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**TREATISE**

**OF THE**

**Faith and Practice**

**OF THE**

**FREE WILL BAPTIST**

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**A TREATISE**  
OF THE  
FAITH AND PRACTICE  
OF THE  
**FREE WILL BAPTIST**

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NOTE: In the signing of the Treatise, the majority of the Committee preferred the title of "Elder" to that of "Reverend," so in love the majority won, with 100 per cent.—Chair.

# TREATISE

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## CHAPTER I.

### The Holy Scriptures

These are the Old and New Testaments; they were written by holy men, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and contain God's revealed word to man. They are a sufficient and infallible guide in religious faith and practice.

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## CHAPTER II.

### Being and Attributes of God

The Scriptures teach that there is only one true and living God,<sup>1</sup> who is Spirit,<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Deut. 6:4, The Lord our God is one Lord. 1 Cor. 8:4, There is none other God but one. Jer. 10:10, But the Lord is the true God, he is the living God. John 7:28; 2 Cor. 1:18: 1 John 5:20; 1 Tim. 6:17.

<sup>2</sup>John 4:24, God is a Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:17.

self-existent,<sup>1</sup> eternal,<sup>2</sup> immutable,<sup>3</sup>  
 omnipresent,<sup>4</sup> omniscient,<sup>5</sup> omnipotent,<sup>6</sup>  
 independent,<sup>7</sup> good,<sup>8</sup> wise,<sup>9</sup> holy,<sup>10</sup>  
 just,<sup>11</sup> and merciful,<sup>12</sup> the . . . . .

<sup>1</sup>Exod. 3:14, And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM. Psal. 83:18; John 5:26; Rev. 1:4.

<sup>2</sup>Psal. 90:2, From everlasting to everlasting thou art God. Deut. 33:27; Isa. 57:15; Rom. 1:20; 1 Tim. 1:17.

<sup>3</sup>Mal. 3:6, For I am the Lord, I change not. Num. 23:19; James 1:17.

<sup>4</sup>1 Kgs. 8:27, But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee. Jer. 23:24; Psal. 139:7-10; Isa. 57:15; Acts 17:24.

<sup>5</sup>Acts 15:18, Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. 1 Chron. 28:9; Psal. 94:9, 10; Acts 1:24.

<sup>6</sup>Rev. 19:6, The Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Job 42:2; Psal. 135:6; Matt. 19:26; Mark 14:36; Luke 18:27.

<sup>7</sup>Eph. 4:6, One God and Father of all, who is above all. Job 9:12; Isa. 14:13, 14; Dan. 4:35; Rom. 11:33, 36.

<sup>8</sup>Psal. 119:68, Thou art good, and doest good. Psal. 25:8; 106:1; 145:9; Matt. 19:17.

<sup>9</sup>Rom. 16:27, To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Dan. 2:20; 1 Tim. 1:17; Jude 25.

<sup>10</sup>Lev. 19:2, I the Lord your God am holy. Job 6:10.

<sup>11</sup>Deut. 32:4, Just and right is he. Psal. 92:15; 119:137; Zeph. 3:5.

<sup>12</sup>Eph. 2:4, God, who is rich in mercy. Exo. 34:6; Neh. 9:17; Psal. 100:5.

Creator,<sup>1</sup> Preserver,<sup>2</sup> and Governor<sup>3</sup> of the universe; the Redeemer,<sup>4</sup> Savior,<sup>5</sup> Sanctifier,<sup>6</sup> and Judge<sup>7</sup> of men; and the only proper object of worship.<sup>8</sup>

The mode of His existence, however, is a subject far above the understanding of man<sup>9</sup>—finite beings cannot comprehend Him.<sup>10</sup> There is nothing in the universe that can justly represent Him, for there is none like Him.<sup>11</sup> He is the fountain of

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<sup>1</sup>Gen. 1:1, In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Ex. 20:11; Ps. 33: 6, 9; Col. 1:16; Heb. 11:3.

<sup>2</sup>Neh. 9:6, Thou preservest them all. Job 7: 20; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3.

<sup>3</sup>Ps. 47:7, God is the King of all the earth. 2 Chron. 20:6; Psal. 95:3.

<sup>4</sup>Isa. 47:4, As for our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is his name. Ps. 78:35; Prov. 23:11; Isa. 41:14; 59:20; Jer. 50:34.

<sup>5</sup>Isa. 45:21, A just God and a Savior. Isa. 43:3, 11; 49:26.

<sup>6</sup>Exo. 31:13, I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. 1 Thess. 5:23; Jude 1.

<sup>7</sup>Heb. 12:23, God the Judge of all. Gen. 18: 25; Psal. 50:6; 2 Tim. 4:8.

<sup>8</sup>Exod. 34:14, Thou shalt worship no other god. Exod. 20:4, 5; Matt. 4:10; Rev. 19:10.

<sup>9</sup>Job 11:7, Canst thou by searching find out God? Isa. 40:28.

<sup>10</sup>Rom. 11:33, How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Job 26:14.

<sup>11</sup>Exod. 9:14, There is none other like me in all the earth. Exod. 8:10; 1 Chron. 17:20.

all perfection and happiness. He is glorified by the whole inanimate creation, and is worthy to be loved and served by all intelligences.<sup>1</sup>

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## CHAPTER III.

### Divine Government and Providence

1. God exercises a providential care and superintendence over all his creatures,<sup>2</sup> and governs the world in wisdom and mercy, according to the testimony of His Word.<sup>3</sup>

2. God has endowed man with power of free choice, and governs him by moral laws and motives; and this power of free choice

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<sup>1</sup> Psa. 19:1, 2, The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. Psa. 145:10, All thy works shall praise thee. Psa. 150:6, Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> Acts 17:28, In Him we live, and move, and have our being. Matt. 10:30, The very hairs of your head are all numbered. Psa. 104:13, 14; Job 14:5; Eph. 1:11.

<sup>3</sup> Psa. 22:28, For the kingdom is the Lord's; and he is the Governor among the nations. Psa. 97:2, Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne. Isa. 33:22; Exod. 34:6; Job 36:5.



is the exact measure of his responsibility.<sup>1</sup>

3. All events are present with God from everlasting to everlasting; but His knowledge of them does not in any sense cause them, nor does He decree all events which He knows will occur.<sup>2</sup>

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## CHAPTER IV.

### Creation, Primitive State of Man, and His Fall

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#### SECTION I.—CREATION.

1. **Of the World.** God created the world, and all things that it contains, for His own pleasure and glory and the enjoyment of His creatures.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Deut. 30:19, I have set before thee life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. Isa. 1:18-20; John 5:40; Rom. 2:14, 15; Prov. 1:24-28.

<sup>2</sup> Ezek. 33:11, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Acts 15:18; 1 Sam. 2:30; Ezek. 18:20, 25, 31; Jer. 44:4.

<sup>3</sup> Rev. 4:11, Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Isa. 43:7; 1 Tim. 6:17, The living God, who giveth us richly of all things to enjoy.



2. **Of the Angels.** The angels were created by God<sup>1</sup> to glorify Him<sup>2</sup> and obey His commandments.<sup>3</sup> Those who have kept their first estate He employs in ministering blessings to the heirs of salvation<sup>4</sup> and in executing His judgments upon the world.<sup>5</sup>

3. **Of Man.** God created man, consisting of a material body and a thinking, rational soul.<sup>6</sup> He was made in the image of God, to glorify his Maker.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Col. 1:16, For by him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. 7:11, And all the angels stood round about . . . and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God.

<sup>3</sup> Psa. 103:20, Bless the Lord, ye his angels, . . . that do his commandments.

<sup>4</sup> Heb. 1:14, Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? Jude 6.

<sup>5</sup> 2 Sam. 24:16, The angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it. Rev. 16:1.

<sup>6</sup> Gen. 2:7, And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

<sup>7</sup> Gen. 1:27, So God created man in his own image; in the image of God created he him. 1 Cor. 6:20.

SECTION II.—PRIMITIVE MAN, AND  
HIS FALL

Our first parents, in their original state of probation, were upright. They naturally preferred and desired to obey their Creator, and had no preference or desire to transgress His will<sup>1</sup> until they were influenced and inclined by the tempter to disobey God's commands. Previously to this, the only tendency of their nature was to do righteousness. In consequence of the first transgression, the state under which the posterity of Adam came into the world is so different from that of Adam that they have not that righteousness and purity which Adam had before the fall; they are not willing to obey God, but are inclined to evil.<sup>2</sup> Hence none, by virtue of any natural goodness and mere work of their own, can become the children of God;<sup>3</sup> but they are all dependent

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<sup>1</sup> Eccl. 7:29, God hath made man upright. Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10.

<sup>2</sup> Psal. 51:5, Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Rom. 8:7, The carnal mind is enmity against God. Eph. 2:3, And were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Psal. 58:3; Gen. 8:21; John 3:6; Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 5:12.

<sup>3</sup> John 6:44, No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him. 1 Cor. 2:14, The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them.

for salvation upon the redemption effected through the blood of Christ, and upon being created anew unto obedience through the operation of the Spirit;<sup>1</sup> both of which are freely provided for every descendant of Adam.<sup>2</sup>

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## CHAPTER V.

### Of Christ

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#### SECTION I.

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

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

1. **His Titles.** The Bible ascribes to

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<sup>1</sup> John 3:3, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:5; 1:13; Heb. 12:14, And holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Col. 1:14; Tit. 3:5.

<sup>2</sup> See Atonement.

Christ the titles of Savior,<sup>1</sup> Jehovah,<sup>2</sup> Lord of hosts,<sup>3</sup> the first and the last,<sup>4</sup> God,<sup>5</sup> true God,<sup>6</sup> great God,<sup>7</sup> God over all,<sup>8</sup> mighty God, and the everlasting

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 45:21, There is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me. Isa. 43:10, 11, Besides me there is no Savior. John 4:42, This is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world. Phil. 3:20; 2 Tim. 1:10; Titus 2:13.

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 83:18, Whose name alone is JEHOVAH. Isa. 40:3, The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Jehovah). Luke 1:76.

<sup>3</sup> Isa. 8:13, 14, Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary: but for a stone of stumbling, and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel. 1 Peter 2:4-6; Isa. 6:5; John 12:41.

<sup>4</sup> Rev. 22:13, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Isa. 44:6; Rev. 1:1, 11.

<sup>5</sup> 1 Tim. 3:16, God was manifest in the flesh. 1 John 3:16; Jno. 1:1; Heb. 1:8; Jn. 20:28, 29.

<sup>6</sup> 1 John 5:20, We are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

<sup>7</sup> Tit. 2:13, Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Savior Jesus Christ.

<sup>8</sup> Rom. 9:5, Of whom, as concerning the flesh, Christ came: who is over all, God blessed forever.

Father.<sup>1</sup>

**2. His Attributes.** He is eternal,<sup>2</sup> unchangeable,<sup>3</sup> omnipresent,<sup>4</sup> omniscient,<sup>5</sup> omnipotent,<sup>6</sup> holy,<sup>7</sup> and is entitled to divine worship.<sup>8</sup>

**3. His Works.** By Christ the world was

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<sup>1</sup> Isa. 9:6, For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

<sup>2</sup> Col. 1:17, And he is before all things. Mic. 5:2; Heb. 1:8.

<sup>3</sup> Heb. 13:8, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Heb. 1:12.

<sup>4</sup> John 3:13, No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. Matt. 18:20; 28:20; Eph. 1:23.

<sup>5</sup> John 16:30, Thou knowest all things. John 2:24, 25; 21:17; Rev. 2:23.

<sup>6</sup> Col. 2:8, 10, Christ . . . is the head of all principality and power. Matt. 28:18; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 1:8.

<sup>7</sup> Acts 3:14, But ye denied the Holy One. Luke 1:35; Heb. 7:26; Rev. 3:7.

<sup>8</sup> Heb. 1:6, Let all the angels of God worship him. John 5:23, That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. Phil. 2:10, 11; Matt. 28:9; Luke 24:52.

created;<sup>1</sup> He preserves<sup>2</sup> and governs<sup>3</sup> it; He has provided redemption for all men,<sup>4</sup> and He will be their final Judge.<sup>5</sup>

## SEC. II.—THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST,

The Word, which in the beginning was with God and which was God, by whom all things were made, condescended to a state of humiliation in being united with human nature and becoming like us, pollution and sin excepted.<sup>6</sup> In this state,

<sup>1</sup> Heb. 1:8, 10, Unto the Son he saith . . . . Thou, Lord in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands. John 1:3, 10, All things were made by him. The world was made by him. Col. 1:16.

<sup>2</sup> Heb. 1:3, Upholding all things by the word of his power. Col. 1:17.

<sup>3</sup> Isa. 9:6, The government shall be upon his shoulder. 1 Peter 3:22; Eph. 1:21.

<sup>4</sup> Eph. 1:7, In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; Isa. 44:6; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19; Rev. 5:9.

<sup>5</sup> 2 Tim. 4:1, The Lord Jesus Christ who shall judge the quick and the dead. Matt. 25: 31-46; John 5:22.

<sup>6</sup> John 1:14, And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. Phil. 2:6, 7, Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. 2 Cor. 8:9; Heb. 4:15.



as a subject of the law, He was liable to the infirmities of our nature;<sup>1</sup> was tempted as we are;<sup>2</sup> but lived our example,<sup>3</sup> and rendered perfect obedience to the divine requirements.<sup>4</sup> As Christ was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, He is called "the Son of man";<sup>5</sup> and as the divine existence is the fountain from which He proceeded, and was the only agency by which He was begotten,<sup>6</sup> He is called "the Son of God",<sup>7</sup> being the only begotten of the Father,<sup>8</sup> and the only incarnation of the Divine Being.

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<sup>1</sup> Heb. 2:17, Wherefore, in all things, it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren. Matt. 8:17; 4:2; 8:24; John 11:33, 35; 19:28; Isa. 53:3; Luke 22:44.

<sup>2</sup> Heb. 4:15, Was in all points tempted like as we are. Matt. 4:1-11.

<sup>3</sup> 1 Pet. 2:21, Leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps. John 13:15; 1 John 2:6.

<sup>4</sup> Isa. 42:21, He will magnify the law, and make it honorable. Matt. 5:17; 3:15; Gal. 4:4.

<sup>5</sup> Luke 19:10, For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

<sup>6</sup> John 16:27, I came out from God. Matt. 1:18, 20.

<sup>7</sup> Luke 1:35, That holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. Mark 1:1; John 1:34; 20:31.

<sup>8</sup> John 3:16, God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. John 1:18.



## CHAPTER VI.

**The Holy Spirit**

1. The Scriptures ascribe to the Holy Spirit the acts and attributes of an intelligent being. He is said to guide,<sup>1</sup> to know,<sup>2</sup> to move,<sup>3</sup> to give information,<sup>4</sup> to command,<sup>5</sup> to forbid,<sup>6</sup> to send forth,<sup>7</sup> to reprove<sup>8</sup> and be sinned against.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 16: 13, Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 2:11, Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

<sup>3</sup> Gen. 1:2, And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Acts 8:39.

<sup>4</sup> Acts 10:19, While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. 1 Cor. 2:13; Acts 21:11; John 14:26.

<sup>5</sup> Acts 13:2, The Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

<sup>6</sup> Acts 16:6, And were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia.

<sup>7</sup> Acts 13:4, So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed into Seleucia.

<sup>8</sup> John 16:8, And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. Gen. 6:3.

<sup>9</sup> Mark 3:29, But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness. Isa. 63:10; Acts 7:51; Eph. 4:30.

2. The attributes of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit; such as eternity,<sup>1</sup> omnipresence,<sup>2</sup> omniscience,<sup>3</sup> goodness,<sup>4</sup> truth.<sup>5</sup>

3. The works of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit; creation,<sup>6</sup> inspiration,<sup>7</sup> giving of life,<sup>8</sup> and sanctification.<sup>9</sup>

4. The same acts which in one part of the Bible are attributed to the Holy Spirit are in other parts said to be performed

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<sup>1</sup> Heb. 9:14, Who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God.

<sup>2</sup> Psa. 139:7, Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 2:10, The Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

<sup>4</sup> Neh. 9:20, Thou gavest also thy good Spirit to instruct them. Psa. 143: 10.

<sup>5</sup> John 14:17, Even the Spirit of truth.

<sup>6</sup> Job 33:4, The Spirit of God hath made me. Job 26:13; Psa. 104:30.

<sup>7</sup> 2 Pet. 1:21, Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

<sup>8</sup> 1 Pet. 3:18, Quickened by the Spirit. Rom. 8:11.

<sup>9</sup> 1 Cor. 6:11, But ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

by God.<sup>1</sup>

5. The apostles assert that the Holy Spirit is Lord and God.<sup>2</sup>

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

The truth of this doctrine is also proven from the fact that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are united in the authority by which believers are baptized, and in the benedictions pronounced by the apostles,<sup>3</sup> which are acts of the highest religious worship.

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<sup>1</sup> Isa. 6:8, 9, I heard the voice of the Lord. And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye, indeed, but understand not. Acts 28:25, 26, Well spake the Holy Ghost . . . Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand. Compare John 3:16 with Matt. 1:18.

<sup>2</sup> 2 Cor. 3:17, Now the Lord is that Spirit. Acts 5:3, 4, Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost? . . . Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 28:19, Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 2 Cor. 13:14, The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. 1 Pet. 1:2.

## CHAPTER VII.

**The Atonement and Mediation of Christ**

1. **The Atonement.** As sin cannot be pardoned without a sacrifice, and the blood of beasts could never wash away sin, Christ gave Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world,<sup>1</sup> and thus made salvation possible for all men.<sup>2</sup> He died for us, suffering in our stead, to make known the righteousness of God, that He might be just in justifying sinners who believe in His Son.<sup>3</sup> Through the redemption effected by Christ, salvation is actually enjoyed in this world, and will be enjoyed in the next by all who do not in this life refuse obedience to the known requirements of

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<sup>1</sup> 1 John 2:2, And he is the propitiation of our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Isa. 53:5; 10:11; Rom. 4:25; Matt. 20:28; 1 Pet. 3:18; John 1:29; Heb. 9:26; Rom. 5:6, 8.

<sup>2</sup> Tit. 2:11, For the grace of God that bringeth salvation has appeared to all men. Heb. 2:9, That he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 1 Tim. 2:6; Isa. 45:22; 2 Pet. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15; 1 Tim. 4:10.

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 3:25, 26, Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness; that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Rom. 5:9, 18; Matt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7; Rev. 5:9; 1 Pet. 2:24.

God.<sup>1</sup> The atonement of sin was necessary.<sup>2</sup> For present and future obedience can no more blot out our past sins than past obedience can remove the guilt of present and future sins. Had God pardoned the sins of men without satisfaction for the violation of His law, it would follow that transgression might go on with impunity; government would be abrogated, and the obligation of obedience to God would be, in effect, removed.

**2. Mediation of Christ.** Our Lord not only died for our sins, but He arose for our justification,<sup>3</sup> and ascended up to heaven,<sup>4</sup> where, as Mediator between God and man, He will make intercession for men until the Final Judgment.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rom. 5:18, Therefore, as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. Rom. 8:1, There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Mark 16:15; Rom. 2:14, 15.

<sup>2</sup> Heb. 9:22, Without shedding of blood is no remission. Eph. 1:7, In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 4:25, Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. 1 Cor. 15:17.

<sup>4</sup> Acts 1:11, This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven. Mark 16:19.

<sup>5</sup> Heb. 7:25, He ever liveth to make intercession for them. Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24.

## CHAPTER VIII.

**The Gospel Call**

The call of the Gospel is co-extensive with the atonement to all men,<sup>1</sup> both by the world and the strivings of the Spirit;<sup>2</sup> so that salvation is rendered equally possible to all;<sup>3</sup> and, if any fail of eternal life, the fault is wholly their own.<sup>4</sup>

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## CHAPTER IX.

**Repentance.**

The repentance which the Gospel requires includes a deep conviction, a peni-

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<sup>1</sup> Mark 16:15, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Isa. 45:22, Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth. Prov. 8:4; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17.

<sup>2</sup> Joel 2:28, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. John 16:8; John 1:9; Isa. 55:11; Luke 2:10.

<sup>3</sup> 1 Tim. 2:4, Who will have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth. Acts 10:34, God is no respecter of persons. Ezek. 33:11; 2 Pet. 3:9.

<sup>4</sup> Hos. 13:9, O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself. Prov. 1:24-31; Isa. 65:12; Jer. 7:13, 14; Zech. 7:11, 13; John 5:40, And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. Matt. 23:37.



tential sorrow, an open confession, a decided hatred and an entire forsaking of all sin.<sup>1</sup> This repentance God has enjoined on all men; and without it in this life the sinner must perish eternally.<sup>2</sup>

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## CHAPTER X.

### Faith

Saving faith is an assent of the mind to the fundamental truths of revelation;<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Cor. 7:10, For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of. Psa. 51:17; Prov. 28:13, He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them, shall have mercy. Psa. 32:3, 5; Ezek. 36:31, Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. Psa. 51:3, 4; Ezek. 18:30, Repent, and turn yourself from all your transgressions so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

<sup>2</sup> Acts 17:30, But now commandeth all men everywhere to repent. Luke 13:5, But, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Acts 3:19.

<sup>3</sup> Heb. 11:6, He that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Heb. 11:1, Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. John 5:46, 47; Rom. 10:9.



an acceptance of the Gospel, through the influence of the Holy Spirit;<sup>1</sup> and a firm confidence and trust in Christ.<sup>2</sup> The fruit of faith is obedience to the Gospel.<sup>3</sup> The power to believe is the gift of God;<sup>4</sup> but believing is an act of the creature, which is required as a condition of pardon, and without which the sinner cannot obtain salvation.<sup>5</sup> All men are required to believe in Christ; and those who yield obedience to this requirement become the children of God by faith.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rom. 10:10, With the heart man believeth unto righteousness. Gal. 5:22, But the fruit of the Spirit is . . . faith. 1 Cor. 12:8, 9.

<sup>2</sup> Acts 16:31, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. John 3:16; Rom. 4:20-22; Eph. 3:12.

<sup>3</sup> Jas. 2:17, Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Gal. 5:6; 1 Tim. 1:5.

<sup>4</sup> Phil. 1:29, Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ . . . to believe on him. 2 Pet. 1:1; Eph. 2:8.

<sup>5</sup> John 3:36, He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. Mark 16:16; John 8:21, 24; Heb. 11:6.

<sup>6</sup> John 1:7, That all men through him might believe. Gal. 3:26, Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Acts 10:43; Rom. 5:1; John 3:15.

## CHAPTER XI.

## Regeneration.

As man is a fallen and sinful being, he must be regenerated, in order to obtain salvation.<sup>1</sup> This change is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Spirit,<sup>2</sup> whereby the penitent sinner receives new life, becomes a child of God,<sup>3</sup> and disposed to serve Him.<sup>4</sup> This is called in Scripture being born again—born of the Spirit,<sup>5</sup> being quickened, <sup>6</sup> passing

<sup>1</sup> John 3:3, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Heb. 12:14; Rev. 21:27; Gal. 5:19-21..

<sup>2</sup> John 3:5, Except a man be born . . . of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. John 1:13; Ezek. 36:26-27; Tit. 3:5; Eph. 2:10.

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 8:16, The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. John 1:12; 5:25; Jas. 1:18; 2 Cor. 5:17.

<sup>4</sup> Ezek. 11:19, 20, And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh: that they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them. 1 Pet. 2:5.

<sup>5</sup> John 3:6, That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:5, 8; 1 John 4:7; 5:1.

<sup>6</sup> Eph. 2:1, You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. Psal. 119:50, 93; Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13.

from death unto life,<sup>1</sup> and a partaking of the divine nature.<sup>2</sup>

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## CHAPTER XII.

### Justification and Sanctification.

1. **Justification.** ..Personal justification implies that the person justified has been guilty before God; and, in consideration of the atonement of Christ, accepted by faith, the sinner is pardoned and absolved from the guilt of sin and restored to the divine favor.<sup>3</sup> Through Christ's atonement is the foundation of the sinner's redemption, yet, without repentance and faith, it can never give him justification and peace with God.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John 5:24, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me . . . is passed from death unto life. 1 John 3:14.

<sup>2</sup> 2 Pet. 1:4, That by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature. Heb. 3:14.

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 5:1, Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:16, The free gift is of many offences unto justification. Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11.

<sup>4</sup> Acts 3:19, Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. Heb. 4:2; 11:6; Rom. 9:31, 32; Acts 13:38, 39.

2. **Sanctification** is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ.<sup>1</sup> It commences at regeneration, and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>2</sup>

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## CHAPTER XIII.

### Perseverance of the Saints

There are strong grounds to hope that the truly regenerate will persevere unto the end, and be saved, through the power

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1 1 Cor. 6:11, And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. Rom. 12:1, Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. 1 Thess. 4:3; John 17:17; Eph. 5:26; 1 Cor. 6:20.

2 1 Thess. 5:23, And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God that your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Pet. 3:18, Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Heb. 6:1; 1 John 5:4; Col. 4:12; Prov. 4:18; 1 John 1:7, 9; 1 Pet. 1:16; Gal. 2:20.

of divine grace which is pledged for their support;<sup>1</sup> but their future obedience and final salvation are neither determined nor certain, since through infirmity and manifold temptations they are in danger of falling; and they ought therefore to watch and pray, lest they make shipwreck of their faith and be lost.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rom. 8:38, 39, For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 Cor. 10:13, God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 2 Cor. 12:9, My grace is sufficient for thee. Job 17:9; Matt. 16:18; John 10:27, 28; Phil. 1:6.

<sup>2</sup> 2 Chron. 15:2, The Lord is with you, while ye be with him . . . but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. 2 Pet. 1:10, Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. Ezek. 33:18, When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby. John 15:6; 1 Cor. 10:12; Heb. 6:4-6; 12:15; 1 Chron. 28:9; Rev. 2:4; 1 Tim. 1:19; 2 Pet. 2:20, 21; 1 Cor. 9:27; Matt. 24:13.

## CHAPTER XIV.

**The Sabbath.**

This is one day in seven, which from the creation of the world God has set apart for sacred rest and holy service.<sup>1</sup> Under the former dispensation, the seventh day of the week, as commemorative of the work of creation, was set apart for the Sabbath.<sup>2</sup> Under the Gospel, the first day of the week, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, and by authority of the apostles, is observed as the Christian Sabbath.<sup>3</sup> On this day all men are

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<sup>1</sup> Gen. 2:3, God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it. Mark 2:27, The Sabbath was made for man. Neh. 9:14.

<sup>2</sup> Exod. 20:8-11, Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

<sup>3</sup> Luke 24:1-7, Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre . . . He is not here, but is risen. Luke 24:33-36; John 20:19, 26; Acts 2:1; 20:7, And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them. 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10; Psalms 118:22-24.



required to refrain from secular labor, and devote themselves to the worship and service of God.<sup>1</sup>

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## CHAPTER XV.

### The Church.

A **Christian Church** is an organized body of believers in Christ, who statedly assemble to worship God, and who sustain the ordinances of the Gospel according to the Scriptures.<sup>2</sup> Believers in Christ are admitted to this church on giving evidence of faith in Christ, obtaining consent of the body, being baptized, and receiving the right hand of fellowship.<sup>3</sup>

The Church of God, or members of the

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<sup>1</sup> Isa. 58:13, 14, If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words; then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord. Isa. 56:2; Exod. 20:8-11.

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 1:2, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints. Acts 2:41, 47; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; Rev. 1:4.

<sup>3</sup> Eph. 5:25, 27, Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it . . . that he might present it to himself a glorious church. Eph. 1:22, 23; 1 Cor. 12:27, 28; Col. 1:18, 24; 1 Pet. 2:5; John 18:36; John 15:2, 6.



body if Christ, is the whole body of Christians throughout the whole world, and none but the regenerate are its members.<sup>1</sup>

## CHAPTER XVI.

### The Gospel Ministry.

1. **Qualification of Ministers.** They must possess good natural and acquired abilities,<sup>2</sup> deep and ardent piety,<sup>3</sup> be especially called of God to the work,<sup>4</sup> and ordained by the laying on of hands.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Acts 2:41, Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day were added unto them about three thousand souls. Acts 8:12; Gal. 3:27.

<sup>2</sup> 2 Tim. 2:15, Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 1 Tim. 4:13-16, Till I come give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee . . . Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Tit. 1:9; 2:7, 8; 2 Tim. 1:7; 2:2; 1 Tim. 3:2-7.

<sup>3</sup> Psa. 50:16, But unto the wicked, God saith, [What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldst take my covenant in thy mouth? 2 Tim. 1:8-11, 14; 2: 22; 3:5; Tit. 1: 5-9; 1 Cor. 2:12-16.

<sup>4</sup> Acts 20:28, Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock . . . over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers. Heb. 5: 4; 1 Cor. 9:16; Acts 13:2.

<sup>5</sup> 1 Tim. 4:14, With the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 2 Tim. 1:6; Acts 13:3.

**2. Duties of Ministers.** These are, to preach the Word,<sup>1</sup> administer the ordinances of the Gospel,<sup>2</sup> visit their people, and otherwise perform the work of faithful pastors.<sup>3</sup>

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## CHAPTER XVII.

### Ordinances of the Gospel.

**1. Christian Baptism.** This is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,<sup>4</sup> in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ, the death of Christians to the world, the washing of their souls from the pollution of sin, their rising

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<sup>1</sup> Mark 16:15, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. 2 Tim. 4:2; 2 Cor. 4:5; Ezek. 33:7.

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 28:19, Teach all nations, baptizing them. Luke 22:19, 20, This do in remembrance of me. Acts 20:11; 27:35; 1 Cor. 11:23-28; 10:16.

<sup>3</sup> Heb. 13:17, They watch for your souls as they that must give account. 1 Pet. 5:2, Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof. Acts 20:28; Jer. 3:15.

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 28:19, Baptizing (Greek, *immersing*) them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Col. 2:12, Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him. Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:5; John 3:23; Acts 16:32-34; 2:41.

to newness of life, their engagement to serve God, and their resurrection at the last day.<sup>1</sup>

**2. The Lord's Supper.** This is a commemoration of the death of Christ for our sins, in the use of **bread** which He made the emblem of His broken body, and the **cup**, the emblem of His shed blood,<sup>2</sup> and by it the believer expresses his love for Christ, his faith and hope in Him, and pledges to Him perpetual fidelity.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 6:4, Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Col. 3:3; 2:12; Tit. 3:5; Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 15:29.

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 11:23-26, For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you. That the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Matt. 26:26-28.

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 10:16, The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 1 Cor. 10:21; 11:27-29.

It is the privilege and duty of all who have spiritual union with Christ to commemorate His death; and no man has a right to forbid these tokens to the least of His disciples.<sup>1</sup>

3. **Washing the Saints' Feet.** This teaches humility, purity of body as well as soul willingness to serve every Christian in any way we possibly can to promote his or her spiritual welfare and advance the cause of Christ. It is the duty, and happy prerogative of every believer to observe this sacred ordinance.

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## CHAPTER XVIII.

### Death, and the Intermediate State.

1. **Death.** As a result of sin, all mankind are subject to the death of the body.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 10:17, For we being many are one bread and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread. Matt. 26:27, Drink ye all of it. Rom. 14:1, 10; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Acts 2:42; 20:7.

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 5:12, As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Heb. 9:27, It is appointed unto men once to die. 1 Cor. 15:22; Psal. 89:48; Eccl. 8:8.

**2. The Intermediate State.** The soul does not die with the body; but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the moral character here possessed.<sup>1</sup>

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## CHAPTER XIX.

### Second Coming of Christ

The Lord Jesus, who ascended on high, and sits at the right hand of God, will come again, to close the Gospel dispensation, glorify His saints, and judge the world.<sup>2</sup>

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## CHAPTER XX.

### The Resurrection.

The Scriptures teach the resurrection of the bodies of all men at the last day, each in its own order; they that have done

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<sup>1</sup> Eccles. 12:7, Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Phil. 1:23, Having a desire to depart, and be with Christ, which is far better. Luke 23:43; Matt. 17:3; 22:32; Acts 7:59; Matt. 10:28; 2 Cor. 5:8; Luke 16:22-26; Rev. 6:9.

<sup>2</sup> Acts 1:11, This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Matt. 25:31; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2 Pet. 3:3-13; Matt. 24:42, 44.

good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil to resurrection of damnation.<sup>1</sup>

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## CHAPTER XXI.

### The General Judgment and Future Retribution.

**1. The General Judgment.** There will be a general judgment, when time and man's probation will close forever.<sup>2</sup> Then all men will be judged according to their works.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John 5:28, 29, The hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:22, 23; 2 Tim. 2:18; Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:35-44; Dan. 12:2.

<sup>2</sup> Acts 17:31, Because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness. 1 Cor. 15:24; Rev. 10:6; 22:11; 2 Pet. 3:11, 12; Eccles. 9:10.

<sup>3</sup> 2 Cor. 5:10, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Eccles. 12:14, For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Matt. 12:36; Rev. 20:12; Rom. 2:16.

**2. Future Retribution.** Immediately after the general judgment, the righteous will enter into eternal life, and the wicked will go into a state of endless punishment.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Matt. 25:46, And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal. 2 Thess. 1:8-10, Taking vengeance on them that know not God, and they that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints. Rom. 6:23; 2 Pet. 1:11; Mark 3:29; 9:43, 44; Jude 7; Rev. 14:11; 21:7, 8, 27; Matt. 13:41-43; Rom. 2:6-10.



# **USAGES**

## **OF THE**

# **FREE WILL BAPTIST**

ADOPTED BY THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
NOVEMBER 7, 1931.

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### **CHAPTER I.**

#### **THE Church.**

##### **SECTION I.—ORGANIZATION**

When several believers wish to be organized into a church, they request a council of a Quarterly Meeting or Association, which examines into the Christian character, doctrine, and fellowship of the applicants, and their ability to sustain a church. If the examination is satisfactory, the organization proceeds as follows:

1. The Bible is presented, as the only rule of faith and practice.
2. A church covenant is adopted.
3. A prayer of consecration is offered.
4. The hand of fellowship is given by the chairman of the council.

When a church already organized, or a church from another denomination, wishes to unite with the Free Will Baptist denomination, a council is called the same as for the organization of a church.

## SECTION II.—OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

The church then proceeds to elect its officers, which are a clerk, a treasurer, a pastor who acts as moderator in all church meetings, and a board of deacons, who, with the pastor, clerk and treasurer, constitute a committee to promote order, activity, attendance on the means of grace, and efficient discipline of the church. Deacons should possess sound piety, good business capacity, and large benevolence; they should be ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands by the presbytery; they hold their office for life, or during the maintenance of good moral character and sound doctrine; they assist at baptism and the Lord's Supper, have care of the poor, and conduct religious meetings in the absence of the pastor.

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## SECTION III.—MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

1. Public worship upon the Lord's day is to be faithfully observed and punctually attended.

2. A monthly church conference, or covenant meeting, is established, at which every member, or so far as practicable, should report personally or by letter.

3. Weekly meetings appointed for prayer and conference should be regularly

attended by the church; in these meetings all are at liberty to participate, regardless of office, age, sex, or condition.

4. Meetings for business are held once in three months, generally two weeks before each session of the Quarterly Meeting, but items of business may be introduced and attended to at any regular meeting of the church.

1) In these meetings, if the pastor is not present, a moderator is elected; and if the clerk is absent, a clerk pro tem is elected.

2) No conversation or discussion is proper upon any subject not distinctly before the meeting by a regular motion properly sustained.

3) If members are to be tried for misconduct, written notices of the charges and specifications of the same should be furnished to those concerned, at least one week before the trial.

4) If the charges are not confessed, the trial proceeds in regular order by the presentation of testimony, without personal disputation, or remarks from those not church members.

5) Questions of fellowship and expulsion are settled by vote of the majority present, provided that if only a minority of the resident membership is present, a majority of all such members at a fuller

meeting may reconsider the action and re-investigate the subject. But a vote of the majority of all the resident members is **always final**; and the Quarterly Meeting has no power to reverse it, but may, if deemed necessary, withdraw the hand of fellowship from a church as a whole when its action is inconsistent with sound doctrine of Christian polity.

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#### SECTION IV.—DUTIES OF THE CHURCH

1. The ordinances of the Gospel are administered by ordained ministers,—Baptism as soon as practicable after conversion, and the Lord's Supper at stated times, as fixed by a vote of the church.

2. Every church should sustain a Sunday school, the officers and teachers of which should be acceptable to the church, and generally members of it.

3. Churches should recognize and arrange, as far as possible, to prosecute all the different kinds of work for Christ that are possible in the communities where they exist. To this end, every church member should be designated for some department of the church work, and should accept such department as his special field.

4. Congregational singing is to be preferred and encouraged under the efficient direction of a choir or a leader.

5. Every church should provide for the support of its pastor, and other church expenses; each member contributing thereto according to his property and circumstances.

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#### SEC. V.—GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH

1. The local church is an independent body, so far as it relates to its own government, the transaction of its business, the choice of its officers, and the discipline of its members.

2. Persons who believe the truth as it is in Christ, and give evidence of true piety, are, upon examination or recommendation, received to membership by vote of the church upon condition of baptism. If there are objections, they should be privately stated to the officers of the church, and the vote should be deferred until the church is satisfied.

3. Persons expelled from sister churches for any cause, or from any church for immorality, should not be received to fellowship without first giving satisfaction to the church from which they are expelled.

4. The hand of fellowship is given by the pastor, or other minister, to all persons on their reception by the church, but it is not essential to church membership.

5. Christians not eligible to membership in the church, may, by vote of the church, be recognized as in Christian fellowship and invited to participate in social and public worship, Sunday school work, missionary enterprises, and evangelistic work.

6. Letters of commendation are granted to members in good standing, who wish to change their church relations. These letters are valid as an introduction to another church for one year. But in no case, without special vote of dismission, do they change the relations of members to the church, or release them from duty or discipline, until they unite with some other church.

7. Ministers are received and dismissed by letter as other members, except when they come from, or go to, other denominations; in which case a council of ministers should be called to advise respecting the action contemplated.

8. It is the duty of the church to unite with some Quarterly Meeting or Association, and to report regularly by delegates and letter in form given in the Treatise. Such reports should definitely answer the following questions:



1) What is the attendance and degree of interest in public worship, and in the prayer meetings?

2) How many are connected with the Sunday school?

3) What provision is made for books and papers in the Sunday school?

4) What is the average annual amount per resident member paid for Home Missions, Foreign Missions, and the cause of education respectively, and how is the money raised?

5) Have you a stated pastor who has the certificate of ministerial standing from the Yearly Meeting or Annual Association? What is the amount paid for the support of the pastor, and expenses for public worship?

6) Are there any special demands or encouragements for church work?

9. At the next session of the Quarterly Meeting after the first day of May of each year, the report should give the exact statement of the statistics as required for the records for the preceding year.

10. Churches, or other bodies, are generally expected to elect as delegates members of the respective bodies represented, but for special reasons may elect other members of the denomination to bodies

having the right to decide respecting the eligibility of their own members.

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#### SEC. VI.—DISCIPLINE OF THE CHURCH

1. Personal offences and trials are to be settled according to Matt. 18:15-17. Public offenses are to be considered as against the church, which, by its officers, is to pursue the same course as required in the case of individuals. See Section II. 4, 5.

2. When a minority of a church are aggrieved with the action of the majority, a council may be called by mutual agreement, or requested of the Quarterly Meeting. Such council may be called simply for advice, or as a board of arbitration, whose decision should be final.

3. When a member, without providential reasons, absents himself from the meetings of the church, or refuses its support for one year, it is considered a violation of the covenant and sufficient reason for discipline.

4. Ministers who are subjects of discipline for unchristian doctrines or practices are entitled to a council to be appointed by the Quarterly Meeting or Association, including at least three ministers in good standing in the denomination.

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CHAPTER II.**The Ministry.**

## SECTION I.—RELATION TO THE CHURCH.

1. Every pastor is expected to be a member of a church under his care, and no person is recognized as a member or minister of the denomination, who is not a member of some church in regular standing in the denomination.

2. When a church desires that one of its members should be licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel, it requests the Quarterly Meeting or Association of which it is a member to examine, by council or otherwise, such member. The examination for license should refer to the piety and doctrines, the convictions and purposes respecting the work of the ministry, and the reputation for character and ability of the candidate, and his present and prospective educational and professional qualifications. The examination for ordination should include all that is required for license, and also satisfactory examination respecting the life and labors of the candidate, and his attainments, at least in the departments of English education, Doctrinal and Pastoral theology, and Homiletics.

3. The pastoral relation is of such importance that a council called by the church or Quarterly Meeting for advice respecting the settlement or dismissal of a pastor is deemed desirable, and the public recognition with devotional services at the opening of pastoral work with a church, appropriate.

4. A minister from another denomination wishing to unite with the Free Will Baptist must first make application to a church which requests action of the Quarterly Meeting or Association the same as for license or ordination.

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## SECTION II.—MINISTERS' CONFERENCES.

These conferences are composed of ministers in the same Quarterly Meeting or Yearly Meeting or Association, who associate for mutual benefit and the interests of Zion. These meetings are held quarterly or annually as the case may be.

Every minister in the denomination should connect himself with the ministers' conference of his Quarterly Meeting or Yearly Meeting or Association, and take a letter of dismission and commendation when removing from its limits.

1. The subjects generally considered in these conferences refer to the intellec-

tual and spiritual improvement of the members, the exegetical, doctrinal, and homiletical study of the Scriptures, and the best methods of promoting the Gospel.

2. The members of these conferences consider themselves under one another's fraternal care, and that it is their duty to watch over, admonish, rebuke and exhort one another as deemed necessary, with all long-suffering and diligence.

3. At every session of his conference, each minister is required to report himself either in person or by letter.

4. These conferences are governed by such constitution and by-laws as the members are disposed to adopt, not repugnant to the general polity of the denomination.

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## CHAPTER III.

### Quarterly Meetings.

#### SECTION I.— ORGANIZATION.

Two or more churches wishing to organize a Quarterly Meeting or Association appoint delegates for that purpose, and request of an adjoining Quarterly Meeting or Association a council of not less than five members, which will meet with the delegates and proceed:—

1. To examine the delegates respecting the Christian character and doctrines of their respective churches, and the reasons for such an organization as desired, requiring letters of commendation for churches coming from other bodies or Quarterly Meetings.

2. The presentation and adoption by the delegates of a constitution.

3. The right hand of fellowship and consecrating prayer.

4. The election of a moderator, clerk, treasurer, and an executive board of not less than three members, so constituted that a portion of the members shall be elected annually for three years.

It shall be the duty of this board or committee to arrange the program of the Quarterly Meeting sessions, if not otherwise determined; to assist in securing pastors for the churches and suitable fields of labor for ministers, and to render special assistance to weak churches; to appoint councils, when necessary, for the licensing and ordaining of ministers, the settlement and dismissal of pastors, the regulation and harmony of the churches; to see that effective work for Home and Foreign Missions and for Sunday schools is being done in all the churches, appointing, if need be, suitable



committees and workers for these enterprises; and to labor faithfully for the general good of the Quarterly Meeting.

5. Delegates are elected to some Yearly Meeting or Association of Free Will Baptist and instructed to ask for membership in such body.

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## SEC. II.—BUSINESS OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING.

1. The clerk, or in his absence, the oldest pastor present, calls the conference to order, and takes charge of the devotional exercises, and if requested to do so, reads the constitution and by-laws.

2. Officers are elected as required by the constitution.

3. Corresponding messengers and visiting brethren are invited to seats as advisory members.

4. The letters and reports from the churches are received and considered.

5. Reports of delegates and corresponding messengers to other bodies, and reports of corresponding messengers from other organizations are called for.

6. Reports of committees previously appointed and unfinished business considered.

7. Business suggested by the letters or

by the members of the conference.

8. The moderator inquires whether there is any church not represented, and if not, why not? or any church or other field needing ministerial labor, and if so, how it can be supplied? and if any church does not report action with reference to benevolent causes, and if not, why not?

9. At the session next preceding the session of the Yearly Meeting or Association to which the Quarterly Meeting belongs, delegates are chosen to attend the Yearly Meeting or Association, and a letter containing the statistics and the general success and work of the Quarterly Meeting, written by the clerk, is forwarded by the delegates to the Yearly Meeting or Association..

10. When a church in good standing requests a dismission to unite with another Quarterly Meeting or Association, a letter of dismission and recommendation is given. Also, when a number of churches in good standing wish to be organized into a new Quarterly Meeting, they are dismissed as above. But it is contrary to the usages of the denomination for any church to dissolve its connection with the Quarterly Meeting, or to disband without the approval of the Quarterly Meeting. A Quarterly Meeting

should not receive a church rejected by another Quarterly Meeting, without reconciliation.

11. The conference is regarded as in session during all the meetings of business and worship throughout the entire session and under the direction of the moderator; and the clerk should keep a record of all the meetings of business and worship.

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### SECTION III.—DISCIPLINE OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING.

1. A Quarterly Meeting cannot deprive a church of its independent form of government, nor its right to discipline its own members, nor labor with individual members of churches as such; but, as the church is a member of the Quarterly Meeting, it has the right to labor with the church as a body in case of unscriptural or disorderly walk, and may determine whether the church is worthy of its fellowship or not.

2. When a church neglects to report itself to the Quarterly Meeting for two or three terms in succession, the Quarterly Meeting inquires into the cause of the neglect, and if satisfactory reasons are not given, the church is admonished.

3. When a church violates its covenant, becomes heretical or corrupt in practice, the Quarterly Meeting, on being appraised of the fact, investigates the matter, and after suitable labor, if unsuccessful, withdraws fellowship.

4. When a respectable minority of a Quarterly Meeting are aggrieved with the proceedings of the majority, it is their privilege to present the cause of their grief to the Yearly Meeting or Association of which the Quarterly Meeting is a member, for redress.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### **Yearly Meetings or Associations.**

#### SECTION I.—ORGANIZATION.

A Yearly Meeting or Association is composed of two or more Quarterly Meetings associated in the same manner as the churches are in the formation of Quarterly Meetings. The method of organizing a Yearly Meeting or Association is similar to that of organizing a Quarterly Meeting.

1. A council is called by the Quarterly Meetings which desire to unite in a Yearly Meeting or Association. Delegates are chosen by the Quarterly Meetings to con-

vene with the council. The council makes a faithful examination in relation to the organization, condition, sentiments, order and fellowship of the Quarterly Meetings. A constitution is read and adopted by the delegates present on behalf of their respective Quarterly Meetings. One of the council gives the hand of fellowship to the delegates, thereby acknowledging the Quarterly Meetings which they represent to be duly organized into a Yearly Meeting or Association. A consecrating prayer and a song of praise then follow.

2. The chairman of the council presiding, the conference then proceeds to the choice of the officers specified in the constitution.

By vote of the Yearly Meeting or Association, the clerk is instructed to prepare a written request to the State Association for admission into that body, which is forwarded by the delegates of that Yearly Meeting or Association to the next session of the State Association.

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## SEC. II.—BUSINESS OF THE YEARLY MEETING, OR ASSOCIATION.

1. The business of the Yearly Meeting or Association is conducted in a similar way to that of the Quarterly Meeting. It is the duty of the Yearly Meeting or

Association to assist a Quarterly Meeting by council, committee, or advice, when requested to do so.

2. A Yearly Meeting or Association committee should be appointed annually to have charge and direct missionary enterprises within the bounds of the Yearly Meeting or Association and under its direction.

3. The Yearly Meeting or Association passes upon the Christian and ministerial standing of all its ministers annually, and issues certificates of standing to such as are esteemed worthy, when desired (and if any are unworthy, reports such to the respective churches with which they are connected), and no man without such certificate should be received as a minister.

4. At each session next preceding a session of the State Association, delegates are chosen to represent the Yearly Meeting or Association in said Association.

5. When a Quarterly Meeting in good standing repuests a letter that they may join another Yearly Meeting or Association, a letter of recommendation is given. But it is contrary to the usages of the denomination for a Quarterly Meeting to dissolve its connection with the Yearly Meeting or Association without consent of said Yearly Meeting or Association.



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### SECTION III.—DISCIPLINE OF YEARLY MEETING, OR ASSOCIATION.

1. Every Yearly Meeting or Association has the same right to discipline the Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, as a Quarterly Meeting has to discipline the churches which belong to it, and for the same reasons. The Yearly Meeting or Association cannot reverse the decisions of a Quarterly Meeting, nor labor with individual churches; but it can labor with the Quarterly Meeting as a body, in case the Quarterly Meeting pursues an unscriptural or disorderly course.

2. When a Quarterly Meeting neglects to report itself, or when it becomes heretical or corrupt in practice, the Yearly Meeting pursues the same course with it that a Quarterly Meeting does with a disorderly church. A Yearly Meeting or Association should not receive a Quarterly Meeting rejected by another Quarterly Meeting without a reconciliation.

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### CHAPTER V.

The Eastern General Association and the  
Western General Association  
United, Form the National Association

## SEC. I.—DESIGN OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1. The Eastern General Association and the Western General Association are designed to comprise all the Annual Associations in the Free Will Baptist denomination, and to complete the organization of the connection in one national body; to consolidate the body by harmonizing its different parts, keeping a common interest in view, and producing unity of sentiment and discipline; to concentrate its strength in the common cause of the Redeemer; and, by a fraternal interchange of views among its members, to promote growth in grace and knowledge of Gospel Truth.

The National Association sustains the same relation to the Eastern and Western General Associations, that they do to the Annual Associations, or the Annual Associations do to the Quarterly Meetings, or the Quarterly Meetings do to the churches which compose them.

3. This body was organized at Nashville, Tennessee in November, 1935, and adopted the following Constitution and By-Laws, by which it is to be governed:

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SEC. II.—CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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## CONSTITUTION

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**Preamble.** From long experience we, the members of the Free Will Baptist denomination, being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as a church; and to preserve and maintain correspondence and co-ordination with us, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better denominational government.

### ARTICLE I.

**Name**—This organization shall be known as the NATIONAL -ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTISTS.

### ARTICLE II.

**Purpose**—The object or purpose of this organization shall be to unify the work of the various bodies composing this National Association, and to devise and execute measures for the extension of the Kingdom of God in connection with the various bodies in the Association, or that may hereafter be represented therein.

### ARTICLE III.

**Composition**—**Sec. 1.** This National Association shall have two (2) divisions, an Eastern Member (formerly known as

The General Conference of Free Will Baptists), and a Western Member (formerly known as The Co-operative General Association of Free Will Baptists); but henceforth the Eastern Member shall be known as the Eastern Association of Free Will Baptists, and the Western Member shall be known as The Western Association of Free Will Baptists.

**Sec. 2.** These two members which compose The National Association shall each be divided as follows: State Associations, which shall be composed of Annual Associations; and the Annual Associations shall be composed of Quarterly Meetings and local churches.

#### ARTICLE IV.

**Representation**—Each of the two (2) members (Eastern and Western Associations) which compose the National Association shall be entitled to ten (10) delegates elected from the laity, together with all ordained Free Will Baptist ministers who hold church membership and are in good standing.

**Sec. 2.** This National Association shall have no power to fill vacancies in the delegation from either body.

#### ARTICLE V.

**Discipline**—This National Association

shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine or usage that may properly come before it from either of the bodies composing said organization of the National Association of the Free Will Baptist Church, or act upon any appeal that may be made by any body belonging to this National Association. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the constituent body or bodies, and its decision shall be final. Such appeals are to come before the National Association, after having been appealed from the lower body to the next higher body.

**Sec. 2.** All appeals coming before the National Association may be settled in either of the following ways: (1) By the National Association when sitting in a Committee as a whole. (2) By a special committee whose report shall be voted on without discussion.

#### ARTICLE VI.

**Officers**—The officers of this National Association shall consist of a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Recording Clerk, an Assistant Recording Clerk, a Treasurer, and an Executive Board, each of which shall be nominated from the floor and elected by a standing vote of the body at each regular session.

**Sec. 2.** National Executive Secretaries of Departmental Work, namely: Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Young People's Work, Women's Work, and Sunday Schools, shall be nominated from the floor and elected by a standing vote of the body at each regular session.

**Sec. 3.** Committees as necessary shall be appointed by the Chair unless otherwise provided for, and shall hold office until work is completed, or until their successors are elected.

#### ARTICLE VII.

**Executive Board**—An Executive Board of five (5) members shall be nominated from the floor and elected by a standing vote of the body at each regular session of the National Association. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Association, or until their successors are elected. They shall be elected from either the standing or elected delegates of the body.

**Sec. 2.** This Executive Board shall have power to act in behalf of and for the National Association from one regular session of the Association to another, and shall have power to elect such officers as may be necessary for its own government, and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the National Association.



**Sec. 3.** This Executive Board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body, and shall also have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in any department of the work. It shall be the duty of this Board to make written reports of all its work to the next regular session of the National Association.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

**Meetings**—This National Association shall hold its regular meetings every three (3) years. Adjourned sessions may be called when conditions demand. The time of meeting of this National Association shall be on Tuesday night following the second Sunday in November triennially, and shall continue in session until its work is completed.

#### ARTICLE IX.

**Denominational Work**—This National Association shall have the right to establish and maintain Home and Foreign Missions, Sunday School Work, Young People's Work, Educational Institutions, and to promote evangelism.

#### ARTICLE X.

**Denominational Enterprises**—It shall be the duty and purpose of this National Association to establish and maintain Home and Foreign Missions, Publishing

Houses, Orphanages, and Aged Ministers' Homes.

### ARTICLE XI.

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of this National Association of Free Will Baptists by a two-thirds (2-3) vote of the members present, provided specific notice has been given at the last previous session.

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### BY-LAWS

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association into conference, and if a quorum is present the moderator, or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them is present, the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.

2. All persons declared by a Committee on Credentials to be duly entitled to a seat in this Association are hereby made and constituted members of this body, and are authorized to act in all respects according to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws under which this Association is organized.

3. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this Association to send a letter to every tri-ennial session of this Association, reporting in the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any body belonging to this Association, which shall fail to report itself for two successive sessions, may be dismissed from the Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

4. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present a ruling of the moderator can be overruled.

6. This Association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

7. This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

8. Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the moderator.

9. It shall be the duty of all the members of this Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and any one wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10. No member shall absent himself from the Association during its meetings without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

11. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.

12. The moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

13. Any one desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.

14. The "yeas" and "nays" may be taken on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

15. No member of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission of the moderator.

16. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat the delegates in a body in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

17. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

## CHAPTER VI.

## Forms

SECTION I.—ARTICLES OF FAITH, AND  
CHURCH COVENANT

## 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 divine nature truly God, 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 the 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 hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unre-served 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 the 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 Gospel invites 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. 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."

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## 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 all 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 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.

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.

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 the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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## SECTION II.—LETTER OF DISMISSION

—————19—————

This Certifies that—— — is a regular member of the—— — Free Will Baptist Church at ————, in good standing as such. We commend —— to the fellowship of God's people; and when we are informed that —— has united with some other evangelical church, we shall consider —— regularly dismissed from this church.

In behalf of the Free Will Baptist Church at —————

————— Pastor.

————— Clerk.

## SEC. IV.—CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

This Certifies that the bearer,——, of the town of ——, County of ——, State of ——, a regular member of the Free Will Baptist Church in said county, has this day been publicly set apart to the work of the Gospel Ministry, by prayer and the laying on of hands, according to the usages of the Free Will Baptist denomination, and is hereby authorized to preach the Gospel and administer its ordinances wherever God in His providence may call him.

This Certificate of Ordination shall be in full force and effect for life, or during the maintenance of sound doctrine and good moral character. It shall be subject to recall, or annulment, by a council of three ordained ministers, called by the church to which he belongs, and upon official demand by said church, he is hereby placed under solemn promise to deliver this Certificate.

Done by order of the ——, while in regular session with —— Church at ——

This the —— day of —— 19——.

Ordaining Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION III.—CERTIFICATE OF LICENSE

This Certifies that the bearer,———, of the town of ——, County of ——, State of ——, being a member in good standing of the Free Will Baptist Church in said county, has this day received license to preach the Gospel for one year, and is hereby authorized to preach the Gospel wherever God in His providence may call him.

This Certificate of License shall be in full force and effect for one year, or during the maintenance of sound doctrine and good moral charcter. It shall be subject to recall, or annulment, by a council of at least three ordained ministers, called by the church to which he belongs, and upon official demand by said church, he is hereby placed under solemn promise to deliver this certificate.

Done by order of the —— while in regular session with —— Church at ——.

This the —— day of ——, 19——.

.....Moderator.

..... Clerk.

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SECTION V.—LETTER FROM A CHURCH  
TO A QUARTERLY MEETING, YEARLY  
MEETING OR ASSOCIATION.



To the ..... of Free  
Will Baptists when convened with the  
..... Church  
at ..... 19.....

We send as delegates, our beloved brethren;  
.....  
whom we pray you to receive to sit with  
you in your deliberations.

State of Religion .....

Members received this year .....

No. baptized.....; No. dismissed.....;

No. died.....; Total membership.....

Condition of prayer meeting .....

Condition of Sunday school .....

Average number of pupils .....

No. of officers.....; No. of teachers.....

Paid pastor \$.....; Paid evangelist \$.....

Missions: Home \$.....; Foreign \$.....

For building and repairs \$.....

For Education \$.....; Publication \$.....

Amount enclosed for minutes \$.....

Pastor's name and address .....

Names and addresses of ministers be-

longing to our church .....

Done by order of.....Church

assembled in conference, this.....day

of ..... 19.....

.....Moderator.

.....Clerk.

Remarks .....

SEC. VI.—LETTER FROM A QUARTERLY  
MEETING TO A YEARLY MEETING  
OR ASSOCIATION.

The letter from a Quarterly Meeting to a Yearly Meeting or Association usually embraces the following particulars:—

1. The general state of religion, and accounts of revivals, if any have occurred during the preceding year.
2. The state of the Sunday schools in the churches of the Quarterly Meetings, and the interest manifested in all the great moral questions.
3. Statistics of the Quarterly Meeting, computed to the first Sunday in May, in the form as arranged by the Editor of the Register and Year Book.
4. The number of churches which have been added to the Quarterly Meeting during the preceding year, and the number which have been dismissed or excluded from it.
5. Names of the delegates to the Yearly Meeting or Association.
6. Questions, petitions, and requests.

SECTION VII.—LETTER FROM A YEARLY  
MEETING OR ASSOCIATION TO THE  
EASTERN GENERAL, THE WESTERN GEN-  
ERAL, OR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

1. This letter takes up in similar order the same topics which are embraced in the letters to the smaller bodies, treating of the changes which have taken place in the Yearly Meeting or Association since the preceding session of the Eastern General Association, or the Western General Association, or the National Association, the statistics, embracing the alterations or changes since the preceding Association was held, and the same date in the year in which the returns are made.

2. To this report are added the number and names of the Quarterly Meetings, the whole number of churches, members, elders, and licentiates in the Yearly Meeting or Association, the number of pastors, and of churches without pastors, at the date of the last returns. If any Quarterly Meetings have been added, dismissed, excluded, or lost their visibility, such fact is mentioned in the report.

3. Names of delegates to the Eastern, Western, or National Association.

SECTION VIII.—QUARTERLY MEETING  
CONSTITUTION.

**Article 1.** This Quarterly Meeting shall be called the....., and shall be composed of such consistent, well-regulated Free Will Baptist churches as shall unite in this compact, and agree to this Constitution.

**Art. 2.** The acting members of the Conference of this Quarterly Meeting shall be such as are chosen by the several churches of which the Quarterly Meeting is composed, to represent them in Quarterly Meeting Conference; every church being entitled to one delegate, every church containing fifty members to two delegates and one additional delegate for every additional twenty-five members.

**Art. 3.** The officers of this Quarterly Meeting shall be a moderator, who shall be chosen at every quarterly session; a clerk, and a treasurer, who shall be standing officers of the Quarterly Meeting; all of whom shall perform such duties as usually devolve upon such officers.

**Art. 4.** Any regularly organized Free Will Baptist church, maintaining Gospel order, agreeing with the denomination in doctrines and practices, and in favor

of the benevolent enterprises,—as Sunday schools, missions, temperance, and education,—may be received into their Quarterly Meeting, on application, by a vote of the Conference to which such application is made or referred.

**Art. 5.** This Quarterly Meeting shall have power to discipline its churches for unchristian conduct, a want of conformity to Gospel order, or a violation of the conditions of this compact, and expel them in case of unsuccessful labor; to license and ordain ministers, such as give evidence of being qualified and called of God, by request of churches to which such persons belong; to settle such questions of discipline and doctrine as the churches may refer to them, and transact such other business as may be necessary for the benefit of religion, consistent with the liberty and independence of the churches according to the usages of the Free Will Baptist denomination, and not repugnant to the regulations of the Yearly Meeting or Association with which this Quarterly Meeting may be connected; and to make any by-laws necessary to its regulation, not repugnant to this Constitution.

**Art. 6.** The sessions of this Quarterly Meeting shall be on the .....

when it shall be the duty of all the churches of which it is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates.

**Art. 7.** This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of any session of the Quarterly Meeting, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing at the next previous session of the Conference.

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#### SECTION IX.—YEARLY MEETING OR ANNUAL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION.

**Article 1.** This Yearly Meeting or Association shall be called the ....., and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-disciplined Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this Constitution.

**Art. 2.** The Conference of this Yearly Meeting or Association shall consist of delegates from the several Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, every Quarterly Meeting being entitled to one delegate, every Quarterly Meeting containing five hundred members to two delegates, and one additional delegate for every additional five hundred members.

**Art. 3.** The officers of this Yearly Meeting or Association shall be a standing clerk and treasurer; and a moderator



who shall be chosen at every session of the Yearly Meeting or Association, with such assistants as may be found necessary.

**Art. 4.** Any well-organized and well-regulated Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the usages, and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination, as published in the Treatise on their faith, and in the Minutes of the Eastern, Western, or National Association, and are in favor of all the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time, on application, by vote of this body, become a member thereof.

**Art. 5.** This Yearly Meeting or Association shall have power to discipline the Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly walk, if labor proves unsuccessful; but in no case to reverse their decisions, nor to interfere with any of their internal regulations.

**Art. 6.** The sessions of this Yearly Meeting or Association shall be held on ....., at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings of which this Yearly Meeting or Association is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates, and report their stand-

ing, prospects, and statistics; at which time the Association shall act upon such questions and topics as may be referred to them by their respective Quarterly Meetings, and transact such other business not repugnant to this Constitution, nor to the usages of the denomination, as in their judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interests of the churches and Quarterly Meetings, within the limits of this Yearly Meeting or Association.

**Art. 7.** This Yearly Meeting or Association shall have power to adopt any regulations or by-laws, not inconsistent with this Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

**Art. 8.** This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the Yearly Meeting or Association at any regular session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing, and recorded at the next previous session.

**Price 25c each  
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