

Why we are Baptist

Baptist Distinctives



April 24, 2022

Our church has chosen the denominational name Baptist to represent who we are as a church. Believers from early times were nicknamed **anabaptist** (*later "Baptist"*) because of their distinct belief system they adhered to from the Bible. The acronym BAPTISTS easily displays the eight distinctive beliefs of Baptists.

- B** – Bible is the Final Authority in All Matters
- A** – Autonomy (self-governing, local control) of Local Churches
- P** – Priesthood of Believers
- T** – Two Church Ordinances (observances)
- I** – Individual Soul Liberty
- S** – Security of a Believer's Salvation
- T** – Two Offices in the Church
- S** – Separation of Church and State

SECURITY of a Believer's Salvation

1. A distinct belief about a Believer's Salvation

- The _____ of salvation through Jesus Christ is defined in very clear Bible passages – John 3:16; Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5; 1 John 4:10; Acts 4:12; 2 Cor. 11:3-4.
- Genuine salvation is a one-time event that brings _____ to a person's life – 2 Cor. 5:17-19.
- A Christian's salvation is compared to a new _____, or being **born again** – John 1:12, 3:1-16; 1 Pet. 1:23; 1 John 3:9; 5:1, 4, 18.
- If one is born, it is impossible to be unborn – John 6:37; Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30; Rom. 8:29-39; 2 Tim. 1:12, 2:19.
- What about a person who says they were saved and then renounces that belief, perhaps claiming atheism? It is likely that they were never _____ **saved** in the first place, but only had religious types of behavior and speech – 1 Cor. 15:1-2; Acts 8:9-24; 1 John 2:18-19; Luke 22:48.
- Those who are genuinely saved who pursue the ways of sin and the world are the most miserable/tormented Christians (*no peace, joy, fulfillment*) – 2 Pet. 2:8-9, 20-22; Heb. 12:4-13; 1 Cor. 6:19-20.
- Biblical examples of deeply sinful individuals whose salvation was secure – Is. 55:3; Heb. 11:32; 1 Cor. 1:1-9; 2 Tim. 4:10.

2. What other beliefs are out there?

- Regarding genuine salvation: Many do not make the way of salvation (*receiving Christ alone as your substitute*) abundantly clear nor give people the opportunity and clarity about how to receive Jesus Christ as Savior – John 1:12; Acts 8:36-37.
- Objections to eternal security: "*There is no way you can be saved and then do whatever you want and be alright with God*" **OR** "*If I choose to receive God's salvation, then I may choose to rescind that salvation myself with my own free will*" – Heb. 6:4-6; Matt. 24:13; Heb. 12:4-13.

- _____ denominations and non-denominational churches believe that a person can lose their genuine salvation from God. However, most of these churches and systems do not list the specific actions which may cause you to lose your salvation...**so it remains a mysterious, unclear doctrine.**
- Biblical problems with an unsecure salvation:
 - ✓ What are the sins that cause you to lose your salvation? Where are they listed in the Bible? – Matt. 6:14-15, 10:32-33; Rev. 21:8.
 - ✓ If you have lost your salvation and are able to regain it, do you get rebaptized? How do you know for sure you regained salvation? How many times can you be lost and saved again? – Pr. 4:23; Jer. 17:9-10; 1 John 3:20-21; Rom. 8:16.
 - ✓ Would anybody who was genuinely saved (*understanding the price that was paid for them, the true goodness of God, the undeservedness of it all, the hell that they escaped, etc.*) ever _____ that back?

3. What do I do with this distinct belief about the Bible?

- Are you genuinely saved today? Can you pinpoint the time in your life that you changed through Christ? Genuine salvation is the most important decision of your entire life – Heb. 4:7; 2 Cor. 6:2.
- Do you take your salvation for granted and sin against God knowing you are secure in Christ? Repent today and do the **first works** that you did when you were **first saved** – Rev. 2:5.