

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY—SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
FIRST OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION
OF
FREEWILL BAPTISTS

Convened with the Earlsboro Church
from September 19th to the 22nd 1934

The next Annual Session of the First Oklahoma Association
will be held with the Pleasant Hill Church
beginning on Wednesday night
before the Fourth Sunday
in September, 1935.

OFFICERS

Moderator, W.E. Dearmore.
Asst. Mod. I. B. Dunaway.
Clerk Alice B. Clark.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. House called to order by moderator.
2. Letters called for and adopted.
3. Right hand of fellowship given.
4. Electing of officers.
5. Reading of rules of order.
6. Petitionary letters.
7. Introductory sermon.
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of committees.
10. New business.
11. Report of committees.
12. Miscellaneous business.

Minutes of the Thiry Seventh Annual Session of the First Oklahoma Association which convened with the Earlsboro Church at Earlsboro, Okla., Sept. 20, 1934.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION

Moderator W. E. Dearmore in chair. Clerk Pete Conner at desk. House called to order by moderator; who conducted a prayer and praise service, after which a splendid introductory sermon was brought by Rev. Virgil Florence, text "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed."

FRIDAY MORNING

Services opened by singing hymn No. 108, with moderator in chair. Prayer by Bro. Melvin Bingham. Devotional led by Sister Mae Graham. Lesson 100th Psalm, prayer by Sister Fincher. There being a quorum present. Association declared in conference. Letters were called for and read as follows: North View, Tecumseh, Oak Grove, First Freewill Baptist of Okla. City, Box, Earlsboro, Pleasant Hill, Spring Hill, Olive, and New Bethlehem. The delegates were seated and right hand of fellowship given. Visiting brethren were invited to seats in council with all the priveleges, vote excepted Bro. Melvin Bingham, Bro. A. B. Epperson, Sister Sadie Fincher, Sister Mae Graham, Bro. George Miller, and Sister Mary Reeves from First Mission Association; Bro. P. H. Coffman and Bro. E. A. C'Donnell from Hope Well and Bro. H. E. Dixon from Grand River Association.

By motion, the body went into organization to elect officers for the coming year. The following were elected: W. E. Dearmore moderator, Elder I. B. Dunaway assistant, Alice B. Clark clerk, Sister Callie Freeman assistant clerk, Elder I. B. Dunaway league president, Bro. L. O. Lemons executive board.

Committees appointed—

Pulpit— W. L. Bean, B. L. Lawless, Homer Perrin, Ben Littleton, Luther Biven.

Sunday School—Ada Dearmore, Mamie Stevenson, Sister W. L. Bean.

Temperance—Tom Fry, E. A. O'Donnell, Bro. Clough, Bro. Barnes and Ray Webb.

Music—Bro. Florence, Sister Bashaw, Sister Tanner, J. P. Fry and Earlene Wade.

Resolution—W. L. Waddle, J. E. Bean, Pete Cenner, Bro. Boyd

Obituary—Bell Clark, Alva Downs, Sister Maxwell, Ora Reger-Jackson, Cleve Stedham, and Ola Smithy.

Prayer Meeting—Joy Freeman, Letha Long, Doc Jackson, Celia Lee, and Mattie Epperson.

Missions—B. C. Wilson, Bro. Hefley, Bro. Ramsey, Sister Crawford, and Willie Frye.

League—I. B. Dunaway, Tom Fry, Bro. Dixon, Bro. Hodges, and W. F. Yeager.

Temperance—Joe Guinn, Wallace Southworth, Bro. Lynn, L. L. Tallent, and Richard Hagar.

Ministerial standing—Bro. Stevenson, Bro. Smith, Bro. Bashaw, Bro. Perrin and B. C. Wilson.

Motion carried to adjourn until 1:30 in the afternoon. Preaching at 11 o'clock by Bro. Dunaway, text "There is death in the pot." Dinner on the grounds.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called together with singing after which devotional was conducted by Bro. O'Donnell reading third chapter of James. After which the body was considered in conference and ready to transact business.

Rules of order were read by the moderator.

Call for "Freewill Baptist Church Number Two" to be organized at Oklahoma City. Same approved by delegates from Church No. 1. Motion carried that church no. 2 be organized.

Letter read requesting that Liberty church be granted a letter to First Mission Association. Motion carried.

Request that B. D. Edmondsons' credentials be recalled. Carried.

Clerk of Association instructed to notify County Clerk of Oklahoma Co. that B. D. Edmondsons' credentials have been revoked. Carried.

Recess for thirty minutes. Called together by singing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prayer Meeting—We the prayer meeting committee beg to report that we believe nothing will help more to build up a community in christian work and right living than weekly prayer

meetings. A good service during the week in the church or the homes will help encourage one who may be cold. The Bible says "Let us come together in the unity of the spirit, and pray, one for another." Most of our churches have regular prayer meetings. One can be saved at prayer meeting the same as at a revival.

Let's all go to prayer meeting.

Signed,
Joy Freeman
H. D. Jackson
Letha Long
Mattie Epperson
Celia Lee

Temperance— We, your committee on temperance, beg leave to report as follows: We believe that the majority of the crimes are caused by and from the use and sale of intoxicating drinks and beverages and it is detrimental to the cause of Christianity, morality, and decency. None are exempt from its direful influence. Our churches and homes should be kept clean so they may be an example to our rising generation. We insist that any member of our Ass'n be found guilty of allowing 3.2 beer or home brew or any other intoxicating beverage, be dealt with in the church where membership is held and our pastors rigidly enforce same, and preach one or more discourses during the year to their churches.

Signed: Joe Gwinn

L. L. Tallant

H. M. Lynn

Richard Hagar Ch'rman.

Sunday School—We the committee on Sunday School beg to report that we find each church represented in the association has a Sunday School. We urge that the pastors of the respective churches teach young and old especially the rising generations. We recommend that teachers and officers apply themselves earnestly to the study of the Bible, that they might rightly divide the word of truth. We also recommend it advisable that we use all Freewill Baptist literature.

Signed: Sister Bean

Sister Dearmore

Sister Stevenson

Music—We the committee on music beg to report as follows
We find that part of our churches have fair interest among their
young people in music and we suggest that each church have a
music director and make an effort to have a school of instruction
next year. We find Earlsboro church has an organized choir.

Signed: Rev. Virgil Florence.

Ministerial Standing—We as a committee have questioned
the delegates from the several churches of this association and
find the ministers in good standing.

Bro. Bashaw chairman of committee

Bro. Perrin

Bro. Smith

Bro. Stevenson

Bro. Wilson

Home Mission—We the committee Home Mission work submit
the following: We think all Christians are mission workers as
there is plenty of work for all christians, we can be a blessing to
our community by lending a helping hand to the needy, we also
think of the young girls and boys of our land should be encourag-
ed to attend and help in every way possible, as the older ones
are passing away, and we should train the boys and girls so they
may be able to carry on the work.

Signed: B. C. Wilson, H. Hefley, C. A. Ramsey, Mary Crawford
and Willie Frye.

League—We your committee on League work beg leave to re-
port as follows: We find that there are five leagues in our Ass'n.
Realizing the great work that is possible to be done through the
league effort, we urge each church and pastor to do their best to
to get their young people organized in the work. So far as it is
possible to do so. We deem it very advisable all league officers
and teachers be members of the church. We also recommend that
the League, the pastor, and all officers guard closely the spiritual
welfare of the league, as there is a tendency so often to make the
league work a mere social affair when its primary aim is to train

our young folks in the work for God and to assist them in keeping themselves unspotted from the world. The League as part of the church should always be subject to the church and avoid the tendency to become an independent body and should always consult with and accept the advice of the pastor. The League should be conducted in such a way that the workers will love the church and feel and realize that they are part of the church. Let us urge also that we not fail to teach them to pray both publicly and secretly. We also urge that our young people be taught and trained to support the cause financially.

Not signed. Committee appointed.

Tom Fry, Bro. Dixon, I. B. Dunaway, Bro. Hodges, W. T. Yeager
Obituary— We find that God has seen fit to call from our midst Sister M. L. Johnson of Asher, Okla., Sister Dole Sherrs age 73 yrs.; of Pleasant Hill Church, Sister Tom (Grandma) Epperson of Tecumseh Church, Bro Granville Toumbs, Ella Bodine and little son of Sister Blevens of Box Church.

Signed: Sister Maxwell, Sister Ola Smithy, Bro. Cleve Stedham.

By motion and second the Obituary Council was retained.

Resolution number 1 lost, Resolution number 2 tabled

By motion and second adjourned until Saturday morning. Dismissed by Sister P. M. Tanner.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Opened by singing, prayer by Bro. Morris. Praise service conducted by Bro. W. L. Waddle. Preaching by Bro. J. E. Bean, subject Christ the Saviour.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Called to order by singing. Prayer by Sister Tanner. Devotional services conducted by Joy Dearmore. Scripture First Psalm, prayer by Bro. Bingham. Declared in conference by moderator. Motion and second to take question from table Resolution No. 2 reread; motion and second, adopted.

Resolution No. 2 — Resolved that this association adopt tithing as Gods foundation plan for the support of the church. Signed: W. L. Bean, W. L. Waddle, chairman.

Resolution No. 3 — Be it resolved that we adopt the following

rules with reference to ordaining preachers and deacons. That no preacher or deacon be ordained to the work until they have belonged to the church (Freewill Baptist) and tried at least one year and found to be unquestionably sound in doctrine and practice and that it become the indispensable duty of the executive board to file charges in the association against any church or preacher or deacon who violates these rules. Resolution adopted.

Resolution No. 4 Be it resolved that as an Association we take a definite stand against the doctrine of a thousand year's personal reign on earth beginning at Christ's second coming, and that we brand it as dangerous heresy and request our preachers and deacons to take a firm stand against it. Signed: W. L. Waddle.

Resolution No. 5—Revoked. Amendment to resolution number 5 in minutes of Thirty Sixth Annual Association. Resolved that we do not allow any card or domino playing among our members, and if any be found indulging in these games they be dealt with by the church.

Signed: Mrs. Maxwell.

Motion carried to adjourn until this afternoon.

Preaching at eleven o'clock by Bro. Dixon, subject "The Church." Special song by Sister Callie Freeman.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called together by singing, followed by talk by Bro. Will Bean, prayer by Bro. Wade, after which a collection of \$7.36 was taken to be sent to Bro. I. W. Yandel, who is in failing health. This amount was mailed to Bro. Ed Morris on Sept. 24 by clerk, as instructed by Association. Bro. Bingham gave an interesting account of his work. Talk by Bro. John Bean.

Business session resumed. By motion Bro. Clarence Plumlee was granted license for one year to preach and the clerk was instructed to write the letter. It was sent in care of Bro. Bean Sat. Sept. 24, 1934. At this time Bro. Clyde Argo and Sister Mattie Epperson were ordained to the ministry and Bros. Bashaw, Stevens, and R. Hagar were ordained deacons.

The next annual session of this Association was elected to meet

with Pleasant Hill church; the introductory sermon to be preached by Bro. Clyde Argo; J. E. Bean, alternate.

Fifth Sunday meetings will be held at the following places and times, beginning on Friday night before the fifth Sunday:- Ist North View; 2nd, Spring Hill; and 3rd, at Box, the first introductory sermon to be preached by Bro. O. D. Wade, alternate Bro. O'Donnell. Motion carried that a program committee be appointed. Motion carried that one-tenth of minute money paid in at this Association be sent to the State Association as minute money, this amounting to \$1 94. Pleasant Hill and Earlsboro churches each pledged \$1 00 for minutes to the State Association. Delegates to State Association:- Sisters Perrin, J. Bean, Dearmore, Hagar and Stevens, and Bro. Quinn. Resolution of gratitude:- Be it known to all present, to the church and community at large that we the ministers and delegates are grateful for the hospitality shown us while in your midst Adjourned to meet with North View on Friday night before the fifth Sunday in December 1934.

Pastors' Reports—I have pastored one church, preached eighty-six sermons, recived \$11.82 from church, \$7.20 outside the church, and witnessed seven conversions.

H. H. Hefley.

I have pastored one church the past year at Sulphur; giving half time. Preached sixty sermons, baptized thirteen, conducted one revival, witnessed fifteen conversions, received sixty dollars in money, traveled twelve hundred miles. Pray for me. W. L. Waddle.

I have held two revival meetings, pastored one church, conducted nine funerals, married seven couples, witnessed about thirty conversions. Elder G. H. Johnson.

Since entering into the ministry two years ago, the Lord blessed his handmaid and gave me grace to defeat the devil on every hand. Have had eight conversions, six backsliders reclaimed. Have preached sixty sermons. I have two appointments every month, besides three requests at a little Methodist mission. Held my first revival in August, twenty-eight souls were saved, baptized seven. Received \$4.50 also fruit and vegetables. Bro. Bean was my helper. Have appointments at Pleasant Grove also at the Mission again. Pray for me as I need your prayers and may God bless all his children is my prayer.

Sister Ethel Bashaw.

At the Saturday Morning session there was an offering given to help take care of expense of Bible school at Ada, Okla., beginning Oct. 10th. Seven dollars(\$7 00) having been paid, \$3 25 pledged not paid at association.

SATURDAY NIGHT

A fine testimonial service, led by Bro. Wade, was followed with a soul stirring sermon by Eld. Bingham, resulting in one conversion.

CHURCH LETTERS

First Free Will Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Delegates:- Wallace Southworth, Etta Southworth, Celia Lee and Ola Smithy. State of religion: good. Members received, 14 Number dismissed 13. Total membership 42. Good prayer meeting and Sunday School, average 80 pupils. Paid pastor \$210 46. Paid evangelist \$27. Minute money \$2 05. Have called H.E.Dixon as pastor. Ministers: J.P.Settles, Putnam City, Richard Grizzle, R D. Mangham, and licentiate Clarence Plumlee whom we request you to ordain. R.Grizzle, Mod. Billie Smithy, Clerk.

Olive Church

Delegates: Sister Audry Davis, and Bro Evert Inman. State of religion good. Membership 22; paid pastor \$60.00; condition of Sunday School good, attendance 46; G. H. Johnson pastor; value of property \$2 00.

We are building a new church and expect to have it completed soon.

Signed: Audry Davis, Secretary

New Bethlehem Church

Delegates: Willie Frye, and Ryvers Hughes and wife. Paid pastor \$53 60 and state evangelist \$3.00 and for evangelistic work \$25.82. Deaths:- 1; dismissed 2; new members 39; resident members 83 and 15 non-resident. Deacons: John T. Masters and Pete Connor. R.P, Hagar and Kenneth Sales. Ministers: J.P.Fry, J.T. Patrick and C.A.Ramsey. Minute money \$1.60. Pastor retained for another year, Vard Woods, Moderator, Bertha Hughes, Clerk.

Earlsboro Church

Delegates: L. E. Bashaw, Mamie Steveuson and Sister Alva Downs. Alternates: Fannie Hodges, Sister W L Bean and Will-

iam Tate. State of religion good. Members received 2; dismissed 7; total members 120- Good Sunday School with 50 pupils Paid pastor \$560; amount for minutes \$5. Pastor W.L. Bean. Ministers: Ethel Bashaw, H H Hefley and Sister Metcalf. The church requests that Earl Stevenson and L E. Bashaw be ordained. W.L. Bean, Moderator, A.E. Downs, Clerk.

Pleasant Hill Church.

Delegates:- Elzie Cole, Eula Cole, Callie Freeman, and Kite Argo. State of religion good; services each Saturday night and Sunday. Prayer meeting Wednesday night. good Sunday School, 50 pupils. League with 40 members. Members received 11; died 1, Sister Dale Sherrs, age 73; on prayer list 16; non-resident 14, active members 60. Paid pastor \$40.85; and paid evangelist \$7.20 Ministers: I.B. Dunaway and J. M. Allsup. Deacons. G.W. Argo, Homer Perrin, Robert Grizzle, T.L. Grizzle, W.F. Townsend, and D.W. Grizzle; licentiates:- Clyde Argo, Joy Freeman, and W E. Hodam. We recommend that Clyde Argo be ordained to the ministry. We also ask for the next association. I.B. Dunaway, Moderator. Winnie Alsop, Clerk.

Northview

Delegates: Sisters Crawford, Long, Maxwell; alternates: Sister Littleton, Bro Tommy Long. H. H. Hefley was called as pastor but resigned. Church in good standing; Sunday School good. Paid pastor \$12. We are asking for the next quarterly meeting. We are sending one dollar for minutes.

Signed: Bro. Maxwell, Sister Long, clerk.

Tecumseh College Church

Delegates: Doc Jackson, W. T. Yeager, and Alice B. Clark; alternate: Sisters Yeager, Wade, and Reger. Members received 10, baptized 2, resident membership 36; nonresident 28; deaths one (Sister Tom Epperson); Services every Sunday at 11 a m and night; Sunday School attendance 50; good league, and mid-week prayer meeting; Ladies Mission Society; paid pastor \$32.37, State Evangelist \$20.04. We are sending \$2 00 for min-

utes. Bro. O. D. Wade, pastor. We ask that Sister Mattie Epperson be ordained to the ministry.

Alice B. Clark, clerk

Oak Grove Church

Delegates: Cleve Steddum, Asa Franks, and Sister Boyd, Alternates: Leonard Tallent. Meeting day: Saturday night before the 2nd. Lord's Day each month. Pastor: Virgil Florence. Members 46, non-resident 9, resident 37, new members 9. State of religion good; 50 in Sunday School; prayer meeting Wed. night; League on Sunday night. Ministers: Virgil Florence: licentiate, Winston Lawless.

Virgil Florence, Moderator. Mollie Rowe, Clerk.

Spring Hill Church

Delegates; T.F. Barnes, Ray Webb, and Joe Gwinn. State of religion, good; members received 16; dismissed 3; total membership 140; baptized 11; good Sunday School, 61 pupils, and good prayer meeting, well attended; paid pastor \$75.00; paid evangelist \$15 00. Minute money \$2.00. Ministers: W.C. Keylon, D.L. Simpson, J.A. Bullard, W.L. Waddle, and J.F. Hagar; deacons; T.L. Fry, Jim Garrett, J.D. Anderson, B.C. Wilson and S.M. Lindsay. We ask that the next association meet at this place. Edd Morris, pastor and moderator. Roy Thompson, Clk.

Box Church

Delegates: Ada Dearmore, Bell Clark, and Alma Standifer. Good Sunday School of about 40 pupils; good prayer meeting state of religion good; baptized one; deaths 3; paid pastor \$22.00; missions \$3.00; minute money (1st. Okla.) \$2.50 (State) \$1.50; resident members 45, non-resident 96; dismissed by letter 2. A Ladies Missionary Society lately organized with Sister Ambie Tanner as president. Sister Dona Bivens sponsors the F.W.B. League and Bro. Luther Bivens is President.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting the meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer by the moderator, or whomsoever he may request.

2. All ordained or licensed ministers and ordained deacons in good standing in this Ass'n shall be invited to seats in the annual association.

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

4. No motion shall be discussed without first being seconded.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded, the moderator shall ask, "Any discussion or remarks?" If none, the question shall be disposed of as usual.

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 in the minutes unless ordered by the party making the motion.

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 the majority of members present.

10. No member shall be absent while in session without leave of the moderator, and if so, his name shall be left off the minutes.

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

12. Arrangements shall be made at each session of the Ass'n for two or more sermons or equivalent devotional exercises during each day.

13. The rules of order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the body.

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

ARTICLES OF FAITH

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

2. God There is one true and living 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 divine nature truly God, in human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Saviour 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 condemnation. His posterity, therefore inherits 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 Saviour 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 the Will. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.

11. Salvation Free. God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and drink 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.

14 The Christian Sabbath. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment 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 teaching of 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 in to eternal life."

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, good works endeavor to "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour 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 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 the 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.

