

# MINUTES

—OF THE—

## Twentieth Annual Session

—OF THE—

## JASPER FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

CONVENED WITH

MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH, MARION COUNTY,  
ALABAMA.

OCTOBER 6TH 8TH, AND 9TH, 1906.

### OFFICERS:

REV. J. J. WESLEY,	-	-	-	-	-	-	Moderator.
ROBERT FRANKS,	-	-	-	-	-	-	Clerk.
J. A. NELSON,	-	-	-	-	-	-	Treasurer.

The next session of this Association will be held with Union Hill Church, three miles South of Hackleburg, Marion county, Alabama, the same to convene on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1907,

BAPTIST REVIEW JOB OFFICE,  
GOLDSBORO, N. C.



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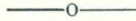
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BAPTIST REVIEW JOB OFFICE,  
GOLDSBORO, N. C.





# PROCEEDINGS.



The 20th annual session of the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association convened with Mount Olive Church, Marion county, Alabama, October the 6th, 8th and 9th, 1906.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. W. A. Nelson, the text used was Nehemiah 4th chapter and a part of the 19th verse. "The work is great and good, and we are separated upon the wall one far from another."

After preaching an intermission of one hour was taken for rest and refreshments. After which, the ministers and delegates were requested to meet in the house, organize and proceed to business.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to the request of the former moderator. An appropriate hymn was sung by the congregation. Rev. George C. Elliott, Moderator of the last session offered prayer, and called the body to order. The Moderator and Clerk of the last session being present took their seats, and the Moderator called for business; and it was presented and transacted as follows, viz:

1. Rev. J. L. Conner and Bro. W. G. Cook are appointed reading Clerks.
2. Letters from the churches are called for handed in and read, and contents noted as per statistical table.
3. Called for petitionary letters, and opened the door for the reception of new churches into the body, and the following were received: Mount Hope Church was reinstated as it formerly belonged to the Association, and was dropped from our minutes because it failed to be represented for two years in succession.

On motion, this church was unanimously received back into the Association.

On motion, it is agreed to permanently organize the body, which was done by electing Rev. J. J. Wesley Moderator, Bro. Robert Franks Clerk, and Bro. J. A. Nelson Treasurer for the ensuing associational year.

5. Called for correspondents from sister Associations and received the following, viz: From the Vernon Association, Rev. J. W. Porter, and brother George C. Crews. These brethren were cordially received and welcomed to seats as

members of the body, and the hand of Christian fellowship was extended to them, and we felt that it was good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in love and union.

6 On motion, it is agreed that the Moderator appoint all the committees, and the following are appointed, viz:

7 On Preaching—Brethren W. T. Keeton, P. C. Pike and W. D. Flurry, with the Deacons of this church.

8 On Documents and Order of Business—Revs. W. A. Nelson, J. L. Conner, W. H. Ingram, and brethren W. C. White with the Moderator and Clerk.

9 On Sabbath Schools—Revs. G. C. Elliott, J. R. Dutton and J. T. Tharp.

10 On Literature—Brethren M. K. Williams, J. T. White and A. J. Guthrey.

11 On Deceased Ministers and Members—Brethren H. T. Warren, W. G. Cook and Rev. T. M. Canup.

12 On Finance—Brethren W. J. Crenshaw, W. A. Keeton, S. G. Baily and W. H. Franks Snr.

13 On associational Funds—Brethren W. A. Shirley, G. W. Moore, J. A. Burleson and G. W. Robins.

14. Committee on preaching report that Rev. J. W. Porter of the Vernon Association preach to-morrow at 9 o'clock; Rev. G. C. Elliott preach Sunday at 11 o'clock, Rev. W. A. Nelson, alternate, and Rev. T. M. Canup preach Sunday night at 7 o'clock, P. M., Rev. R. C. Flippo, alternate. Rev. J. J. Wesley preach Monday at 11 o'clock, Rev. T. M. Canup preach Monday night at 7 o'clock, P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. KEETON, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and com. discharged.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock. Prayer and benediction by the Moderator.

#### ORDER OF SERVICE ON SABBATH.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock Rev. J. W. Porter of the Vernon Association preached a soul stirring sermon to a large and attentive concourse of people. His text was Titus 3rd chapter, and 7th verse. "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs, according to eternal life."

At 11 o'clock Rev. G. C. Elliott preached to a large and well behaved concourse of people. His text was Matthew 25th chapter and 30th verse. "And cast ye the unprofita-

ble servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

### THE LORD'S SUPPER.

After preaching, the Lord's Supper was administered and Christians of the different denominations partook with us. It was a Free Communion service and was a practical demonstration of the liberal doctrine we preach.

At 7 o'clock, P. M. Rev. T. M. Canup preached to a large and well behaved audience. His text was Genesis 22nd chapter and later clause 7th verse. "Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the Lamb for a burnt offering." This closed our Sabbath service.

### MONDAY MORNING, October 8th 1906.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sung a hymn, after which, the Moderator offered prayer and called the body to order. The Clerk called the roll and the ministers and delegates answer to their names. The Moderator announced that a quorum was present and that the Association was ready for business:

On motion, the proceedings of Saturday are read, corrected and adopted.

On motion, visiting ministers of other denominations were invited to take seats with us. None present.

Reports of committees are called for in order and presented as follows, viz:

#### ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We, your committee on Documents and Order of Business report as follows, viz: We find three petitionary letters for the next Association, and we recommend that it be left to the decision of the body. We, also recommend that this body send one of our preachers to work in the bounds of this Association, and visit destitute churches, if there be such, and to aid in building up this cause. Resolved further that we raise twenty-five dollars during this year for Sabbath Schools: And we further recommend that our churches see after and care for their preachers, financially speaking; and we further recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, and have them printed to the best advantage, and send direct to the clerks of the churches as per their contributions. Also, that the Clerk have five dollars for his services. Also, that the Moderator have four dollars out of the associational funds for his services as Moderator.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. A. NELSON, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and com. discharged.

#### ON DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

We, your committee on Denominational Literature report as follows, viz: We recommend that our people take the BAPTIST REVIEW as it is our Denominational paper, and should be used in our Freewill Baptist Sabbath



Schools.; and we also recommend the purchase of five or six hundred hymn books for use in our churches as they are greatly needed.

Respectfully submitted,

M. K. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and com. discharged.

After the above report on Denominational Literature was adopted, the following Resolution was also adopted:

RESOLVED 1. That the hymn book question be and the same is deferred back to the churches in this Association for their consideration, in order that the money may be raised for the purchase of the same as the cost of having the books printed has been stated.

#### ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools report as follows, viz: We find the cause of Sabbath Schools still neglected. We find several of our Sabbath Schools within the bounds of our Association, but not as much interest taken as we think there should be. We earnestly solicit our pastors and leading members to urge the cause still further within the bounds of this Association. That we have as many as one Sabbath School Lecturer in each church during the next year, either by our minister in charge or some brother whom he may select.

Respectfully submitted,

G. C. ELLIOTT, Chairman.

#### ON ASSOCIATIONAL FUNDS.

We, your committee on Associational Funds report as follows, viz: Paid in from the various churches of the Association, the following amounts: Mount Olive, \$3 45; Beech Grove nothing. Mount Pleasant \$2 50; Oak Grove 50 cents, New Oak Grove \$1 00; Friendship nothing. Pleasant Grove 50 cents; Gum Springs \$3 00; Union Chapel 88 cents; Union Hill nothing. Free water 25 cents; Liberty \$5 72; Fairview nothing. Pleasant Ridge \$4 00; Shady Grove 80 cents; Brilliant \$2 00; Pearces Chapel nothing. Pocahontas \$3 00; Union Valley nothing. Union Grove nothing. New Mount Joy nothing. New Hope nothing. Mount Hope nothing. Total amount paid in from the churches above named \$27 60.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. SHIRLEY, Chairman.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. W. H. Ingram.

At 2 o'clock, Rev. J. J. Wesley preached to a large and attentive congregation. His text was Matthew 8th chapter, and 20th verse, and Jesus saith unto him, the foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sung a hymn and Bro. E. D. Flurry offered prayer. The Moderator called the body to order, the Clerk called the roll and the ministers and delegates answer to their names. The Clerk announced that there was a quorum present; the Moderator called for unfinished business, and the following is presented, viz:



## TREASURER'S REPORT.

The amount of Associational Funds left in my hands on the 2nd day of October 1905 was \$51 25. On October 8th 1906, I received from the churches \$27 60—Total \$78 85. Paid to Rev. G. C. Elliott, October 8th 1906 \$4 00, which leaves a balance in my hands of \$74 85.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. NELSON, Treasurer.

On motion, the report is received and adopted.

On motion, it is agreed and ordered by this Association that our Treasurer draw the associational funds out of the Bank of Guin, and loan the same out at 8 per cent interest, and take a note with two good securites as the funds was not drawing the amount of interest as above named.

## ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND MEMBERS.

We, your committee on Deceased Ministers and Members report as follows, viz: Death has removed from us a number of our beloved members to wit: Sister M. C. Smith a member of Oak Grove Church, aged 74 years. Sister Margret Buzbee age not given. Bro. G. W. Benson a member of Oak Grove Church. Bro. J. C. McDuffey of Union Hill Church aged 51 years. Sister Arbee Logan of Liberty Church, age not given. Sister Elizabeth Page of Pleasant Ridge Church, aged 46 years, 7 months and 22 days. Sister Beulah Alvis. Sister Mary Faught. Sister M. A. Beaird Sister M. E. Lenard, age not given. All of Pocahontas Church. Sister Lucinda Abercumbia died May 10th 1906 aged about 86 years, a member of Shady Grove Church. Also, Bro. William Baker, a member of Beech Grove Church died December 2, 1905, aged about 86 years. Sister Martha Baker, a member of Beech Grove Church, died August 25, 1906 aged 85 years. Also, sister Dorcus Lockhart, a member of Beech Grove Church, died March 23, 1906, aged 88 years. These members all died in the faith of the Gospel and in the bright hope of Heaven. And we resolve first, that we bow in humble submission to Him who doeth all things well, and while we mourn their loss, we feel that it is Heaven's eternal gain. Resolved 2nd. that we humbly thank God for the kind preservation of our lives the past associational year, and our prayer to God is that our future may be brighter than the past.

Respectfully submitted,

H. T. WARREN, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the com. discharged.

According to an order passed by our last Association, Bro. J. A. Beazley was appointed to look after our church deeds, and see if they were drawn up according to law. Bro. Beazley being unable to attend this Association on account of sickness made no report, and this Association has given him until the annual Association of 1907 to make his report.

## ON MINISTERIAL CHARACTER.

We, your standing committee on Ministerial Character to wit: W. T. Keeton, C. W. Bell, A. J. Ingle, W. T. Burleson and J. T. Tyra, report as follows, viz: We find all our ministers to be of good character as far as we can learn, except Rev. J. F. James. He is charged with unbecoming conduct. And it was ordered that the Clerk demand his credentials, and that he be published in the Baptist Review.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. KEETON, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and com. discharged.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. J. R. Dutton.

At 7 o'clock Monday night, Rev. T. M. Canup preached to a large and well behaved audience. His text was Philipians 1st chapter and 23rd verse. "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ; which is far better.

#### TUESDAY MORNING, Oct. 9th.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer was offered by Rev. J. W. Porter of the Vernon Association. The Moderator, Rev. J. J. Wesley; who was present called the body to order. The Clerk called the roll, and the ministers and delegates answer to their names. The Clerk announced that there was a quorum of the body present. The Moderator called for business in regular order:

On motion, by Rev. W. A. Nelson, it was agreed to dispose of such Miscellaneous Business as might come before the body.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Resolved 1. That any minister of this Association who is found guilty of circulating false reports by pen or otherwise, on a brother minister, which is liable to injure his usefulness and destroy his influence, shall be deemed guilty of a disciplinary offense, and after discipline has been used, if he does not show signs of penitence and reformation, he shall be excommunicated from the Association, and published in our denominational paper.

2. On motion, it is still agreed to retain a financial system as we see the great need of such: And we earnestly recommend that each member that belongs to the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association pay annually fifty cents, this is in connection with the minute funds; and we earnestly urge and ask all of our ministers to use their best efforts in urging the collection of these funds; and it is further understood that we elect a Treasurer to keep a true record of all the funds that are paid in; and also, how the same are paid out. These funds are to be disposed of by the Association, through the Moderator and Clerk, being empowered by the body. Said money is to be used for no other purpose than the building up of the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association. Such as aiding destitute and disabled ministers, poor widows and orphans.

3. Be it resolved, that members shall not hold their

letters out of the church over twelve months after date, and they are still under the jurisdiction of the church to which they belonged.

4. Be it resolved that any minister or ministers of the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association of Ala., who desires to set forth the full functions of the Gospel the same shall be made known to the annual Association through a recommendation from the church or churches to which they belong; and, if on examination, they shall be found worthy, the Association may ordain them; but all ordinations must be done at the annual Associations.

5. On motion, it is agreed that Rev. George C. Elliott be and he is hereby appointed to write a Circular Letter to be appended to the minutes of 1907. Choosing his own subject.

6. On motion, Rev. W. A. Nelson and Bro. W. J. Crenshaw be appointed a committee to investigate and see if reports be true as to some of the members have been practicing sprinkling for baptism at Pocahontas Church, and if so inform them that it is against our doctrine.

7. On motion, it is agreed that Union Valley and Beech Grove churches be granted letters of dismissal, at their request, in order that they may go into the organization of a new Association at Empire, Ala., on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October 1906.

8. On motion, it is agreed that each minister report annually the amount of money he has received, the number of miles traveled, the number of sermons preached, the number of public prayers offered, the number of marriage ceremonies performed, the number of visits made to the sick, and burial services attended during the associational year.

9. On motion, the following Preamble and Resolution was presented, viz: Whereas, the Jasper Association is without proper representation with her sister Associations, and feeling the great need of the spirit of union which is essential to the furtherance of the cause of Christ, that we elect corresponding delegates, and the following are elected, viz:

Bear Creek Association—Rev. G. C. Elliott, W. M. Buzbee and W. B. Benson.

Vernon Association—Rev. J. L. Conner, and Rev. J. J. Wesley and Bro. Robert Franks.

Little Brown's Creek Association—Bro. W. T. Keeton and Bro. W. C. White and Bro. J. T. White.

State Line Association—Bro. J. M. Peoples and Bro. J. R. Cantrell.



10. On motion, it is agreed that the next session of this Association be held with Union Hill Church, three miles South of Hackleburg, Marion county, Ala., the same to convene on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1907.

11. On motion, Rev. J. J. Wesley is elected to preach the introductory sermon, **Rev. J. L. Conner**, alternate.

12. On motion, it is agreed that the Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum be appended to the minutes.

13. On motion, it is agreed that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes and that he have the work done to the best advantage. And it is further agreed that the publisher be instructed to send them to the Clerks of the churches according to their contributions, and that the Clerk be allowed five dollars for his services.

On motion, a vote of thanks is given to Mt. Olive Church and the citizens of this community for kindness and hospitality shown to members and visitors of this Association. Also, to the officers of the same, for the faithful manner in which they have presided over our deliberations during the entire session.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place above named. Prayer by Rev. W. A. Nelson. Closing services conducted by the Moderator with feeling and appropriate remarks. A hymn was sung and the parting hand was taken amid tears and joy.

JAMES J. WESLEY, Moderator.

ROBERT FRANKS, Clerk.

## ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

- REV. W. A. NELSON, Brilliant, Marion county, Ala.  
 “ J. L. CONNER, Twin, Marion county, Ala.  
 “ S. W. BROOKS, Hackleburg, Marion county, Ala.  
 “ M. R. MARTIN, Brilliant, Marion county, Ala.  
 “ T. M. CANUP, Dennis, R. F. D. No. 1, Itawamba county, Miss.  
 “ G. C. ELLIOTT, Brilliant, Marion county, Ala.  
 “ J. J. WESLEY, Twin, Marion county, Ala.  
 “ J. E. COCHRAN, Brilliant, Marion county, Ala.  
 “ W. H. INGRAM, Brilliant, Marion county, Ala.  
 “ W. B. BENSON, Carbon Hill, Walker county, Ala.  
 “ W. M. BUZBEE, Nauvoo, Walker county, Ala.  
 “ R. A. NIX, Sunshine, Texas.  
 “ G. W. FLIPPO, Pearce's Mills, Marion county, Ala.  
 “ H. B. FOWLER, Galoway, Walker county, Ala.  
 “ S. B. RAMSEY, Pleasant Site, Franklin county, Ala.  
 “ E. C. THOMAS, Galoway, Walker county, Ala.

## MINISTERS REPORTS.

Since our last Association, I have preached 154 sermons, prayed 168 public prayers, Married 6 couples, Visited 8 sick rooms and prayed in their homes. I have received from Pocahontas Church \$50 00, and from the people outside \$65 00. The number of miles traveled is unknown.

Respectfully Submitted,  
W. A. NELSON.

Since our last Association I have preached 50 sermons, offered 83 public prayers. Attended 3 burial services, baptized seven members, received 22, number of miles traveled 1135, served 3 churches, received from Free-waters and community \$6 25, from Brilliant Church, \$24 25, from Shady Grove Church \$55 00, Union Hill Church \$5 85, Oak Grove Church \$5 85, other churches \$1 24. —Total \$98 62.

G. C. ELLIOTT.

Dear Brethren I beg to submit my report, which is as follows: During the past year I have only attended one church Mount Olive. I have preached 30 sermons, married 5 couple, attended two burial services, visited the sick 15 times, received into the church one, offered 38 public prayers, and received for my services \$23 00.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. J. WESLEY,

During the past associational year, I have preached 107 sermons, delivered 21 exhortations, prayed 209 public prayers, preached 3 funerals, and married 4 couples, visited the sick 92 times, traveled 709 miles, and received from the various churches as follows viz: From Mount Olive \$5 00. From Liberty \$42 00, from Gum Springs \$50 00, from Union Chapel, \$23 00, from Pocahontas \$12 50, from Pleasant Ridge, \$8 50. —Total amount \$141 00.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. L. CONNER

## RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1 The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session : former Clerk also officiating until the body is fully organized.

ART. 2 The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

ART. 3 The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session of the Association. A majority of votes by the delegates present elects.

ART. 4 The names of delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

ART. 5 A majority of delegates present shall rule in all cases except the reception of members, then it shall be unanimous.

ART. 6 The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote, except in case of a tie, and then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall also speak on any question after others have spoken, provided he appoint some one to the chair while he is speaking.

ART. 7 Only one person shall speak at the same time, and he shall arise and address the Moderator, and after recognition by the Moderator, proceed.

ART. 8 No brother shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion, or use words of personal reflection.

ART. 9 No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association, nor more than fifteen minutes at a time.

ART. 10 No person shall laugh or talk during the time the debates are going on.

ART. 11 No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

## CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1 This Association shall be known as the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama, and being composed of ministers and delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates.

ART. 2 This body shall be considered an advisory Council.

ART. 3 All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be decided by a two thirds vote of the Association, and the decision shall be final.

ART. 4 The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, which shall be chosen by a majority vote at each session of the Association.

ART. 5 The Association shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by a previous annual session and shall not adjourn finally, until all the business is transacted.

ART. 6 Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

ART. 7 We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance Cause, Sunday Schools, Missionary Work, etc.

ART. 8 No member of this Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions, unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

ART. 9 Any church of this Association failing to be represented for two years in succession, the same shall be dropped from our minutes.



## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

OF GOD—ARTICLE 1. We believe there is one, and but one living and true God. Who is in personality, the Father. Son and Holy Ghost. Equal and harmonious in every Divine perfection.

OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES—ART. 2. We believe that God is the Author of the Holy Bible, and that its teachings constitute the only infallible doctrine for the government of his church. *1 Timothy 2-5*

OF ORIGINAL APOSTASY—ART. 3. We believe that Adam was created holy ; but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity, and consequently involved his posterity in sin.

OF FREE GRACE—ART. 4 We believe that the Grace of God comprehends all spiritual blessings. That the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. That the Holy Spirit not only reproves the world of sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted, regenerated and saved.

OF CRISTIAN FAITH—ART. 5. We believe that Christian Faith is belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, and we believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. That "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

OF REPENTANCE—ART. 6. We believe that Repentance is sorrow for sin, and the kind of sorrow which constitutes godly repentance, must be preceded by effectual conviction for sin.

OF FREE AGENCY—ART. 7. We believe that the human will is free, and that men have ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in the Holy Scriptures. *3-7*

OF PERSEVERANCE—ART. 8. We do not believe under the Gospel dispensation that any soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally; but those who by faith persevere to the end will be saved. That it is possible for men who have been converted, to "Make ship-wreck of the Faith" turn again to sin and be finally lost !

OF GOOD WORK—ART. 9. We believe that good work is the result of Faith, and not of necessity. That those who have Faith will do works of righteousness ; while those who have no Faith cannot do any thing pleasing or acceptable unto God.

OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM—ART. 10. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the names of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost That baptism cannot be Scripturally administered without Faith in the subject who receives it.

OF THE LORD'S SUPPER—ART. 11. We believe the Supper was instituted by our Saviour as a comemorative ordinance. That the bread and wine represent his body and blood. That it was instituted for Christians, and that all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service, regardless of names or denominational distinctions.

OF THE SOUL—ART. 12. We believe that man is a living soul That the body will die, but that the soul is immortal. That death is the separation of the mortal and immortal parts of human beings.

OF THE RESURRECTION—ART. 13. We believe in the Resurrection of the dead. When the resurrection shall take place the soul and body will reunite and form an immortal being. That the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness, to reign with God forever and ever. But the wicked will be bound hand and foot and be cast into outer darkness "The wicked are driven away in their wickedness, but the righteous have hope in their death."

# STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1906.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES.	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Dis. by Letter	Rec'd on Conf.	Restored	Died	Excluded	Days of Meeting	Number of Members	Paid for Minutes
Mt. Olive Marion Co., Ala.	J A Burleson, Shirley & Webb.	J. J. Wesley....	W. S. Flippo, Twin, Ala..	1					3	3	123	\$ 2 50	
Beech Grove, Walker Co.,...	W. O. Tyra and J. M. Files.....	J. W. Moore....	J. H. Files, Patton, Ala....	13	3			1	3	4	81	1 00	
Mt. Pleasant, Marion Co.,...	W. W. Elliott and F. B. Elliott..	J. J. Wesley....	F. B Elliott, Brilliant,Ala..	1						4	71	1 45	
Oak Grove, Walker Co.,...	J R Dutton, Keeton and & Robins.	W. P. Scott ....	W. A. Keeton,Prospect,Ala..		2				1	1	4	18	60
N. Oak Grove, Walker Co.	J R Benson, Howell & Howard..	F. R. Skelton..	J. R Benson, Nauvoo, Ala	1	5	1		3	2	3	1	63	1 00
Eriendship, Marion Co.,Ala.	S. G. Bailey and James Peoples...		J. R. Cantrell, Pikeville Ala..	3		7				1	58	1 00	
Pleasant Grove, Marion Co.	Represented by Contribution .....	J. W. Porter....	S. R. Price, Twin, Ala....							2		50	
Gum Springs, Marion Co.,...	H T Warren, J T White, I. West..	J. L. Conner ...	W. T. Hawkins,Baccus,Ala..	7		3				4	61	1 60	
Union Chapel, Marion Co.,...	J. N. Green,.....	J. L. Conner....	J. L. Eads, Glenallen Ala....						1	3	14	60	
Union Hill, Marion Co.,...	W. J. Lacy, J. P. Jones, J. F Tyra.	G. C Elliott ....	J H Trawick, Hackleb'Ala	3		9		1	1	9	4	100	1 15
Free Waters, Marion Co.,...	E. F. Franks and W. H. Fanks, Sr..	G. C. Elliott....	J. R. Franks, Guin, Ala....							1	33	85	
Liberty, Marion County,Ala	E T Flurry, Williams & Vaughn..	J. L. Conner....	M. D. Vaughn, Guin, Ala....	8	7				1		96	1 20	
Fairview, Franklin Co.,...	Represented by Contribution.....	T. M. Canup ....	W. M Dobbs, Pl's.Site,Ala..								13	50	
Pleasant Ridge, Ita'mb, Miss	W T Keeton, J Tharp & W White	T. M. Canup....	W B Dickinson, Miss. RFD	7	3		2		1	1	88	2 00	
N. Mt. Joy, Marion Co.,Ala	Represented by contribution .....	J. J. Wesley....	J. C. Waters, P. Mills. Ala.								7	50	
Shady Grove, Franklin Co.	H. D. Fowler and W. M. Fowler..	G. C. Elliott....	W. M, Fowler, Travis, Ala	6	16	1		2			77	80	
Brilliant, Marion County,...	W. J. Cook and G. W. Moore....	G. C. Elliott....	W. G Cook, Brilliant, Ala....			2				2	36	1 05	
Pearce's Chapel, Marion Co.	Represented by Contribution.....	W. A. Nelson....	J W Roberson, P Mills, Ala..									25	
Pocahontas, Walker county,	W. J. Crenshaw.....	W. A. Nelson....	W J Crenshaw, Pocak' Ala.	2	3				4		1	60	2 00
Union Valley, Walker Co.,...	P. C. & J. W. Pike & A J Guthrey	J. W. Moore....	T. S. Tidwell, Townby, Ala.	6	4		3			2	36	75	
Union Grove, Walker Co.,...	Represented by Contribution.....	W. A Nelson....	W. Kee, Carbon Hill, Ala....								13	50	
New Hope, Walker County.	Not Represented.....												
Mt. Hope, Franklin County.	Represented by contribution.....	T. M. Canup....	J. H. Dunklin, Shingle, Ala.							4	35	50	



## THE SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

By Rev. John Lemuel Conner

Text: "Ye must be born again," John 3-7. Proof text, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God." 1st John, 5:1.

To be born at all is to be begotten, and then conceived, which fact implies and necessitates first of all a desire. Under these heads I will discuss the subject which, one year ago was assigned to me. 1st. Desire without entering into a discussion of polenization of plant life; but by reference to Gen. 1st chapter, you will find that everything was created with like affinity and of its own volition ever after sought its own kind, because of God's original gift it possessed no other desire. Man, then, is the only creature that does not live by bread alone: "but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Then you say: "Why not a universal salvation?" Because, man had God as his first teacher and was happy until he heard and obeyed a false teacher. But you say they have never lost their identity. Certainly not in the flesh, they have in the spiritual in as much as they do not take heed to what they hear.

Free salvation then, is the theme. But you say: "To put a fowl, a fish, a beast, a shrub, or a tree in absolute obscurity is only to cause its ultimate extinction." Yes, but these are fleshly ideas and will not hold out against the spirit and God is omnipresent so that nothing is hidden from him. But the flesh has no desire for God, neither can the carnal mind comprehend the things of the spirit. The secret, then, is in the fact that God gave man, as it were, a female except, which, like the woman's desire to her husband, should be to the spirit. Hence the law of the conscience or the knowledge of right and wrong, and no less the church to her husband which is Christ. These being symbolical Paul could say with propriety: "I suffer not a woman to teach nor usurp authority." Or the creature to instruct the Creator or the flesh to guide the spirit because when we become spiritual we will love all alike and not as women nor even as wives "but as the angels in heaven." Therefore, did it become necessary for the Master to say: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." And since Christ has commissioned men, who can deny the necessity of spiritual preaching or claim special election to grace. Because, as the female without the male is barren so is the Church without Christ.

2nd. How shall we conceive?

To be brief we come out from God and to God we should return, and, as it were, are between two eternities, and no man or creature has ever been consulted about coming into this world, neither about leaving it, so it was the knowledge of good and evil which has put us off the exact circle, upon a tangent from which nothing but the power of God can draw us, hence the words of Christ: "No man can come to me, except my father which sent me, draw him." And since we stayed through wrong knowledge we must return through right knowledge.

"Therefore Jesus began to preach and say repent ye and believe the gospel." The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, only to them that believe. "Then gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on his name." Or to overcome the deeds of the flesh by the will of the spirit.

There is a vast difference in having the power to do a thing and doing it: it is a fact that we may be able to plant a crop and yet not do it, by not even so much as sowing. Who could be so ignorant as to think of reaping without sowing? But you say: "How can we act at this stage?" Look at Gen. 3-20 and Heb. 7:9, 10. Who then can say that we have not been alive since creation?



Conceived then, of desire upon the part of God who so loved the world and upon the part of ourselves whose conscience are a law unto us until seared as with a hot iron.

3rd. Begotten, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." And again, "Except a man be born of the water and of the spirit he can not enter into the kingdom of God." "That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit."

There is a vast difference between seeing and entering into the kingdom. See Matt. 18 and Luke 11. Also 1st Peter 2nd chapter: "Ye are saved by grace through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast." "Now the spirit speaketh expressly on this wise: say not in thine heart who shall ascend into heaven; that is to bring down Christ again from above. Or who shall descend into the deep that is to bring up Christ again from the dead? But what sayeth it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, even the word of truth which we preach, that if thou wilt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and wilt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. How can they believe on whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can he preach except he be sent?"

So, then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. He that hath not the spirit of Christ is none of His. But as many as are led by the spirit are the sons of God. For what the law could not do in that it was weak God sending His son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin condemned sin in the flesh. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. God sendeth His spirit into our hearts crying abba father. If children then heirs; heirs of God; and joint heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ. "No man can say that Jesus is the Christ but by the Holy Ghost."

Then, all are the children of God in Christ Jesus, who have been born again, regardless of Denominational distinctions.

Recapitulation.—All men are possessors of knowledge for the Holy Ghost is sent to reprove the world of a righteousness, of sin, and of a judgment to come. But all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and yet all may repent of sin, otherwise the call would not have been to all.

So repentance is the first step to take away from the carnal, and faith is the first step into the spiritual, or repentance is coming in sight of the kingdom and by faith we enter into it. See Christ's intercessory prayer in the garden. "Besides all this add to your faith virtue," etc.

Birth is the evidence of life and life the evidence of existence and existence is an evidence of hope and maketh not ashamed; but destroys the powers of death, so that when we are called dead we have just begun to live.

Mr brethren, allow me to give a few words of exhortation. Since my audience is 10 or 12 thousand, may God help you who read to understand!

The three sweetest words of our language are "mother, home and heaven," and "there is no place like home," and we are all away from home and our mother is at home in heaven, which is the new Jerusalem, which is the mother of us all. Come let us go and see her!

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