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# PRIMITIVE BAPTIST MESSENGER

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at 8:30 on WHHV 1400, Radio, Hillsville, Va.  
at 9:00 on WPUV, AM & FM, Pulaski, Va.

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him that bringeth  
good tidings, that publisheth  
peace; that bringeth good tidings  
of good, that publisheth salvation;  
that saith unto Zion, Thy God  
Reigneth!  
Isaiah 52:7

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## FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES

### WE BELIEVE:

1. In the one true and living God - Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I John 5:7.
2. The Bible is the inspired word of God and the New Testament the only rule of faith and practice to the gospel church. We hold to the King James version as being the most accurate translation of the original tongue, believing God has divinely preserved the scriptures in their original meaning. II Peter 1:21, II Timothy 3:16-17, II Corinthians 3:5-6.
3. Man in nature is totally depraved by his relation to the first man Adam who brought himself and all his posterity unto condemnation by the willful transgression of God's law; and by no works of his own can man recover himself from this fallen state. Romans 3:10-18.
4. God sent His Son to die for a definite number of the Adam family who were chosen in Christ to eternal life before the foundation of the world, predestinating them to be conformed to the image of His Son. God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and all who are thus regenerated and born again by the Spirit of God shall never fall finally away. Ephesians 1:4-5, 11, Hebrews 3:1, Romans 1:6-7 and 8:30.
5. There shall be a resurrection of the dead both of the just and unjust and a general judgement in which the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment but the righteous, into life eternal. The bodies of the saints, changed and fashioned like unto the body of Christ, shall be caught up to meet Him in the air and so shall they ever be with the Lord. Acts 24:15, Rev. 20:14-15, Philippians 3:21, I Cor. 15:42-58, Matthew 25:32, 41, 46, I Thessalonians 4:13-17.
6. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. We believe it to be a duty incumbent on all God's people to walk religiously in good works: not in the Old Covenant way of seeking life and the favor of the Lord by it, but only as a duty from a principal of love. Ephesians 2:10. [Hassells History, (page 699, Art. 11.)]
7. Water baptism and the Lord's supper are gospel ordinances to be continued until His second coming. They were given to the church of Jesus Christ, and only true baptized (immersed) believers have a right to participate in these sacred ordinances. The example of feet washing as given by our Lord ought to be attended to by His believing followers and these things are confined to all such as are agreed in faith and practice. Acts 2:37-42 and 8:36-39, John 13:1-17, Romans 6:4.
8. Therefore, believing all scripture is given by inspiration of God, these pages shall, under the blessing of our heavenly Father, endeavor to print only material which upholds sound doctrine and is in harmony with the practice of the church of God as given to her in the New Testament, from Matthew to Revelation, with all prophecy in perfect harmony with the gospel day. Romans 16:25-26:22.

## THE CHURCH OF LONG AGO

When saints both sing about and shed  
The penitential tear,  
I see the church of long ago  
Still in existence here.

The elders come from many miles  
To see God's flock is fed  
As years ago Apostles went  
Wherever they were led.

When the songs are sung in spirit  
And God Himself seems near,  
I see the church of long ago  
Still in its existence here.

The saints assemble to break bread  
And wash each other's feet,  
And just as many years ago  
The fellowship is sweet.

When hands are clasped in warmest love,  
And I'm with those most dear,  
I see the church of long ago  
Still in existence here.

Ellen Covey Moore

## NOTICE

DUE TO INCREASED POSTAL RATES AND PRINTING COSTS, RATHER THAN INCREASE THE RATE FROM \$2 PER YEAR, WE FEEL IT IS BEST TO PRINT EVERY SIX WEEKS ADDING A FEW MORE PAGES IN EACH ISSUE AND CUTTING THE COST TO HOLD OUR SUBSCRIPTION RATE AT \$2 PER YEAR.

EDITOR

## Though He Slay Me

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust him:" Job 13:15. These words were spoken by Job in a trying and difficult time; his children and wealth were supposedly to have been taken from him. The Lord had allowed Satan to afflict him, and his bosom companion had told him to curse God and die but Job said, "thou speakest as a foolish woman". Job did curse the day and services of his birth. Jeremiah also cursed the day he was born and lamented much. David wondered if the Lord's mercy was gone forever, and if he had forgotten to be gracious, he also said "The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell got hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow". These men with others had their times of soul searching within themselves, yet they turned not from God to find comfort and relief.

We, as we hope to be the children of God, do go through our seasons of trials, doubts and fears. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you". I Peter 4:12. The trial of our faith is more precious than gold that perisheth. Our faith and works are tried though as by fire.

Jesus said there had not risen a greater than John the Baptist, yet we hear him when in prison saying "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" John had baptized Jesus and had seen the witness from heaven that He was the Christ, yet he became doubtful. As for myself I feel at home with those who do have doubts and fears. Sometimes we fear we are deceived, and maybe have deceived others. We know there has been a change and that we hate sin and love righteousness. We feel without a doubt that we know where the Church is and love it and have shared many bless-

ings in the church. Yet we wonder if we will not be slain or castaway. Though we should be slain, we shall continue to trust in God with all the faith we have and would have more if we could attain it. We hear Peter saying "Lord to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." Yes, there is no other place to go nor none else to turn to than the God of our salvation. We cannot turn back, but must press forward, so we can and do say with Job, "Though He Slay Me Yet Will I Trust Him".

All men are fallible and must die; therefore, they shall need someone to get them out of death as well as we regardless of what their title may be. Why then do men still fall down to worship man, beast or image? Men can go with us just so far. The image or idol may have eyes and ears, but the eyes cannot see to have pity nor the ears hear our cries for mercy. The God we worship can hear our cries even though our tongue be torn from us, because he sees our afflictions, hears our moaning and groaning, even though we do not speak with an audible voice. Jesus said on one occasion. "I tell you that if these should hold their peace the stones would immediately cry out." So then if for awhile we may feel we shall be slain, let us trust in Him right on, because Psalms 30:5 reads "For his anger endureth but a moment: in his favor is life; Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

With hope toward God,  
Kemp Walker

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### Concerning Building

Psalm 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it . . . ."



Many times, through failure to analyze language properly, we find ourselves misapplying scriptures or at best, missing a great portion of the lesson found therein. It is my purpose, if God give grace, to point out what is both said and implied by the language of this text. First, note that the psalmist says not that they labour in vain who try to build, but who build, crediting the building both to God and to the laborer.

In natural building the contractor is said to build a house because he provides the material, blueprint, finances, and all other things necessary to the completion of the structure. The carpenter, mason, plumber, and electrician are likewise said to have built the house because they have taken the materials provided by the contractor and using his blueprint, have put or fastened them in their places.

Even so, in the building of God's house (church) God is the builder in that He provides all the materials for the structure, the blueprints (scriptures and directing Spirit).

Likewise, the servants are said to build the house in that they take the material (regenerated, living stones) and cement it in place, using the gospel of God's grace.

However, our text tells us that sometimes the Lord is not pleased to build and that when such is the case, our labor in building is in vain (worthless, unprofitable).

When God ceases for a season to bless and provide materials (converts) and we seek to contrive by using our own choice of materials, it will be in vain. Those whom we would prepare would be as ill-fitted to the structure of the church as building wood, hay, and stubble on a foundation of gold.

I was recently told by a member of another order of an Elder having visited her sometime before. She said, "Would you believe, Elder \_\_\_\_\_ had the nerve to ask me to join his church, and he knows I already belong to a \_\_\_\_\_ Church." Brethren, it was quiet evident that this lady was well satisfied with her religious organization and didn't know the difference between the church and the "seven other women". In other words, the Master-Builder had not yet taught her the sweet truth of grace, and she yet believing in salvation by works would have been ill-fitted among those who worship a God who saves by grace.

Is this not an example of building (trying to, at least) with our own materials? Such will be disastrous to us.

Dear readers, I believe as strongly as anyone that when we see evidence of that "preparation of the heart," that we should encourage God's children to follow Him in obedience - in baptism, in observing His ordinances, and in our walk. But I believe as strongly that we should not seek to bring in one until we do see the evidence of a work of grace and of his having passed from law unto grace.

Such ones as have been made to realize their total dependence upon Him, who know the corruption of their own natures, who confess that their only hope is in His mercy, are the "timbers hewn out in the mountain;" they are the materials God has provided for his servants to build together in a gospel sense.

Brethren, as we encourage such characters as this to walk in obedience, and gospelly build them together, we are building a house "as unto the Lord." It is not in vain.

May we not become so anxious that we "get ahead

of the Lord." Let us learn patience and so wait upon the Lord. "He will not leave Himself without a witness," and He will not long leave faithful servants without building material.

Written in love,  
Reuben Hawks, Jr.

\* \* \* \* \*

Elder J. A. Langham, pastor of White Oak Church, Star, North Carolina, sent me this essay, by Sister Wanda Stevens, a 13 year old, who wrote this as the outstanding occasion of her summer vacation.

#### What I Did Last Summer

I did all the usual things, like going to the beach and swimming. The usual. But, there was one, just one, outstanding factor. My daddy and I joined the church. I had told Mother and Daddy I loved the church and I wanted to join; but they kind of threw it off and didn't think too much about it. I knew I wanted to join, and I promised myself I'd join before the summer was over.

What brought all this on was we went to Saints Delight Church near Winston Salem in April. There were three preachers who preached. I enjoyed the service, but I really didn't get too much out of it. At the end of service everybody went around and shook hands with the ministers. As I waited to get around, I have never seen a group of people as I saw them. They looked beautiful and so humble to me. You couldn't possibly imagine how they looked. Suddenly, I realized I was among God's people. When you know that, it's a feeling I don't think you will have many times.

Daddy and I were baptized August 20.



I think this is the most outstanding thing of my summer and of my life.

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In the book of Colossians 2:6-7-8, we read these words: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Here we find the Apostle and Timotheus sounding a warning to the saints and faithful brethren at Colosse. I believe there is just as great a need for this warning to be sounding throughout the land today as there was in the Apostle's day. The writer was under the divine inspiration of the most high God of heaven and earth while writing this epistle. Being so inspired, he was able to know the weaknesses of mortal man. I think one of our greatest weaknesses is to be deceived by the cunningness of Satan to think of ourselves or someone else, usually a preacher, more highly than we ought. The Apostle wrote the Corinthians warning, "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God . . . ."

John said, "He came unto his own and his own received him not. But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Which were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Here again our blessed Lord has inspired another writer concerning the receiving of Christ Jesus the Lord in re-

generation or the new birth. The exhortations of the Lord have always been to His chosen people to obey His voice. The Prophet Jeremiah being inspired wrote to the Israelites warning, "Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this Covenant." This Covenant was made to Israel and promised many rich blessings provided they obey His voice according to all He promised them. See Jeremiah 11th Chapter.

Please remember our text, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him." Time or space won't permit that I should deal in length concerning the false teachers. Please read Jeremiah 14th Chapter concerning false prophets, also II Peter 2:1-2. But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

Also, may I point out that deception doesn't have to be intentional. I believe that many of the Lord's children have been deceived by well meaning people, especially do I have reference now to our own Primitive Baptists. I doubt if there are very many old Baptist preachers who would intentionally deceive the Lord's little children. Yet by following traditions and customs that have been passed from one generation down to others, many well meaning people have been deceived.

The text teaches us to walk in Christ as we have received Him. May I ask, didn't we receive Him while conscious of our great need of His love and mercy? Did not Christ teach blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy? Maybe we don't understand mercy. Webster says mercy is to have

compassion or pity on the undeserving; or on the guilty. Now I believe we can see how we have received Christ Jesus as undeserving; and guilty sinners. By His mercy and blessings let us so walk in Him. Colossians 2:7. "Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Now there are many scriptural examples of how the Lord's little children can be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus. David in the first Psalm said, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Brethren this is such a wonderful promise of blessings for the Lord's dear children as we walk in Him in His service, meditating upon His mercy and righteous laws day and night. But we find that the ungodly are not so but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Why? Because they have no roots. Because they are not built up in Him.

Remember the parable that Jesus taught in Matthew 7:24 through 27. "Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." Now this is teaching the benefits the Lord's children can enjoy by humbly obeying and walking in Him. While on the other hand, He teaches concerning the disobedient children, who also hear His word but doeth them not, these "shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house;

and it fell: and great was the fall of it. "

Last the Apostle warns to "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. " (One definition of philosophy is literally the love of wisdom.) Please notice we are warned that this wisdom is after the tradition of men and not after Christ. I have noticed since joining the old Baptist Church there are those who like to quote what some preacher or deacon said. This is fine as long as it is thus saith the scripture, but to follow unsound leaders will only bring about superstition and confusion among the Lord's little children. Superstition is to have an irrational attitude or mind toward that which is not understood.

May the Lord help us to consider these grand truths in the spirit of love. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7. And again, 1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

In conclusion, I say again, may the dear Lord help us all to remember that just as we have received Him by His grace may we ever endeavor to walk in Him.

I wish to beg an interest in the prayers of all who read this that the Lord may continue His wonderful blessings upon His children in our country and especially to richly bless our efforts to serve Him and ever be faithful to Him and His great and wonderful cause here in the earth.

In Hope,  
J. A. Langham

## THE VERY ELECT

Who are the very elect? There was a time when I thought it to be just another way of expressing that God had a people He had elected to eternal life. I did not think the word "very" meant anything. Let us examine the following text: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Matthew 24:24) As I have before stated, I once thought the word "very" in this text had no specific or particular meaning. Neither did I ever have a thought that there actually were, among our people, men who stood before the children of God who would make false statements. I have been converted from that position in a way which I shall never forget. I came to find out there are the very elect, for whom I am very thankful.

I held the position for a while that the very elect was the church. I feel yet that it is the very heart or backbone of the church. I wish to make myself clear on this. "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 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 16:17, 18) According to these scriptures, we know that God has revealed something to Peter; and this was that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God. Also, we find there are some who shall not be deceived. Matthew 24:24 says it is impossible to deceive the very elect. Surely these were not all who were elected. No, there were multiplied thousands elected who will never be members of the church. We know that there are many of the children of God who are members of the church who are easily deceived. We have every evidence to believe they



are children of God, and in good standing with the church, but have been deceived by false prophets. Thank God for the very elect whom false prophets would, but cannot, deceive. Why can't they deceive them? Because of this rock, the revealing power of God, on which Jesus told Peter that He, Christ, would build His church, Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone.

When the Lord said to Gideon, Let all the faint hearted and all who are afraid go home, he was left with only ten thousand, which, no doubt, he thought was not enough. The Lord said, You still have too many. God would not let any except the ones who lapped water like a dog go into battle. When a dog laps water, he keeps his eyes on his master. All of the multitudes shared in the success of the battle, but only those who kept their eyes on the Master actually saw for themselves what came to pass and saw the enemy flee. No doubt the multitudes told all about it, but the three hundred who lapped water were thirsty and kept their eyes on the Master. They saw the power of God manifest and the enemy flee. When they held their lamps and shouted, Behold the sword of the Lord and of Gideon, Gideon was afraid until he followed the instructions of the Lord and went down to the tent of one of the enemy and heard him tell his dream, which the Lord caused him to dream.

We should be very thankful for the very elect who shall not be deceived because they trust God. He reveals to them, and they do the necessary things for the church which would not be done if it were not for the very elect.

In hope, at least, that I am numbered with the elect,

## PREDESTINATION

In preaching recently on the subjects of election and predestination, I have been asked several questions by some of our very young, who most people think are not listening.

I am trusting the Lord to give me the grace at this time to write briefly and simply on these most beautiful doctrinal subjects.

Election is taught in God's word as the result of the attribute of God to foreknow.

(I Peter 1:2) "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, " so the elect were according to the foreknowledge of God, the attribute to foreknow and plan according to His good pleasure.

(Ephesians 1:4, 5) "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will."

The attribute of foreknowledge can be attributed only to the infinite God who knew the end from the beginning.

The choice or election of God of a certain number was based entirely on God's purpose, love, and grace. Nothing He saw in any man caused him to elect or to pass by those not elected.

That God had a plan from all eternity concerning the salvation of His people is without question.

That God decreed the salvation of His people and determined to save them is the most wonderful sound a poor sinner can hear in this world.

(Isaiah 46:9, 10) "I am God, and there is none like me.

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. "

The foreknowledge of God is an attribute. Predestination is an act of God in behalf of His people, their destination being prefixed beforehand as a result of God's loving and choosing them in Christ before the world began.

"All the Father giveth me shall come to me." Thus, in regeneration they shall come, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish." (John 10)

Now to see the security of the saints and the power of God, notice the following.

(Romans 8:29) "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son."

That God predestinated the chosen to be like Christ does not imply that He predestinated any to heaven or hell. The foreknown were predestinated to be like Jesus. The nonelect were passed by, not predestinated to do evil; they were left where they were.

The term "predestination" is lovely to the poor and afflicted. Those who feel ruined and helpless

in nature to do anything can rejoice in God's eternal covenant; and that they, the elect, are predestinated to be someday finally conformed and made perfect like their Savior.

Rejoice in God's eternal decree, His choice of a multitude to be like His Son, and that He predestinated they (the elect) will one day sing His praise forever.

Consider these few words as God's work and live to the praise of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Submitted in love,  
Editor

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My wife has been in the hospital since December 12; and, as of this date, we do not know when she will be able to return home. She is suffering from a complete physical and nervous breakdown and is very seriously ill. She asks for your prayers. I do desire to thank our many friends for their gifts and prayers during this time of trial. I beg an interest in the prayers of all our friends. Truly we depend on God's grace when we see how helpless and weak we are in times like these. She is receiving shock treatments at present and still writes home asking for prayer though she has forgotten many other things. I believe this will explain to many why I haven't answered letters lately. I hope to catch up soon. We would like to hear from our readers this year, as we did last year, and ask your support of the Messenger. Editor

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\*piration, all subscriptions will be cancelled. \*  
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## MIGRATION

I watch with wonder and delight  
The majesty of birds in flight -  
Some inborn wisdom surely brings  
This multitude of raven wings!

Innumerable they seem to be -  
So beautiful and swift and free!  
Onward - upward is their flight  
Until they vanish from my sight....

And now a hush is in the air....  
My friends are gone - I know not where!  
Somehow I feel to be akin  
With folded wings somewhere within....

Beneath this weary house of clay  
My soul desires to fly away....  
And yet so fierce and strong and dear  
Are earthly ties which hold me here!

June Hawks Goins

## EDITOR'S NOTE

May I take this opportunity to thank our many readers for their support in the past year. The expense is great; and, without the thoughtful ones, we certainly could not continue.

We ask our readers to write this month and express their feelings concerning the Messenger. What does it mean to you? Does it cause you to study your Bible more?

I would like to encourage more original or selected articles from you, young and old alike.



Will you take a moment to drop us a card or letter, so we will know if you are reading the Messenger? We have many good papers printed monthly. Do you read them or do they become just another book put in the magazine rack and forgotten? Let us hear your comments on the Primitive Baptist Messenger.

May God's blessings be sufficient for you all in this year, 1968.

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AUTOBIOGRAPHY and SERMONS by Elder Walter Cash - pages 267-270

THE DEACONSHIP. . . . continued from last month

### A Fund to be Maintained

That the church had a fund will appear from the fact that as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and laid the price at the apostles' feet (Acts iv. 34, 35). From the common fund so formed the apostles made distribution to all as they had need. But the number of the disciples increased until the apostles were unable to see to the needs of all, and some of the Grecian widows were neglected. The apostles had also to preach, and there was not time to attend to both matters (Acts vi. 1). As the work of caring for these widows was the express purpose for which the seven were set apart, it is certainly a legitimate conclusion that the church fund passed into their hands.

Even prior to the crucifixion of our Lord a common fund was provided as will be seen from the fact that when they sat at meat before Judas had betrayed our Lord, Judas was in charge of what money was needful for Jesus and the twelve. Some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, "Buy those things

that we have need of against the feast; or that he give something to the poor." - John xiii. 29.

### Jesus and Apostles Had a Fund

From this we learn that Jesus had been training the disciples in the course they afterwards recommended to the church. Christ and His apostles had a common fund and they used it to supply their needs and to help the poor. If it had not been the practice to give to the poor out of that fund the disciples would not have thought that Judas had been told to do anything of the kind. Who supplied the fund we are not told, but as the disciples were all poor, and there is no record that they stopped to work, except when they went fishing, we may believe, without drawing very hard on our imagination that there were friends of the cause of Christ who were in position to help and had liberal hearts. The fact that Judas had the purse, and was a devil, has nothing to do with its being right or wrong. Up to this time he had been a follower of Christ, and there is no proof that he did not do as the other disciples did. Judas followed Christ, but that does not make it wrong to be a follower of Christ.

### No Funds, no Need for Deacons

Now if a church has no fund, and will not maintain one, it has no use for deacons. Any member may use his own funds for the relief of the needy, but it is the business of a deacon to use the funds of the church for that purpose. I have known churches to ordain deacons when it was not the intention of the members of the church to put anything into their hands, at any rate they did not. This is to trifle with solemn obligations and make much ado over form and deny the plain teachings of God's word. If the elders of the churches who form presbyteries would be true to their convic-

tions, they would say to the churches when called on in such cases, We will not use our authority to put a brother in an office knowing that you will withhold that from him which is necessary to the performance of his duty. To ordain a deacon in a church that will not keep any funds in his hands is to lay upon him a solemn responsibility and then have the church tie his hands and force him to non-compliance with obligations of his office.

A brother chosen in a church to be deacon, knowing it had not been the practice of the church to keep any funds, and having reason to believe that unless they viewed the matter different to the general impression among the members, there would be nothing put into his hands, might well refuse to submit to ordination until there was a more scriptural understanding on the subject.

These questions should be answered not only by the brother chosen deacon, but by the members of the church as well:

1. Is there necessity for deacons in the church?
2. What is the duty of the church to the deacon?
3. What is the duty of the deacon?
4. What are the qualifications of a deacon?

### Is There Necessity

With the view that there is no duty for the deacon but to assist at the communion, it cannot be made out that there is any necessity at all. As before stated, there is no passage of scripture indicating that any member of the church might not properly do the work the deacon usually does at the communion. If the view be taken that he is

only to look after the spiritual interests of the members, then his place is more eminently filled by the ministry, and if there is necessity for more careful oversight, spiritually, then there should be more elders, or the pastor in charge should give himself more wholly to the work. From this standpoint there is no necessity whatever of choosing deacons.

### To Take Charge of Church Funds

The necessity, as it is stated in the New Testament, is to take charge of financial matters and look after the needs of the members of the church, being supplied with the means to do this by the voluntary contributions of the members. I repeat, if a church does not intend to keep funds in the hands of her deacons she does not need deacons. It may be said in reply to this that it is the duty of the deacons to look about and see if there are any poor, or needed expenses, or if the pastor needs help, and report it to the church and get instructions what to do and receive supplies from the church.

### Not Simply to Report to Church

I would say in the first place, to admit this view, a member who had but little judgment would make about as good a deacon as the one endowed with the greatest wisdom, for he would not be expected to exercise his judgment in any case, but must always wait until he has been directed just what to do, while the qualifications given indicate that he is to act on his own judgment. Then, in cases of immediate need, if the church met only once a month, as most of our churches do now, the needy brother or sister might pass in great suffering and distress beyond the need of anything ministered by human hands. (to be continued)

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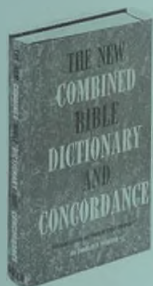
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pastor

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church Hiwassee, Va. 2nd and 4th Sunday  
mornings at 10:30 a.m. Elder Roy W. Bowles, pastor

Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church Indian Valley, Va. Each  
Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Elder J. S. Harris and Elder E. G.  
Singleton, pastors

Pine Grove Primitive Baptist Church 6 miles north of Hillsville on  
Route #52. 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. 2nd, 4th,  
and 5th Sunday nights at 7:00 p.m. Elder Ray Rotenizer, pastor

Laurel Fork Primitive Baptist Church Laurel Fork, 4th Sunday  
mornings at 10:30 a.m. Elder Monroe McGrady, pastor

Harmony Grove Primitive Baptist Church Hillsville, 2nd Sunday  
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C. C. Sawyer & Elder Reuben Hawks, pastors

Galax Primitive Baptist Church Galax, Va. 2nd Sunday mornings  
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Elder W. T. Clifton, pastor. Rt. 7, Box 140, Roanoke, Va.

Good Home Primitive Baptist Church Axton, Va. 1st and 3rd  
Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Elder Rupert Turner, pastor.

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