell Harrell, Chairman.

Obituary—We, your Committee on Obituary, submit the following:

The Lord has blessed our Association by only taking four of our loved ones:

Iron Chapel—L. D. Wynn, age four, Nov. 14, 1932, son of Bro. and Sister Denver Wynn.

Grandma Michner, mother of Brothers Art and Warn Michner, April 6, 1933.

Hawkins—Grandma Phillips.

Simpson—Grandma Harrell, mother of Bro. W. A. Harrell, December 30, 1932.

Mrs. Claude Voyles, Chairman.

Temperance—We, your Committee on Temperance, endorse the resolution already in the 1932 minute, it reads as follows:

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg to report that we cannot place too high an estimate on this subject. It is our duty to well-being in this life. Intemperance is disloyal to the laws of nature and to God. It is an utter disregard to the laws of man and God. It is harmful and can destroy the soul as well as the body. Therefore we ask that each member abstain from intemperance and that God's children should always lend

a helping hand to their fellowman and try to help him to a higher plane. We ask our ministers to preach at least two sermons a year on this subject. We also ask that each church finding a member indulging in such, require a public statement from same, or else withdraw from him. We heartily endorse the prohibition laws, and will do all in our power to enforce them.

Fannie Smithen, Chairman.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

Elder J. O. Hudson—Pastored one church, sermons preached 88, conversions 5, baptized none, received into the church one, miles traveled not known, money received \$30.00. This is my first report, as I was only ordained last year.

Pray for me, that my next report might be better.

Elder A. V. Lee—Sermons preached, 73; revival meetings held, 4; conversions, 13; baptized, none; money received, \$10.00; miles traveled, 231; still trusting and praying that I may lead more souls to Christ. Pray for me.

Elder W. F. Lee—Churches pastored, none; appointments filled, two; sermons preached, 56; meetings held, one; money received, \$7.60; miles traveled, 200; conversions, none; marriages performed, 4; funerals preached, none.

Elder E. E. Morris—Pastored 4 churches. Dibble church, 38 sermons, conversions, 5; taken into church, 2; baptized, 2; funerals preached, 3; money received, \$37.40.

Spring Hill church—38 sermons; conversions, 16; taken into church, 11; baptized, 4; funerals, one; marriages performed, 3; money received, \$111.85.

Iron Chapel church—54 sermons preached; conversions, 2; baptized, 2; taken into church, 3; funerals, 2; marriages performed, one; money received, \$104.45.

Finished Bro. Burr's time out at Simpson, beginning the 4th Sunday in March. Sermons preached, 8; marriages, one; money received, none. Other sermons I have preached this year, about 15.

Total number of sermons preached,	153
Total number of conversions,	23
Total number of new members,	15
Total number baptized,	8
Total number of funerals conducted,	6
Total number of marriages performed,	5
Total amount of money received,	\$253.70

Elder L. E. Ward—Sermons preached, 84; funerals preached, 15; marriages performed, 8; money received, \$128.95; baptized, 10; pastored two churches; members received into Shiloh church, 5; members received into Bridge Creek church, 4.

CHURCH REPORTS

Atkinson Church—Membership 36, all in good standing; good Sunday school, prayer meeting on Wednesday night, active Home Mission. J. O. Hudson, Pastor. Illa Rue Stripling, Clerk.

Bridge Creek Church—Membership, 80; new members, 4; dismissed, 4; no deaths; paid pastor, \$50.30; for evangelistic work, \$9.75; value of church property, \$1500.00; good Sunday school, with average attendance of 50; good Free Will. Baptist league; L. E. Ward, Pastor; Roxie Claunch, Clerk.

Dibble Church—State of religion, good; number received, 2; baptized, 2; total membership, 105; amount paid pastor, \$37.40; condition of Sunday school, good; Elder L. E. Ward, Pastor; Shay Richey, Clerk.

Hawkins Church—State of religion, good; number received this year, none; number baptized, none; number dismissed, none; number died, one; total membership, 106; good Sunday school, average number of pupils, 45; officers, 5; teachers, 4; I. W. Yandell, Pastor; N. C. Drennan, Clerk.

Shiloh Church—Sunday school, good; Wednesday night prayer meeting; active Home Mission; no deaths; none dismissed; new members received into church, 5; Elder L. E. Ward, Pastor; Amy Manning, Clerk.

Iron Chapel Church—State of religion, good; number received this year, 3; number baptized, 2; total membership, 154; amount paid pastor, \$104.45; amount for evangelistic work, \$10.10; condition of Sunday school, good; number of officers, 2; number of teachers, 4; number of pupils, 65; deaths, 2; deacons ordained, 2; Elder W. L. Waddle, Pastor; Mollie Bingham, Clerk.

Simpson Church—Church in good standing, good Sunday school, Free Will Baptist league, and prayer meeting each Sunday night; total number of members, 28; Elder L. E. Ward, Pastor; Bertha Myers, Clerk.

Church Clerks

Atkinson,	Illa Rue Stripling,	Blanchard, Okla.
Bridge Creek,	Roxie Claunch,	Blanchard, Okla.
Dibble,	Shay Richey,	Blanchard, Okla.
Hawkins,	N. C. Drennan,	Tabler, Okla.
Iron Chapel,	Mollie Bingham,	Purcell, Okla.
Shiloh,	Amy Manning,	Lindsay, Okla.
Simpson,	Bertha Myers,	Blanchard, Okla.

Ordained Ministers

Elder L. E. Ward.....	R2, Blanchard, Okla.
Elder E. E. Morris,	R2, Blanchard, Okla.
Elder J. O. Hudson,	Blanchard, Okla.
Elder A. V. Lee,	Blanchard, Okla.
Elder W. F. Lee,	R4, Lindsay, Okla.
Elder B. C. Munkus,	Chickasha, Okla.
Elder L. M. Buckner,	R2, Lindsay, Okla.
Elder John Nunnally,	R2, Blanchard, Okla.
Elder E. G. Atkinson,	Blanchard, Okla.
Elder Clay Richey,	R2, Blanchard, Okla.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better church government.

Art. 1. MEMBERSHIP. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches or Quarterly meetings of our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and upon producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers and deacons of said union shall be regular members, when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. NAME. The members thus chosen and convened in the.....Yearly Meeting or Association of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being composed of the sundry churches in the Dibble Association, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. LETTERS. Letters from the different churches representing are to express their number in fellowship, including the names and addresses of ordained and licensed ministers, the number of members received upon profession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration or denominational choice; the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since last Association. The churches in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who have died during the year, that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. OFFICERS. The Association shall have a Moderator, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected at each annual session by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. 5. NEW CHURCHES. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letters and delegates, and if upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 6. QUESTIONS. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first discussed in its own church.

Art. 7. MOTIONS. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Art. 8. MINUTES. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9. CLERK. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

Art. 10. SIGNATURES. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the close of the Association.

Art. 11. AMENDMENTS. Amendments to this Constitution may be made, when necessary, by a majority vote of the members present, notice having been given in writing, and recorded at the last previous session.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. GOD. There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3. CHRIST. Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT. The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide, and Sanctifier of men.

5. THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD. God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. THE SINFULNESS OF MAN. Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. THE WORK OF CHRIST. The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. THE TERMS OF SALVATION. The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose

to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. ELECTION. God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. FREEDOM OF WILL. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. SALVATION FREE. God desires the salvation of all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. PERSEVERANCE. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES. BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water, and the LORD'S SUPPER, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

15. WAR. War destroys the lives of the innocent, and is contrary to the New Testament, therefore, we are opposed to war.

16. RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

THE LAW OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(By Rev. Wm. Mankin)

The Lord's Supper was instituted for God's people. They all have equal rights to the Supper, and the right is a birth-right. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." (1 Cor. 12:13). This is not water baptism, but spiritual baptism. Again, Christ says, "I am the door, by me if any man enter in he shall be saved" (John 10:9). "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber" (John 10:1). Christ is not water baptism, yet He is "the door." There is but one door, and Christ says He is that door, and he that cometh in at that

door should have full fellowship and equal rights with all other Christians. "Let a man examine himself, and let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup; for he that eateth and drinketh unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to himself," not to the church, but to himself. It is a personal matter in judging and eating.

The church that does judge and exclude any of God's people is not in keeping with the instructions given by the church at Corinth. To thus judge and exclude one of the children of God is to offend the child so judged and excluded. Now listen to Christ: "He that offends one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6; 1 Corinthians 10:30; 13:32).

It is contended that they of the same faith and order should be entitled to partake of the Lord's Supper. I admit that Christ is the true faith, and His Church true order, and that faith is the means by which men belong to the true order. If this is meant by the same faith, we shall not object, we are agreed. But if sect is referred to, we object. As to order, if nothing but Gospel order is meant, very well; but we do not believe that one child of God should dictate just what another should believe or what church he should belong to in order that he may be in the right church, for the visible church is but an organic body of Christians, and placing your name on the church book of the best church on earth does not make you a Christian.

The eunuch that believed and was baptized, what church did he join? Here is faith and here is order. Now we ask if the eunuch were to wish to commune with some of the churches, would he be allowed the right? No, he is not of the same faith and order, yet he is admitted into heaven, but could not be admitted to a sectarian table. At the Lord's table all His people have a perfect right, be he who he may, and when the supper is set, and all God's people are not invited, it is not the Lord's, but a sectarian supper. So we, being many, are one body in Christ and every one members one of another" (Rom. 12:5), and the way we become one body is by being baptized into that body, and, of course, this is spiritual baptism. He that gets in by water baptism, the same is a thief and a robber, and when any one gets into that body in a legal way he has a right to all the benefits and privileges of that body. "For we, being many, are one bread and one body, for we are all partakers of that one bread" (1 Cor. 10:17). By partaking we exhibit a oneness of that body. Who is meant by "we"? It certainly means all Christians of all ages. "When you come together, tarry one for another, be of one mind," but let the word of God control that mind. If it had ever been intended by the Savior that the supper should be guarded, as some attempt to guard it, God would have endowed the judges with power to discern the pure from the impure. But the standpoint from which to judge is water baptism, and a legal administration of the same. So, if baptism by immersion, and a legal administra-

tion, this settles the matter, and Christian character is left out, by which some make a woeful mistake; for, after all this precaution, some have been found unworthy of the least of the privileges of the church. To admit immersion to be the only mode of baptism, and a true believer receiving it, is this not all right? Some would answer, "If by a legal administrator, this is all that is wanting." Is it not purely a personal matter?" So it is the duty of the preacher to baptize, and of the applicant to be baptized. When this is done, each has performed a personal duty. If I had never been baptized and had to wait until I found one whom I knew to be a legal administrator, I would never be baptized at all, as I cannot know the heart of man. Two acting in concert, one acting in good faith and the other not. Every Christian is responsible for his own acts, and not for another. Simon the sorcerer, "believed and was baptized," and that by a legal administrator, and yet it was discovered that he was not a Christian. So we see that baptism by legal administration does not confer any claim to Christian rights, as this proves to be a personal matter: for we clearly see that the apostle, inspired as he was, did not discover the evil of Simon's heart; neither can we know the heart of man. When we do our duty, it is ours; when an applicant, it is his. So we find that in repentance, faith, baptism and Christian duties, all are personally accountable to God and not to man. Various are the opinions of men, and the way we account for them is in the capacity of men; and if we use the capacity God has given us we do not think that we should be eternally condemned for what we cannot help. The church of Christ is divided into many members, but is one spiritual body and Christ is the head; and they should have the same care for each other that the fleshly body has for its members

Should Christians commune together at the Lord's table?

We have forty-eight states in the Union. They are all equally free and independent states, and yet they are one united, and have one great central point at which to meet and testify that they are free and independent states and yet but one nation. All Christians should have one central point at which to meet and let the world know that they are one. Let that be the Lord's table. Christians feel alike if they do not think alike. They can preach together, pray together, sing together and love together, and should they not commune together? And will they not all meet at least in the same holy and happy land together? Then a union and free communion is forced upon us. Christ said at the last supper that He would drink anew in His kingdom. Then all Christians of all ages sit around one communion table in Heaven. As we find ourselves assembled around one Lord's table in Heaven, so should it be on earth.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one 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 the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds 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 and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle 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 of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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 the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and 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 unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

