

K Kinship (Our Baptist Heritage)

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

Outside of the Word of God, one of the greatest areas of spiritual ignorance is that concerning the **history** of New Testament churches over the past 1,900 years.

The Roman Catholic is led to believe his is the *only* 'Church' which began with St. Peter and has continued intact down through the centuries. All non-Catholic denominations are called "departed brethren."

The average Protestant thinks true Christianity disappeared during the "Dark Ages" and was revived after the Protestant Reformation. A lot of Baptists have been hoodwinked into believing they are Protestants and had their beginnings in England in the early part of the 17th Century.

History is to be studied in the light of the Word of God. The Scriptures promise, and history confirms, the existence of true New Testament churches in every period of the last 19 centuries.

THE PERPETUITY OF BAPTIST CHURCHES.

By this we mean that in every age there have been true New Testament churches and believers who have remained faithful to the Word of God.

THE LORD PROMISED HIS CHURCHES PERPETUITY.

- A. Read: *Matthew 28:18-20*. This commission was given to His churches [See: Study #3], and is for the churches to fulfill.
1. In it, the Lord promised to be with them A _ _ _ _ , even unto the end of the world.
 2. If God made such a promise, then we can expect churches to be around until the end of the age to receive the promise.
- B. Read: *Matthew 16:18*. Upon the Rock (Himself) the Lord established His Church, and He said that the gates of Hell would not _ _ _ _ _ against it.

- C. Read: *I Corinthians 11:26*. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance given to the Lord's churches. The Lord's Supper is to be *perpetually* observed by churches. This again pre-supposes the existence of New Testament churches at all times to observe the ordinance.
- D. Read: *Ephesians 3:21*. In a special way, God is glorified among His churches. This glory is to continue throughout _____ . If true churches disappeared as the apostasy that developed into the Roman Catholic Church took hold, this Scripture would be meaningless.
- E. Much of the New Testament is addressed to Christians in a *CHURCH* setting. If there have been periods of time when churches have not existed, much of the New Testament was or is useless.

THE TRAIL OF BLOOD.

There are many excellent books dealing with the subject of Baptist history. If you enjoy history and would like to read more detailed presentations, talk to the pastor.

Right now, read through the little booklet entitled, "*The Trail of Blood*" by J. M. Carroll. This is a great primer on some true facts about church history which will bless your heart.

Answer the following questions:

1. List three ways many of our Baptist forebears were dealt with. (page 2)

2. What was possibly the first serious departure from New Testament church order? (page 12)

3. What is the year of the first recorded baptism of a child?

4. What happened in the year 251 A.D.? (page 13)

5. In what year did the Dark Ages begin? (page 19)

6. What one doctrine does the Greek Orthodox reject? (page 26)

7. What action was taken by the Council of Toulouse in 1229 A.D.? (page 37)

8. To what century can the name "Anabaptist" be traced? (page 39)

9. What book did John Bunyan write?

10. Why was Mr. Painter whipped? (page 48)

11. According to the chart, from which 'Church' did the **Methodist** denomination come?

12. From the book and the chart, fill in the list of names given at various times to our Baptist forefathers.

C _ _ _ _ _ (Acts 11:26)
 M _ _ _ _ _ (Phrygia)
 D _ _ _ _ _ (Africa)
 N _ _ _ _ _ (Italy)
 P _ _ _ _ _ (Armenia)
 W _ _ _ _ _ (Europe)
 A _ _ _ _ _ (France)
 B _ _ _ _ _ (today)

Note: Page numbers may vary between editions of the "Trail of Blood." The pages referred to above are from the June 1987 edition.

PERSONAL NOTES & QUESTIONS TO ASK