

What We Believe as Primitive Baptists

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OF

THE EASTERN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS

Thursday Morning, September 29, 1960

The Eastern District of Primitive Baptists met in its 108th Annual Session with the Swan Creek Church, Sneedville, Tennessee. As we have looked forward to this gathering, the words which come to our mind are those used by St. Luke in the 2nd Chapter of the Book of Acts: "They continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and prayers." These qualities of the Eastern District Association have made it a lively, spiritual organization. We confess our weakness, and seek a deeper, personal commitment to Christ through devotions, Holy Communion, bible reading, prayer, and meditation. God has led us more deeply into a knowledge of understanding of Himself. We, as Primitive Baptists, have learned that before God can use us for his purposes, we must be "rooted and grounded in love of Him." By partaking of His blessed body, blood, and washing of feet, we have shared in the breaking of bread," the means of Grace, whereby, we are strengthened to do His will. To know what we believe, and to know the apostles' doctrine has become essential to those who take their religion seriously, namely: "The Primitive Baptist." No longer do we say it doesn't matter what we believe. We must know what we believe, and be able to share that knowledge and understanding with those who are without. The declaration of faith accepted and subscribed by this organization isn't something new and in constant need of revision. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. In modernistic times, we are so often reminded that our organization isn't progressive, that we have failed to change with the times. We are even told that the New Testament has some 6,000 errors in it. But how thankful we should be that we have the facts and believe the record that God has given us. Our forefathers, who blazed the trail across the mountains organizing New Testament churches, had all the truths of God's Word. They witnessed people being converted with a New Testament that had 6,000 errors in it, drunkards were made sober, and harlots were made clean with this book so full of errors according to man's standards. Furthermore, the crooked were made straight, the unclean were made clean, the unrighteous made righteous, and the sinner made a saint. Homes were re-united, and Heaven made to rejoice. Churches like ours were organized by God-Fearing men, who believed the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, and we are the recipients of the toils and hardships of their labors. If it were possible for some of those men who blazed the trail for us to know how many people are putting a question mark on everything they did by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit - **WHAT WOULD BE THEIR REACTIONS?** We are not embarrassed or ashamed to be identified as Primitive Baptists; but contrariwise we have a sense of pride to be affiliated with people that are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.