

Baptist Beliefs: The Church, Baptism & the Lord's Supper, The Lord's Day, The Kingdom, Last Things

The Church

1. Foundation
 - a. Jesus Christ *Matthew 16:13-19; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 1:20-23, 2:20; Colossians 1:18*
2. Body
 - a. ekklesia - ek "out of", klēsis "a calling"; the ones called out (the congregation). *Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1*
 - b. Individual parts create whole. *1 Corinthians 12:12-27*
 - c. Gifts given. *Romans 12:4-8*
3. Characteristics
 - a. Autonomous – every local congregation has full authority to fulfill ministry.
 - b. Jesus' Lordship – Christ rules His church through the ministry of the Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Covenant – not a voluntary association or social organization, but a congregation of believers united by a common faith and a saving experience with the Lord Jesus Christ, who agree to come together to fulfill Christ's ministry and receive all promises God gives His people.
 - d. Baptized believers – those who follow through with the public profession or expression of faith in Christ as a sign and symbol of the new birth.
4. Ministry
 - a. Great Commission *Matthew 28:19-20*
 - b. Great Commandment *Mark 12:30*
 - c. Accountability *Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-12, 28-30; Galatians 6:1*
5. Structure
 - a. Pastor – bishop, elder, overseer – a shepherd who loves and cares for believers making up the congregation exercising and fulfilling the ministry of the Word. *Acts 20:28*
 - i. Teach & Preach *2 Timothy 4:2*
 - ii. Qualifications *1 Timothy 3:2-7*
 - b. Deacons – minister and serve the church. *Acts 6:3-6;*
 - i. Qualifications *1 Timothy 3:8-13*

Baptism & The Lord's Supper

1. Ordinances – decree or command
 - a. Baptism

- i. Demonstrates a conscious believer's obedience (though not necessary for salvation) to those showing evidence of salvation. Does not justify or regenerate the individual. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
 - 1. Saved by faith alone.
 - ii. Full immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*
 - iii. Act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. The believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. *Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17*
 - iv. Entering into the covenant community of the body of Christ. *Matthew 10:32-33*
- b. The Lord's Supper
 - i. Symbolic act of obedience where members of the church take of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorializing the death of the Redeemer and anticipating His second coming. *1 Corinthians 11:27-32*
 - 1. Obedience to God's command and united in one faith, one Lord, and one baptism. *Ephesians 4:4-6*
 - 2. Obeys Christ by memorializing His sacrifice. *Luke 2:19*

The Lord's Day

1. Jews observed the first day "Yom Rishon" of the week.
 - a. God made the world in 6 days and rested on the seventh. *Exodus 20:11*
 - b. This rest day, the last day of the week, was Saturday, and became the Jewish Sabbath. *Psalms 122:1*
2. Christ appeared to the disciples on the first day of the week (Sunday) which is the day the apostles then observed the Sabbath. *Acts 20:7; John 20:19; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*
3. Expected of Christians to attend worship. *Mark 2:27; Acts 2:42; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 10:25; 1 John 1:7*
4. Intended for rest, but what constitutes rest? *Romans 14:5-6*
5. Should be guided by the Holy Spirit. *Colossians 3:16*

The Kingdom

1. In Scripture
 - a. Old Testament
 - i. God rules over all His creation. *Psalms 47:2,7, 95:3*
 - ii. Ordains the rise and fall of nations. *2 Chronicles 20:6; Job 12:23; Psalm 22:28*
 - b. New Testament
 - i. Is at hand. *Matthew 4:17, 6:10*
2. Not the people (church), but the eternal rule of God.
3. Established forever. *Isaiah 9:6-7*

4. Requires a repentance, believing in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and receiving a new birth. *John 3:3-7*
5. Good and bad separated at the end of time. *Matthew 13:47-50*

Last Days

1. Not to be something that should worry us as believers. *John 14:1-3*
2. No known time of return, but getting closer each day. *Matthew 24:36-44, 25:13; Mark 13:32-33; James 5:8*
 - a. Predictions of His return are fruitless. Events that are spoken of in the Bible are only signs of what must occur *before* Christ's return, not an indicator of *when* He will return.
 - b. We know time is getting shorter, each day. *Revelation 1:3, 22:7, 12, 20.*
3. Jesus will return in power and glory. *Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27; Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28*
4. Your eternal destiny is determined in this life. *Luke 12:8-9; Revelation 20:11-15*
5. Death is only the beginning for believers. *John 5:28-29*
6. This earth will be destroyed and a new heaven and new earth created. *Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1*
7. Dead in Christ to rise first. *1 Corinthians 15:21-22; 1 Thessalonians 4:16*
8. Those believers who are alive will be caught up in the air with the resurrected dead. *1 Thessalonians 4:17*
9. Heaven – eternal dwelling place of believers. *John 14:2-3; Philippians 3:20; Revelation 4:8,11*
 - a. *Serve God*
 - b. *Praise God*
 - c. *Enjoy God's presence*
10. Hell – eternal dwelling place of unbelievers. *Matthew 3:10; 5:22; Mark 9:48; James 3:6; 2 Peter 3:7; Jude 1:7; Revelation 20:14*
11. Final Judgment.
 - a. Christians - *1 John 4:17, Matthew 16:27; Luke 6:35, 14:13-14; Galatians 6:9*

Pre-tribulation rapture, Pre-millennial return – Christ returns before the great tribulation and the millennium begins. *1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*

Christ returns part way to earth, calls believers both dead and alive and returns believers to heaven. After this occurs, there will be a great tribulation period of 7 years. At the end of the tribulation, Christ will return with His saints to reign for 1,000 years. After the millennial reign, there will be a great rebellion, resulting in the final defeat of Satan and his forces, then comes the resurrection of unbelievers, the last judgment, and the beginning of the eternal state. *Isaiah 11:6-11; Psalm 72:8-14; 1 Corinthians 15:23-25, 51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; **Revelation 2:10, 3:10**, 20*