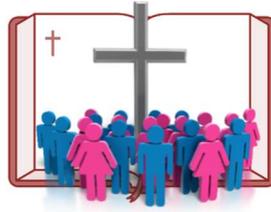


Being Baptist

"You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name."
Psalm 61:5



Lesson 1

Course Orientation & Overview

LESSON AIM: To set forth the biblical and historical reasons why learning the doctrinal distinctives and history of Baptists is important to those Christians who are part of the Baptist faith tradition

- **WELCOME & PRAYER / THEME VERSE / LESSON AIM**
- **INTRODUCTION**
 - Course Context / Weekly Outlines / Q&A Opportunities
 - Rationale: Why Have This Study?
 - Biblical Commands to Know Our Heritage (*Dt. 4:1-40; Ps. 44:1-8; 1 Cor. 10:1-11; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Tim. 4:1-11*)
 - General Loss of Baptist Identity Today
 - Basic Understanding of Subject—Not Exhaustive Study
 - Online Viewing of Lessons
- **TWO MAJOR DIVISIONS OF STUDY**
 - First Unit: The Baptist Doctrinal Hallmarks: *"What Makes Baptist Christians Unique?"*
 - Many Doctrines in Common with Other Christian Traditions
 - Distinct Doctrines that "Mark" Baptists
 - Use of Acrostic: B-A-P-T-I-S-T-S
 - The Baptist Distinguished Heritage: *"How Do We Trace Baptist History?"*
 - Several Theories of Baptist History to Investigate
 - *Protestant Reformation • Anabaptist Influence • Spiritual Kinship • Landmarkism • Convergence*
 - History of Baptists Before They Were "Baptists"
 - More Clearly Defined Historical Trace & Baptists Today

CRITICAL REMINDER: "Doctrine is useless if it is not accompanied by a holy life. It is worse than useless; it does positive harm. Something of 'the image of Christ' must be seen and observed by others in our private life, and habits, and character, and doings." J.C. Ryle (1816-1900)

- **THE COURSE OF STUDY** (*Handout: "Proposed Course Schedule"*)
- **SUMMATION / PREVIEW OF LESSON 2 / QUESTION & ANSWER TIME / BENEDICTION**