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THIS NEWSPAPER

# The Original BAPTIST OBSERVER



"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..." Jeremiah 6:16

# Sounding Out The Faith

October 2025

# Do You Know TRUE Baptist Doctrine? ~TRUE Baptist Doctrine is BIBLE Doctrine~

"Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed." Luke 1:1-4

As the Scriptures, inspired by God, God's Holy Word have instructed, there is a need for a declaration to be made about what true Baptists believe. Having said thus, true Baptists must adhere to what the Scriptures instruct and not the philosophies of men.

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God

the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence." I Corinthians 1:17-29

Truly, the Scriptures teach us that when men's "ideas", the wisdom of the world, enter into a New Testament church, then God's way is

perverted. God's wisdom and ways are foolishness to the flesh, however, to the Spiritual man, they are life.

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63

First of all, let's consider what the Scriptures teach about how the work of the Lord is to be done today.

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:21

"To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen." Romans 16:27

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy

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Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:16-20

These Scriptures clearly teach us that God's work today is done through one of His local, New Testament churches. There is no work done for the Lord that gives Him glory except through a local, New Testament church. Jesus gave authority for His work to be done in His name to His first church in Jerusalem. Through reproduction, the Jerusalem church brought forth after her kind and that authority of Christ has continued on down through the generations to today. Just as God told Noah to put the animals on the ark to "keep them alive", through reproduction, we have those same kind of animals today. We do not have the original animals that were on the ark, but the off-spring of those animals were preserved through the generations. So, the same is true of the Lord's New Testament churches today. The original church of Jerusalem is not here today, but the off-spring of that church is preserved and the authority of Christ continued on through the generations.

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18

As we study in the book of Acts, we see clearly that reproduction of New Testament churches is accomplished by one church bringing forth after her kind. The Jerusalem church sent out Philip and he was preaching and baptizing in Samaria. When there was a group of them that had been saved and Scripturally baptized, word was sent to the Jerusalem church. When the church heard of Samaria receiving the Word and being baptized, they sent Peter and John to organize them into a New Testament church.

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city. But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them,

and they received the Holy Ghost." Acts 8:5-17

Over and over again throughout the book of Acts, God's order is that a church brings forth another church, passing on the authority of Christ and the Holy Spirit as Comforter. There is no variation of this order that can glorify God. Remember, man's wisdom cannot override God's wisdom. Man does not have a better way. However, men have tried and continue to try to find a "better and more efficient" way of doing God's work. This is not possible! Man's ways are never better than God's ways.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

Let's consider, if you will, the Southern Baptist Convention's way of doing "God's work". The following is copied from their incorporation papers in 1845.

"An ACT to incorporate the Southern Baptist Convention.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same. That from and after the passing of this act, That William B. Johnson, Wilson Lumpkin, James B. Taylor, A. Docrey, R. B. C. Howell and others, their associates and successors, be and they are hereby incorporated and made a body politic by the name and style of the Southern Baptist Convention, with authority to receive, hold, possess, retain, and dispose of property, either real or personal, to sue and be sued, and to make all bylaws, rules, and regulations necessary to the transaction of their business, not inconsistent with the laws of this State or of the United States – said corporation being created for the purpose of eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the Baptist denomination of Christians, for the propagation of the gospel, any law, usage, or custom to the contrary not withstanding.

[Signed:]

Charles J. Jenkins Speaker of The House of Representatives

Absalom H. Chappell President of the Senate

Approved, December 27th, 1845 Geo. W. Crawford Governor

(Act 203, Georgia Archives RG 37-01-15 Enrolled Acts & Resolutions, Georgia Laws – 1845, Vol. 2-9838 Acts 98-228, pp. 428-431)

Notice, first of all, that they believe there to be a "Baptist denomination of Christians" that propagates the work of the Lord. This is contrary to every teaching of the New Testament. God's work is only accomplished through the local, New Testament church. It is not done through a "denomination" or committee of men with any authority to act on behalf of the Lord. Jesus only placed His authority inside His local church and that authority was governed by "whatsoever He commanded"!

The following is a direct quote from the Southern Baptist Convention Constitution. It states that the

SBC is in charge of determining what will be proper for the "furtherance of the Kingdom of God". This is the work that the Lord only gave authority to His local, New Testament churches. This work was not given to a group of churches, a board of men or any other group. The SBC is going completely against the Word of God by taking that which is to be done by local, New Testament churches and placing it in the hands of the convention.

Article II. Purpose: It is the purpose of the Convention to provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States and its territories for the promotion of Christian missions at home and abroad and any other objects such as Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

In the following article of the Southern Baptist Convention Constitution, you will find that the convention is dictating to the "churches" in the convention. Their "rules" in the constitution are laying expectations on the churches to "conform" to the way of the convention. The Lord left His Word and authority in His local, New Testament churches to carry out His will, not a convention.

Article III. Composition: The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of Baptist churches in cooperation with the Convention. The following subparagraphs describe the Convention's current standards and method of determining the maximum number of messengers the Convention will recognize from each cooperating church to attend the Convention's annual meeting.

- 1. The Convention will only deem a church to be in friendly cooperation with the Convention, and sympathetic with its purposes and work (i.e., a "cooperating" church as that term is used in the Convention's governing documents) which:
- 1. Has a faith and practice which closely identifies with the Convention's adopted statement of faith. (By way of example, churches which act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior would be deemed not to be in cooperation with the Convention.)
- 2. Has formally approved its intention to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention. (By way of example, the regular filing of the annual report requested by the Convention would be one indication of such cooperation.)
- 3. Has made undesignated, financial contribution(s) through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention's Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity during the fiscal year preceding.

We do find a place for fellowship and cooperation of churches in the Scriptures. However, there is never a place where a group of churches dictate to another church or a convention dictates to a group of churches. In the book of Acts, we find an occasion where some brethren from sister churches come to address some doctrinal issues at the Jerusalem church. We find these brethren ask permission to speak and address the church with the concerns from their local churches. When the concerns are expressed, the local

church at Jerusalem then discusses the problem. Upon resolve through the Scriptures, the Jerusalem church takes action and lets their sister churches know by letters. No where in the passage do you see the local church being "lorded" over by another group.

"And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day. Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with

words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well. So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation. And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them. And after they had tarried there a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles." Acts 15:1-33

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." I John 5:7

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13-17

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:1-2, 14

These are just a few passages of Scripture that show that the God of Heaven is a triune God. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one in unity and harmony but three distinct persons. The Scriptures show us that God the Father has never left Heaven. God the Son was made flesh and came to the earth. God the Spirit dwells on the earth as Comforter to the Lord's New Testament churches and accomplishes His work in the world. At Jesus' baptism, Jesus was on the earth being baptized while the Father spoke from Heaven and the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Jesus' shoulder. This is just one occasion that shows that it is impossible for the God of Heaven to be one person manifested in three ways.

The following paragraph is copied from the Southern Baptist Convention beliefs statement of faith. If you read carefully, they do not believe in the Bible account of the Triune God of Heaven. They believe that God is only manifested in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They distinctly state that God Is not three beings.

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or <u>being</u>.

All throughout the New Testament the Bible is clear that the church of God and the body of Christ are the same. The church and the body are used interchangeably meaning the same thing. The church is a local body as addressed throughout the New Testament. (the church at Ephesus, the seven churches of Asia, the churches of Galatia and the church at Antioch, etc.) These are always local in their position, able to assemble and carry out the work of the Lord in their specific areas and abroad. The church is compared in the book of Corinthians to a physical body. A physical body is local, otherwise it cannot function. A church body is also local so that it can function as well.

"Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body." I Corinthians 1:1-2; 12:12-20

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Ephesians 1:1; 5:23

"Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:" Galatians 1:1-2

The following paragraph is copied from the Southern Baptist Convention beliefs statement of faith. They believe that the body of Christ is different than the church. They believe the body of Christ is universal, made up of all the saved. Never in any place in the New Testament is the Lord's church made up of all the saved. As seen in the previous Scriptures, the body and church are the same and therefore local.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

In understanding these positions held by the Southern Baptist Convention, it must be understood that these churches participating in the Convention are not Scriptural. Therefore, as the Lord's New Testament churches, we cannot have fellowship with them. If we do, we are accepting heresy and putting ourselves in danger of losing our candlestick.

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth." Revelation 2:12-16

Considering just these few Bible doctrines, it is clear true Baptist churches that belong to the Lord should not and cannot fellowship with churches of the Southern Baptist Convention or those churches that would fellowship with them. Clearly, the Southern Baptist Convention churches do not believe or practice true Baptist doctrine, which is Bible doctrine. As seen in our last issue of the paper, Southern Baptist Convention churches have only come out of compromising churches back in 1845 and since, have only continued to pervert true Baptist doctrine, which is Bible doctrine.

"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus." Acts 13:1-

"And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Acts 11:20-26

As the Scriptures clearly show in these passages, the authority of the Lord to start a New Testament church comes through another New Testament church. In Acts 13, the Lord worked through the church in Antioch to send out Saul and Barnabas to do missionary work in starting churches. In Acts 11, Barnabas was sent out by the Jerusalem church to organize the Antioch church. The authority of Christ comes through His New Testament churches.

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:16-20

Below, you will find a policy for "church planting" as found on the Bible Baptist Fellowship International (BBFI) website. As you read through these articles, you will find that the authority of Christ that comes through a local church is completely left out of "church planting". This is all left in the hands of pastors/church planters and the BBFI.

#### **Church Planting Policy**

#### Introduction

One of the strengths of the Baptist Bible Fellowship is that we are led by pastors. Almost every national and state-level leader volunteers their time while also pastoring their own congregations. Because of this, we don't theorize or speculate about what it takes to pastor and build a church; we know firsthand what it takes. Across our great fellowship, there is a wide array of experiences and lessons learned that we would love to share, teach, counsel, and pass on to new church planters. We genuinely love those who want to preach the Gospel and either start or rejuvenate a church that can serve as a biblical model to reach the lost, help the backslidden, and build a Bible-believing church for the glory of the Lord Jesus.

## Qualifications to Receive Endorsement and Financial Support

1. Biblical Qualifications The pastor/church planter must meet the biblical qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. These qualifications are taken seriously and applied literally.

- 2. Assessment and Recommendation The pastor/church planter must be recommended by APEX (BBFI's church planter assessment program), a similar assessment program, or by a BBFI state fellowship that has its own training or mentoring program.
- 3. Mentoring and Coaching If not already completed, the pastor/church planter must commit to a mentoring or coaching process. This process covers the many details involved in church planting and provides support even after the church has been started.
- 4. Commitment to the BBFI The pastor/church planter must demonstrate a genuine interest in partnering with the BBFI. This includes attending state fellowship meetings (when possible) and at least one national meeting annually to foster long-term compatibility with the fellowship.
- 5. Agreement with the BBFI Articles of Faith The pastor/church planter must wholeheartedly and without reservation agree with and adhere to the 20 Articles of Faith as outlined on the BBFI national website, both in practice and attitude.

### Expectations for Approved or Endorsed BBF Church Planters

1. Maintain Fellowship Relationships

The church planter is expected to maintain strong relationships with the BBFI through their sending church, state fellowship, and national fellowship.

2. Support BBFI Mission Office

Upon receiving financial support from BBFI, the church planter is expected to contribute \$25 per month to the BBFI Missions Office.

3. Pay It Forward"

Starting in the second year of the church plant, the planter is expected to support APEX or BBFI Church Planting initiatives by contributing \$25 per month to help future church planters.

4. Long-Term BBFI Partnerships

As the planted church grows stronger, the church is encouraged to invest in BBFI ministries by:

\*Sending students to BBFI Universities and colleges.

\*Supporting BBFI missionaries.

\*Helping plant additional BBFI churches.

#### Conclusion

This church planting policy reflects our deep commitment to partnering with like-minded pastors and church planters to fulfill the Great Commission. Together, we will continue to reach the world for Christ by planting and revitalizing churches, building strong leaders, and advancing the Gospel through the ministries of the BBFI.

(Approved January 28, 2025, in Springfield, MO)

In conclusion, this is just a small idea of what some "off breed" Baptists are declaring as truth. However, when you examine the Scriptures, you can clearly see that true Baptist doctrine must be according to the Scriptures or it is not "Baptist" doctrine. God has one way to glorify Him and it must be done in truth through one of His New Testament churches. If we go along with or accept these false doctrines, we are "partakers of their evil deeds".