

B: BIBLICAL AUTHORITY, NT PRIORITY

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said**, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? **Genesis 3:2** And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: **Genesis 3:3** But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. **Genesis 3:4** And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die: Genesis 3:5** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

What is **distinctive** about Baptists and the Bible?

Don't **other** groups use the Bible? Doesn't **every** group use the Bible?

This Baptist distinctive should be distinct personally (in the day-to-day) as well as for Baptist Polity.

The Fundamentalist's question must remain fundamental: **Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture?**

What does this mean?

1. Biblical authority

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **2 Timothy 3:16** All scripture is given by inspiration of God (θεόπνευστος), **and** is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **2 Timothy 3:17 That** the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. **2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word;** be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

This is the classic text:

- Scripture is **sufficiently** clear (3:15)
- Scripture is **completely** inspired (God-breathed / God-given) (3:16)
- Scripture is **inevitably** useful / helpful (3:16)
- Scripture is **certainly** sufficient (3:17)
- Scripture is **absolutely** authoritative (3:17, 4:1-5)

Matthew 12:3 But he said unto them, **Have ye not read** what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; **Matthew 12:5 Or have ye not read in the law**, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, **Have ye not read**, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

Matthew 21:16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; **have ye never read**, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

Matthew 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, **Did ye never read in the scriptures**, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Matthew 22:31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, **have ye not read** that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,

How many offices do we find in the church? What about trustee boards that control the finances?
Or, directorate of ministry board?

2. Biblical authority as opposed to the Bible plus

Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture?

Every group has the tendency to add to Scripture. **Most** groups have another authority they look to for guidance.

What might these be for various groups?

<u>One source:</u>		
Scripture		
<u>Three resources:</u>		
Reason	Experience	Tradition
This is often connected to the zeitgeist.	Is this really / merely a form of individual tradition?	This could be many different things: oral tradition, magisterium, creeds, confessions....

Thoughts:

- We find the Bible as our **one source** – the **final and ultimate authority**
- We consult our three resources: **deliberately, knowingly, discerningly, humbly**
- We **never** confuse our one source for our three resources!

3. Biblical authority, NT *priority*

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly **in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Ephesians 2:20 **And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

2 Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: **2 Peter 3:2** **That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:**

When and why does this matter? As a Baptist (and a dispensationalist) the church / new covenant people of God is found only in the New Testament:

- **The make-up of the church (both local and universal)**

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by **one Spirit** are we **all** baptized into **one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: **for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: **but Christ is all, and in all.**

Ephesians 2:11-19

- **The mission of the church**

Matthew 28:19 **Go** (Πορευθέντες) ye therefore, and **teach** (μαθητεύσατε) all nations, **baptizing** (βαπτίζοντες) them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Matthew 28:20** **Teaching** (διδάσκοντες) them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- **The polity of the church / church polity**

Polity = organization, government, process....

Episcopal rule? Elder Rule? Deacon board rule? Trustee board rule? Congregational rule?

- **The beginning and end of the church / church age**