



HOW BAPTISTS WORSHIP AND WORK TOGETHER

N. MEX.

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**“WE ARE WORKERS
TOGETHER WITH GOD”**

1 COR. 3:9

GA.

FLA.

S.C.

N.C.

VA.

DC

MD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Worthy Worship

It is God's holy day. I am in God's holy house engaged with others in holy worship. God's man opens God's holy Word. God's Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see; opens our hearts to sense; and opens our hands to serve.

We meditate, we sing, we pray, we study, we serve.

A vital part of this service of divine worship is the bringing of tithes and offerings. We would not come into God's courts without thanksgiving and an offering (Psalm 96: 8). We offer that which belongs to God already, namely: our *Person*, our *Powers*, our *Possessions*. We make our offerings as an expression of love and loyalty to our Lord and of duty to our God. Giving is living.

We give, not because God needs money, but because we need God. Acceptable worship and intimate fellowship with God is impossible to a stingy soul and to a covetous Christian.

The tithe is "holy unto the Lord" (Leviticus 27: 30). It is holy, just like God's Book is holy and God's day is holy and God's Spirit is holy. To withhold the tithe is robbery (Malachi 3: 8-10), and no robber's prayer can be heard and answered. To use God's tithe for any secular service or personal purpose is to desecrate that which is holy. There is a direct and definite relationship between liberal giving and spiritual living. So, when I bring God's money to God's house on God's day and offer it as an act of worship, I experience a strange, sweet satisfaction deep down on the inside of me. There comes a sense of the nearness and approval of God in

which my soul delights. I have found the meaning and value of worship.

Toilers Together

As I pass out of God's house I realize that I have left something of myself there. I take something of God with me. The money I gave is a part of my person. It is coined character. I earned it by the sweat of my brow, by the toil of my brain, by the dexterity of my hand. Of course, God placed the natural resources in the earth and air and light. Also God gave me the mental ability and physical energy to translate these natural resources into wealth. I am a worker with and for God.

Now, I am anxiously concerned to know what is going to be done with that part of myself which I left in God's house. My stewardship responsibility did not end with the making of my gift. I must counsel with my fellow church members and decide how our gifts shall be distributed.

First: We must take care of our **local work**. Not first in importance, only first in nearness. All that God commands is equally important. There is the pastor's salary. He has shared with us his spiritual gifts. We will share with him our material possessions. Here is God's house to be cared for. There are other items of expense in our local work. Then we have some worthy members who are unfortunate as to this world's goods. We must have fellowship with their suffering by sharing. So we decide that some, not all, indeed just as little as possible—50%, 60%, 40%, of our gifts—shall be devoted to Christ's work in our own church.

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THE BAPTIST COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

HEALING—TEACHING—PREACHING

AT HOME



ABROAD

EXAMPLE
MATT. 4: 23
MATT. 9: 36

COMMAND
MATT. 28: 18-20
MARK 16: 15

STATE WORK

—%

I. Benevolence

1. Orphan's Home
2. Hospital

II. Education

1. Colleges
2. State Paper
3. State—Sunday School.
B.Y.P.U., Brotherhood,
W.M.U.

III. Missions

1. Evangelism
2. Missionaries
3. Cooperative Missions —%

LOCAL WORK

—%

Pastor's Salary and Other Salaries

Evangelistic Meetings

Sunday School

B.Y.P.U.

W.M.S.

Brotherhood

Church Building Fund

Property Expense

Lights, Water, Heat

Printing, Stationery

Fellowship Fund

or
Benevolent Fund

SOUTHWIDE CAUSES

—%

I. Benevolence

1. N. O. Hospital
2. Old Ministers' Relief Board,
Dallas

II. Education

- Ministerial
1. Louisville Seminary
 2. Ft. Worth Seminary
 3. New Orleans Bible Institute
 4. Nashville Seminary (colored)
 5. Louisville Training School
 6. The S. S. Board

III. Missions

1. Home Board, Atlanta—In-
dians, Negroes, Foreigners,
Jews, Mutes
2. Foreign Board, Richmond—
China, Japan, Europe,
Africa, South America, Pal-
estine, Syria

Each Baptist is (1) a local Baptist, (2) a State Baptist and (3) a Southern Baptist. When he joins his fellow local Baptists, his fellow State Baptists, and his fellow Southern Baptists in supporting all the causes included in their Co-operative Program then he is a full-fledged one hundred per cent Cooperating Baptist.

Second: Our church is one of a number of Baptist churches in the state. These churches send some of their members as messengers to a State Convention. The messengers read the Bible and pray and take council on ways and means by which they can work together to carry out Christ's Commission and to conform to Christ's example for the highest service to humanity.

Their first impulse is to send missionaries to the spiritually destitute sections of the state.

This purpose and plan brings them face to face with the necessity for trained ministers and missionaries. So it is proposed that they establish a Christian college. This is done.

Then, they hear the cry of chanceless children that are orphaned and build a home for them.

They read of how Jesus went about healing the sick, and they yield to the impulse to build a hospital in his name. Thus the work of Christ grows up in our state, and under the direction of our State Executive Board.

When I, and my fellow church members, hear of this work we feel that we want to have some part in it and that we should join our fellow Baptists throughout the state in its support. So we decide that a part,—25%, 15%, 35% of that offering—which we made in the service of worship shall go to this work of Christ in our state.

Third: Our church hears of a meeting of Baptists from eighteen Southern states which is called the Southern Baptist Convention. When reports come back from that Convention telling how gloriously God is working through their enterprises:

In the healing of humanity's hurt in a great missionary hospital in New Orleans;

In providing for old ministers and their widows;

In the education and training of young ministers and missionaries in four great theological seminaries;

In the winning of thousands and thousands to Christ among the Negroes, foreigners and Indians of our own country in Cuba and Panama, to whom they sent missionaries through their Home Mission Board;

And in the baptism of thousands of converts in China, Japan, Palestine, Syria, Africa, Europe, Mexico, and South America under the missionaries of this Convention—

Our hearts are made to burn within us to hear of God's glorious work in all these fields and we feel that we must join our fellow Southern Baptists in supporting this work. So we decide that the largest possible part of our offerings,—35%, 25%, 45% of our total gifts—shall go to this Southwide and worldwide work.

We set our minds and hearts very firmly on one thing: That we will strive toward the ideal of dividing our gifts fifty-fifty as between our local work on the one hand and our state and Southwide work on the other hand.

Satisfying Service

And so now, I praise the Lord for the joy and satisfaction and peace which I find in that part of the hour of worship in God's house when I place my offering into his treasury. I have the blessed consciousness that a part of it will join my fellow church members in the support of our local work; that a part will join my fellow state

Baptists in the support of the state work; and that another part will join my fellow Southern Baptists in the support of the Southern Baptist Convention work.

What a thrill it gives me! How grateful I am for my brethren who by their united and co-operative work make it possible for me to have some part in doing God's will, in carrying out Christ's commission and in following Christ's example of serving the physical, mental and spiritual needs of sick, sorrowing, suffering, sinning men and women of all ages, classes and countries.

And This is— The Baptist Co-operative Program

Without this Co-operative Program it would not be possible for me to extend my service and influence to such lengths. Unless I join my fellow local, state and Southern Baptists in supporting this Co-operative Program I limit my life to a narrow circle, I do little or nothing for worldwide evangelism and rob myself of fellowship with Christ and of reward from God.

I am solemnly resolved, therefore, that by prayer, in person and through purse, I will support such causes as may be established locally, in the state and in the South, by our Baptist people. I am resolved to be a full-fledged one hundred per cent co-operating Baptist. I will make a pledge when my church conducts the Every-Member Canvass and will bring a portion of it to God's house on God's day. Thus I will worship and work with my brethren for the honor of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.