

Baptist History

Introduction

1. Today's SS lesson will be mainly Extra-Biblical. That is just the opposite of what it sounds like. It will have less Bible in it than a normal lesson. It means it will come mainly from material outside the Bible. As I will demonstrate, that will not make it any less practical or applicable to us. I have roughly 2000 years of history, so I should be able to get through this completely in about 6 hours if we don't stop for lunch.
2. It is important to understand why we are Baptist. If you ask a Catholic why are they Catholic many will say, "I have always been a Catholic" or "My mom was a Catholic." These are foolish reasons to "be" something. (1 Peter 3:15) *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:* I realize this verse pertains mainly to salvation, but it can be applied to the Baptist faith as well. For example, "why doesn't baptism save?" If I am going to be something, I want to know why I am aspiring to it.
3. The timing of this message is in line with this time of the year. We just finished celebrating Thanksgiving and the pilgrims and how they came to America for religious freedom. I will work to demonstrate that the Pilgrims and the puritans did little to create or ensure the religious liberties we have today. This false narrative is put forth by the government in the public-school system and by Christian historical revisionists such as William Federer and David Barton. These two are wolves in sheep's clothing. Jesus said in (Matthew 7:15) "*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves*" and Paul said in (Acts 20:29) *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.* They warn us of deceivers and how they will try to convince of what we should otherwise know as the truth. I would be very wary of any material issued by them. Barton is a graduate of Oral Roberts university. Both are evangelical and exceedingly ecumenical. They must be, their collective goal is to sell books and generate speaking revenue. Baptist history is downplayed. Protestants, much like the mother harlot, the catholic church is a persecutor of Baptists. In Federer's bestselling tome, *America's God and Country: Encyclopedia of Quotations* the closest I could come to a Baptist was Roger William and there was less than a page allotted to him. There is nothing from John Clarke, Shubal Stearns, John Leland or the prominent Baptist historian Isaac Backus. Peter Marshall and David Manuel are prominent "religious" historians most noted for their book *The Light and the Glory*, are others to avoid as well. They present some fact, and are generally historically accurate, but they intersperse in lies to make the narrative fit their false theology – namely that the Theocracy established for Israel is applicable to the Church today. Not Baptist.
4. Today we are going to focus on Baptist history, Baptist ideals, history of the 1st Amendment and Baptists in pre-colonial and colonial America and their effect on the 1st Amendment to the U. S. Constitution mainly through their establishment of the State of Rhode Island. We will also cover that America is a Christian nation and that fact may be

offensive to some. We will look mostly at Roger Williams and Dr. John Clarke. I will not have enough time to get all the way to James Madison, considered to be the author of the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but I will attempt to show their influence on America's founding principles.

5. What we will not talk about is 501c(3) or separation of Church and states in that respect. We will not discuss covenant theology or dispensationalism/hyper-dispensationalism and many other topics that are related or closely related to this topic. This is meant to be a brief history of Baptist believer's effects on the 1st amendment, not an all-encompassing exposition of separation of church and state. It is also not a study of the Mayflower compact which was drawn up by the Pilgrims of Plymouth on the Mayflower. As much as I detract from them, this was the first actual document breaking away from England.
6. I will be using 4 different texts along with the Bible and the Bill of Rights to support my case. I will make my notes and the reference list available to anyone that wants it. These materials and their bibliographies are a valuable resource to anyone wishing to further examine our Baptist heritage. It is my hope that this brief primer will be the impetus needed for many to begin their own search of our heritage.

Important Background Information for Basis

Disclaimer - There is no such thing as freedom for all. Somebody will always be offended. There are no guarantees in the Constitution that you will not be offended. Humanism and Christianity are diametrically opposed to one another.

(Psalms 33:12) Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

I first want to start with some Baptist facts.

Baptist Facts

1. Baptists have never aligned with Rome. We are not Protestant. We have never protested anything because we were never a part of anything we needed to protest our way out of.
2. Baptists do not believe in apostolic succession. (The office of apostle ceased with the death of the apostles.)

What sets a Baptist Church apart;

1. It's Head and founder is Christ. Matthew 16:18 *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.*
2. Its polity (form or process of government) Congregational, all members equal. We see this where James and John asked to be seated beside Christ in his kingdom. (Matthew 20:24-28) *"And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even*

as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” The pastor leads, but he has no special authority apart from leading the flock. He is not a dictator or ruler. His role is mostly spiritual and also some (probably more than he would care for) administrative. He should be able to look to the men of the church to help as they are able.

3. Its work; getting folks saved and baptized and discipled. (Matthew 28:19-20) *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 always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
4. Its financial plan, tithes and offerings, 1 Corinthians 9:14 *Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.* It is the church’s duty to support its minister but, the minister is not duty bound to accept it.
5. Its weapons of warfare – spiritual, not carnal. (2 Corinthians 10:4) *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*
6. **“B” The Bible is its only rule of faith and practice. 2 Timothy 3:15-17.**
7. **“A” Its name – Church. Or the autonomy of the local church.** Matthew 16:18. A quick English lesson here...When the Bible (God) use the word church it is referring to a single entity, the church at Ephesus. A group of believers gathered at Ephesus. This is a singular noun. It is referring to a single church. When using the word churches, it is referring to two or more churches. 1 Cor 16:19 The churches of Asia salute you... Various groups of believers in Asia. This is a plural noun. Church is never used to identify more than one church as in the church (universal). This is also indicative of no denominationalism or outside authority. The local church is subject only to Christ.
8. **“P” Priesthood of the believer.** 1 Peter 2:5,9
9. **“T” Its two ordinances – Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Matthew 28:19-20.**
10. **“I” Individual soul liberty.** Romans 14:5, 12. This is the liberty of conscious that sparked the 1st Amendment.
11. **“S” Saved and Baptized church membership.** Acts 2:41-47.
12. **“T” Its two offices; Pastors and Deacons. 1 Timothy 3:16.**
13. **“S” Its independence – separation of church and state.** That is keeping the state out of the church, but not keeping God out of government. We’ll get to that. (Matthew 22:21) They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

The 1st amendment to the U. S. Constitution as found in The Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the US Constitution. The first amendment reads:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

1. Since the acceptance and ratification of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, America’s religious freedom has been in decline.

- a. The original intent of this was to protect the church from state regulation and the state from church regulation and allow the people to be free to exercise their religious beliefs as long as they do not run afoul of criminal law. Freedom of conscience. Or, the “I” in the Baptist distinctives. These religious beliefs being Christianity and the practice thereof. Supreme court rulings have taken America far from her Christian founding and worked to remove any reference to God. Rulings from the 1892 Holy Trinity Case replaced the word Christianity with the word religion. It was the spiritually weak on the court (mainly in the 19th century) that relied upon man’s word and not God’s when rendering decisions. Now, the spiritually weak are replaced with out and out unbelievers.
2. Additionally, SCOTUS got into affairs it was never meant to get into.
 - a. Marbury v Madison 1803 began the process of judicial review by SCOTUS and it has been extending and over-extending its reach ever since.
 - b. The 10th amendment of the Bill of Rights states “*The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.*”
 - c. The 19th century SCOTUS entered into areas that it had no God-given nor Constitutional jurisdiction to go into.
 - d. Hierarchy of Law – there is a hierarchy of Law. First there is God’s law. This law cannot be undone or infringed upon. Then there is the US Constitution. This law can only support what it is that God has said, and make law that does not contradict God’s law. Then there are state laws. These laws cannot undo what is said in the US Constitution or in God’s laws... and so on...
 - e. This leads us to the doctrine of the lesser magistrate, which we don’t have time to go into but basically it says, “when the superior or higher civil authority makes unjust/immoral laws or decrees, the lesser or lower ranking civil authority has both a right and a duty to refuse obedience to that superior authority.” This is seen in (Acts 5:29) *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*
 - f. Some of the areas SCOTUS has injected itself into are; education of children, welfare, retirement, childcare, income and taxes and others.
3. I attribute this to a lack of understanding of God and his Word and its application to our lives.
 - a. It goes this far back.
 - b. People look at me funny when I blame the churches in America for her decline but here it is. It has come this far! Liberalism. The pulpits have gone soft. Women want to be men. Men don’t have the guts to tell them they can’t because the Bible says they can’t. This is feminism. (1 Timothy 2:11-12) *Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.* This started with the women’s suffragist movement in 1848. Is there a more clearer demonstration of authority than to cast a vote for or against someone. And it has gone downhill since then.

Men are weak. Pastor's are weak. Some pastors are women! Illegitimately of course, but try convincing them of that! A woman can't be a husband. Pants, surgery and hormone therapy won't change what God made you. Pretend all you want, but it won't happen. It can't happen.

The Puritans and the Pilgrims

1. Many believe that these two groups came to America in search of religious liberty. And to a point they did, but only for themselves not for true liberty for all. History shows that they had little tolerance for others that did not believe like they did. Their settlements and laws were established upon their religious beliefs. The court in Boston was a court of the church. Banishment was the punishment of the day. To be banished in the 1600's was almost certainly a death sentence.

Roger Williams - History

1. Disclosure - There is some speculation as to whether Williams took his Baptist beliefs to his death. Regardless of whether he did or not does not change the fact that he strongly believed in the iconic American belief in religious liberty or more specifically individual soul liberty.
2. Born 1600(?) – Died 1683 London, England.
3. He studied languages, theology and the classics. He was a stenographer. He essentially became an office manager for a lawyer who was a separatist. This would be the impetus to his zeal.
4. Came to Boston in 1630 to the excitement of the leaders of the church in Boston. Williams thought the church to be a “Separatist” church. Williams was excited at the possibility true liberty. The church in Boston was a perfect marriage of church and state. They were separated from the church in England only by distance. Williams refused to work with the congregation and went to Plymouth. Soon after, the Boston Court required all men aged 16 and older to take the Oath of a Freeman. While this sounds good, it was an oath not only declaring freedom from the church of England's dominance, but an oath of allegiance to the Congregational Church. Williams also preached against the Law of Patents which said that any lands discovered by Christian explorers belonged to their Christian kings and against enforcement of the First Table of the Law or man's responsibility to God. The Boston Court ordered Salem to remove their preacher from his pulpit to which they refused. Then the Boston Court said if they did not remove their preacher they would take their lands, namely, Marblehead beach. As true Americans, they gave up their preacher! At the required time of his banishment Roger Williams did not show up, but instead went to found the eventual state of Rhode Island and the city he named Providence. These events led to the Magistrates law of 1636 that forbade citizens to be members of churches that were not pre-approved by the magistrates.
5. Williams believed that liberty of conscience was not a liberty to disregard all authority with which we do not agree, but that the church and the state should, must be separate. This was contrary to the church in Boston's beliefs. But that the church and the state each have its own realm of authority. The church over spiritual matters and the state over earthly and civil matters. Both ordained by God. (Titus 3:1) “Put them in mind to be

subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,”

- a. This brings us back to the doctrine of lesser magistrate which we briefly touched on above.
6. It was these beliefs that led to the creation of the first government in history with true religious freedom.

Dr. John Clarke

1. Born in 1609 in Westhorpe, Suffolk, England. Died 1676.
2. Came to America (Boston) in 1637 as a physician. He was also a Pastor and governor.
3. Upon his arrival he saw the turmoil and upheaval in Boston. He soon headed up the banished, 18 families, from Boston and set out into the wilderness of New Hampshire in 1637. Due to the harsh winter they moved hoping to go into Delaware, but instead ended up in Providence with Roger Williams. Williams then led the band of believers to purchase what is now Rhode Island. This was roughly about 1638. This is the same time line of the creation of the first Baptist church in America. There is some debate over whether Clarke’s church was the first Baptist church and I agree with the most sound of the Baptist historians and side with them. I side with them as a church is a group of believers. It is unfathomable to think, that this group moved throughout the wilderness and did not have one service. As I have Stated previously, avoid the historical revisionists. We cannot trust their agenda. And they are mostly Protestant – Enemy to the Baptist.
4. The Portsmouth Compact:

The 7th Day of the First Month, 1638.

We whose names are underwritten do hereby solemnly in the presence of Jehovah incorporate ourselves into a Bodie Politick and as He shall help, will submit our persons, lives and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, and to all those perfect and most absolute laws of His given in His Holy Word of truth, to be guided and judged thereby.

This was signed by 23 men of the party.

Conclusion

Had these great men and others like them not taken the stand that they did, America quite possibly would be a Church State where infant baptism and other heresies not only would be forced upon the population, but taxes would be collected and forced and given to an apostate organization. The ideal of individual soul liberty would be lost.

Joshua 4:1-9 And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up

every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever. And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.

References

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