



SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any news, prayer requests, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to spurgeonassociation@gmail.com or call us at 785-456-8513.

- Reformation Weekend Conference—October 25-27 at Trinity Baptist Church. Our speakers will be Pastor Bill Ascol and Pastor Brandon Rhea. See pages 2 & 3 for more information. **Subscribe to the Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches YouTube channel to watch the sessions live.**

FINDING THE RICHEST CONFSSIONAL TREASURE

Tom J Nettles

The Baptists that exist today have a heritage of defining themselves by confessions of faith. Not only has definition been at stake, but the beauty and purity of the local church. At times, some Baptists mistook the principle of religious authority, or formal principle, residing in sola scriptura, for the material principle of doctrinal definition. Definition arises from authority; authority remains a mere abstraction unless definition proceeds from it. Definition fritters away into vapor unless it reflects, fosters and fertilizes reality.

Notice that I said "Baptists that exist today" have the confessional heritage. "That is not so," some would argue, and their statement would seem historically plausible. Numerous examples they would cite of those that sought to maintain Baptist life without confessions. I would counter, "Those groups ceased to exist and for the most part have no true historical heirs." Each generation gives rise to reconstructed ideological heirs but they soon cease to be Baptist, or even Christian. They leave behind them only documents of dissent from truth but fail to perpetuate a viable Baptist witness into future generations.

Graveyards of non-confessionalists form a stern silhouette on the Baptist horizon. For example, a controversy over the Trinity and the deity of Christ in 1719 led to a meeting in Salters Hall in London. Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Baptists met together to give advice to the churches of Devonshire and Somerset over this controversy. Thirty-nine of the 110 ministers who met were

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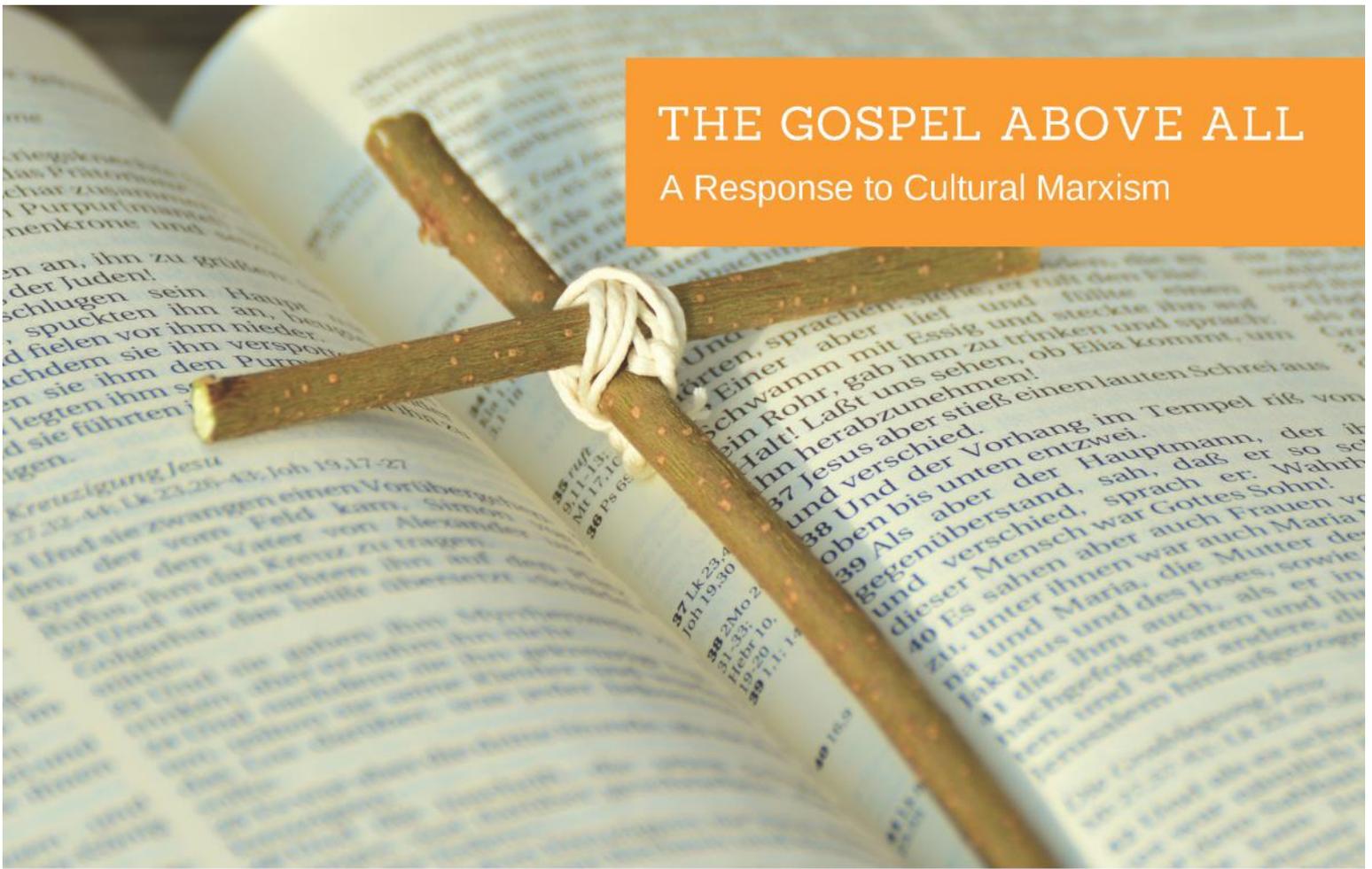
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PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

"If there is no church... should you not commence one?" C. H. Spurgeon



THE GOSPEL ABOVE ALL

A Response to Cultural Marxism

REFORMATION WEEKEND CONFERENCE

With Pastor Bill Ascol and Pastor Brandon Rhea

Trinity Baptist Church, 16655 W Hwy 24, Wamego, Kansas
October 25-27, 2019

SESSION TIMES:

FRIDAY @ 7:00 PM

SATURDAY @ 10:30 AM, 1:30 PM, & 7:00 PM

SUNDAY @ 10:30 AM

Recommended Lodging: Wamego Inn & Suites - 785-458-8888

Registration is free. Please email trinitybaptistwamego@gmail.com
if you are attending for planning purposes. Thank you!

THE GOSPEL ABOVE ALL: A RESPONSE TO CULTURAL MARXISM

Reformation Weekend Conference

October 25-27, 2019

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

- Friday 7:00 pm—Session 1: “The Gospel Cultivates Racial Reconciliation” (Responding to Cultural Marxism’s Race Hustling) 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:14-22 (Bill Ascol)
- Saturday 8:00 am—SBAOC Annual Meeting
- 10:30 am—Session 2: Spurgeon on the Sabbath (Brandon Rhea)
- 12:00 pm—Lunch (provided)
- 1:30 pm—Session 3: “The Gospel Clarifies Gender Role Distinctions” (Responding to Cultural Marxism’s Assault on Complementarianism) 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 1 Timothy 2:8-15 (Bill Ascol)
- 3:00 pm—Break
- 7:00 pm—Session 4: “The Gospel Codifies Sexual Orientation” (Responding to Cultural Marxism’s Gender Bending) 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Matthew 19:3-6 (Bill Ascol)
- Sunday 10:30 am—Session 5: “The Gospel Calls Us to Be Transformed” (Responding to Cultural Marxism’s Denigration of the Gospel) 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (Bill Ascol)

SPEAKERS:

Bill Ascol began his ministry at Bethel Baptist Church (Owasso, OK) in September 2005 after 28 years ministering in Louisiana Baptist churches. He is a former Vice-President of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention as well as a former President of the Louisiana Baptist Pastors' Conference. He served as the Chairman of the Board of Founders Ministries and the Coordinator of the Saved By Faith Youth Challenge Camps for young people. He received the MDiv degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bill and his wife, Karen, have five grown children and eleven grandchildren.

Brandon Rhea was born and raised near Springfield, IL. He graduated from Illinois College in 2007 with a B.A. in History and from Moody Theological Seminary in 2010 with a Master of Divinity. He is a PhD student in Historical Theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City with an interest in Spurgeon's understanding of the Christian Sabbath. He will be delivering a paper on this topic in November 2019 at the Evangelical Theological Society meeting in San Diego. He met his wife, Karise, while doing pulpit supply for Faith Baptist in 2013-14. They were married in January 2016 and moved to Kirksville in April 2016 after Brandon accepted the call to pastor at Faith Baptist Church. They have two children, Ian and Elizabeth. Besides shepherding, parenting, and studying, Brandon loves to read history, to street preach, and to do Biblical counseling.

There is no registration fee for the conference. For planning purposes, please email Tracy at trinitybaptistwamego@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

RECOMMENDED LODGING:

WAMEGO INN & SUITES (located on Hwy 24) - Call 785-458-8888 for reservations.

Questions? Contact Tony Mattia at 785-456-3796

Trinity Baptist Church, 16655 W Highway 24, Wamego, KS | www.trinitybaptist-wamego.org

COMMENTS ON OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

Wherever we find ourselves, in public or private life, ours is to be an active faith. As we read in 1 Corinthians 10:31: 'whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.' This is our Father's world, and It IS a world in which we can do so much to commend our faith to others. The Dutch Prime Minister and theologian Abraham Kuyper captured this powerfully when he said: 'There is not a square inch on the whole plain of human existence over which Christ, who is Lord over all, does not proclaim: "This is mine!"'

Kevin Belmonte

Check out the [SBAOC YouTube channel](#) to watch the Reformation Weekend Conference sessions.



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Baptists. When one group suggested that a composite confessional statement serve as a test of orthodoxy, others objected. Among those advocating non-subscription to the confessional test were fourteen General Baptists and two Particular Baptists. The Baptists that advocated subscription included fourteen Particular Baptists and one General Baptist.

John Gale expressed the opinion of the non-subscribers when he preached, "Away then with all human forms and compositions, with all decrees and determinations of councils and synods, with all confessions and subscriptions; ...let every pious Christian embrace and subscribe only that most valuable form of sound words contain'd in the scriptures." No evangelical Christian disagrees with the desire to have every doctrine supported by the clear words of Scripture. To assert that desire accompanied by a denigration of the value of confessions, however, often cloaks a disbelief of vital doctrine more than it affirms a belief of Scripture.

Joseph Stennet, though not at the Salters Hall meeting, knew of the controversy and its outcome. In 1738, he spoke for the subscribers when he argued that Scripture warranted "us to make a public and explicit confession, as proper occasion offers of every doctrine which we believe to be contained in the word of God." Without such a confession, separation from the ranks of heresy is impossible. He observed that the non-subscribers of twenty years earlier had degenerated to the point that they no longer held to the uniqueness of divine revelation but subjected it to the "light of nature." By 1812, Joseph Ivimey observed that the churches of the non-subscribers at Salters Hall had all become either extinct or Socinian.

The authoritative revelation, therefore, invites, even requires, that its adherents confess their understanding of its teaching and their heartfelt joy in submission to its truths. The question naturally emerges as to what confession most clearly, fully, and accurately expresses the whole of this divine revelation. This issue of the *Founders Journal* investigates the usefulness of two highly influential confessions in Baptist history, the New Hampshire Confession (NHC) and the Second London Confession (SLC).

The viewpoints expressed here come from brethren that are like-minded on a large number of important issues concerning doctrine, preaching, holiness and church reform. Not only are they like-minded, they all are deeply involved in doing something about it. Likewise, this discussion does not call into question the confessional heritage of Baptists. All agree with both confessions discussed here and agree that the use of a confession is good for the churches. We are back, therefore, to the question proposed above:

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Reformation Weekend

Conference—October 25-27.

Trinity Baptist Church, Wamego, KS. The SBAOC annual business meeting will be held on Saturday, October 26, at 8 am.

Southeast Founders

Conference—December 5-7.

Grace Baptist Church, Cape Coral, FL. Speakers: Tom Ascol, Jared Longshore, Tom Nettles, Tom Hicks. Theme: Law & Gospel.

True Church Conference—

February 20-23, 2020. Speakers: Justin Peters, Tom Nettles, Tom Ascol, David Miller, Jono Sims, & Jeff Noblit. "The Pretenders: Unmasking the Tragedy of Unregenerate Church Membership."
truechurchconference.com

Midwest Founders Conference

25th Anniversary—"Union with Christ". February 25 & 26, 2020. First Baptist Church of Fenton. Speakers: Dr. Greg Gilbert, Dr. Curtis McClain, Dr. Terry Chrisope, Dr. Bob Curtis. Register online at: <http://sbfcmw.com>

2020 Saved By Faith Youth

Camp—June 15-19. Webster Conference Center, Salina, Kansas. <https://www.sbfyckansas.com/>



Check out the "SBFYC Official" YouTube channel to watch the 2019 sessions.

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"What confession most clearly, fully and accurately expresses the whole of this divine revelation?" We also are dealing with a subsidiary question of a more pragmatic nature: "What confession serves the church in achieving the goals of spiritual unity and growth in the truth?"

This discussion was prompted by an article by Shawn Wright on the 9Marks website in which he advocated the NHC and argued that the SLC did not serve these purposes as well. Mark Dever, along with Wright a firm believer in the SLC, defends the position that Wright has taken. As many know, Dever has several years of meaningful church reform using the NHC. His experience illustrates the usefulness of a confessional approach and specifically the success with which the NHC can be employed. Likewise, Sam Waldron argues for the superior usefulness of the SLC and has both current and past experience to add strength to his position. Sam also has written a very helpful book entitled *A Modern Exposition of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith* published by Evangelical Press. As an illustration of the doctrinal power of the details of the SLC, Phil Newton provides an excellent doctrinal and pastorally sensitive exposition of three paragraphs of Chapter 8 "Of Christ the Mediator" from that confession. Tom Ascol adds his approval of the SLC by showing its usefulness in reforming an existing church in the SBC.

Sometimes a confession must be changed by enlargement, clarification, or deletion. Since the SLC was written (1677/89) before the hyper-Calvinist controversy (1707ff) and the beginning of the modern missions movement (1792), it has nothing that addresses directly those issues in Baptist thought. Chapter 20 "Of the Gospel, and of the extent of the Grace thereof" offers the greatest possibility for addressing the subject. As it is, it represents an original attempt on the part of the Particular Baptists to speak to the relation of gospel proclamation and God's purpose for all the nations. The Westminster Confession contains no such chapter. We present, therefore, a suggested enlargement of that article along with the rationale and principles that governed the enlargements and other amendments.

The Second London Confession will be referred to from time to time as the SLC, the 1689 and the 2LC.

We pray that God will prompt each reader to embrace truth as his personal stewardship and in so doing will investigate how the responsible use of a historic confession can help fulfill the Bible's mandate to "hold fast the form of sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13).

Next week: *Which Confession?* By Mark Dever

The Founders Journal, Summer 2005, wwwFOUNDERS.org

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PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.



Baptist Association of Churches