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Malinda Godwin

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST.

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ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one living and true God, the Father of whom are all things, from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes.—I. Tim. viii, 6. Isa. xl, 28.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world, because of the great love wherewith he loved the world; and Christ as freely gave himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; was buried and rose again the third day and ascended into Heaven, from whence we look for Him, the second time, in the clouds of Heaven, at the last day to judge both quick and dead.—I Tim. ii, 5, 6 Heb. ii. 9; I John ii, 2; Rev. i, 7; Acts 24, 15 John iii, 16.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father, through the dear Son, to man the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—John xvi, 7 and 8; Acts ii. 4: Eph. iii 1; Eph. iv, 4, 5, 6.

4. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright, and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily, by transgression, fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state, subject to death.—Gen. ii, 17, iii, 19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish; but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of the truth, that they might be saved; for which end Christ hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark xvi. 15: Luke xxiv. 47; John xx, 15-17; I Tim. ii, 4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believe not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the same way the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men; it follows against all contradiction that all men, at one time or other, are found in such a capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts xvii. 30. Mark vi. 5; Heb. iii, 19; John v, 10.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only [illegible]

8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe the Gospel.—Luke xiv, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20; Matt. xxvii, 19, 20; Luke xiii, 3-5; Luke xxiv, 47; 1 Peter ii, 24; Mark i, 15

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God the Father, by the Holy Ghost, through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers his divine aid to all the human family; so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teachings, whereas, such who do not receive the Divine impressions of His Holy Spirit, shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation, for wilfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. xi, 27; John vi, 44, 65; Ps. i, 1; Tit. ii, 11, 12; Jer. xxii, 29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation; considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction; but we observe that they, and such the Apostle saith because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved; therefore the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of persons with God. -Jude i, 5; II Peter ii, 1; II Thes ii, 11, 12; Romans ii, 9 and 11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God in their own persons, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any one of them lying in that state, shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for of such is the kingdom of God.—I Cor. xv, 22; Matt. xviii, 2, 3, 4, 5; Mark ix, 36, 37. Matt. xix, 14.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of a saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace, and not out of the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men.—Rev xxii, 14, 15: Isa. i, 19 20, Matt vii, 8; Jer. vi, 16; Luke xiii, 24, 25.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own works, power, or ability which he has in and of himself, only as he by grace is able to come to God, through Jesus Christ; believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. iv, 24; Jer. xxii, 10.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so the God knoweth whatsoever can or cometh to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting death or everlasting life, out of respect or mere choice, further than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly, who die in sin unto death.—Heb. iv. 13; Prov. viii, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; Matt. xxv, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 46

15. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believers baptism, laying on of the hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, praying, singing praise to God, and the public ministry of the word, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.—Luke xxii, 19 20; John xiii, 5 to 17; James v, 14

16. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that the believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt iii, 16; Mark i. 5, 10 Acts iii, 38, 39. Rom vi. 3; Col. ii. 12

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgement at the last day.—John v 28, 29; II Cor v; 10;

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. xx.161.

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Town Directory.

CHURCHES.

Free Will Baptist, services every 4th Sunday at 11 o'clock A. M., and at night. Elder G. C. Vause pastor. Prayer meeting every Friday night. Sunday school every Sunday morning at 9:30, W. F. Hart, Sup't

M. E. Church South, services every 3rd Sunday at 11 o'clock A. M., and at night. Rev. F. F. Euro, pastor. Sunday school at 9:00 A. A., J. S. Ross, Sup't.

Missionary Baptist Church, services every 2nd Sunday at 11 o'clock A. M., and at night, Rev. Mr. Faulkner, pastor. Prayer meeting every Wednesday night. Sunday school, 3:30 P. M., W. C. Jackson, Sup't.

Christian Church, services every first Sunday at 11 o'clock, and at night, Elder C. W. Howard, pastor. Sunday school at 10 o'clock A. M., A. Joyner, Supt. Ladies' Auxiliary meets every 3rd Sunday evening at 3 o'clock.

LODGES.

A. F. A. M., meets every first and third Saturdays, R. W. Smith, W. M.

I. O. O. F. meets every Monday night at at 8 o'clock.

Town Commissioners meet every Monday night. J. J. Stokes, Mayor; J. W. Quinerly, Clerk.

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Our delinquents are requested to make immediate settlement. We need the money and must have it to run the paper with. So please do not put the matter off but settle at once and everything will go on lovely and God will bless you for doing your duty.

BE YE TEMPERATE.

DEAR EDITOR:—Let me say a few words to the readers of the BAPTIST on the subject: "Be ye temperate in all things." My heart was sad sorrowful on last Thursday night, when I saw two men nearly ready to give down under the influence of whiskey. Just a few minutes later, the clerk of a church came up in his buggy. got out, and let the one that was so far gone, that he could not walk, have the buggy. The clerk and the other fellow, who had just reached the monkey stage—just as active as he could be—desired that they should walk. So they started on, and the fellow who had almost reached the hog wallow state started off in the buggy. Here they all went along lively until the clerk and the fellow who was in the monkey state reached a dark place, as they thought. Here the clerk was handed the bottle, by the fellow with the activity of a monkey. The clerk gladly took it, thinking he was in the dark, where no one but he and his partner knew anything about his taking a drink. But the other fellow who was almost in the hog wallow saw them, and he began to plead for them to come and let him have his share of it. It was not dark as it seemed to be to the clerk, and the active fellow and they were not more than two blocks away before the clerk was in the monkeys. All of them began whooping and hollowing. It was at this time that they got out of my sight, going another way. I do not know the end of the journey, or the merry time they thought they were having. I can't say what stage the clerk got into before he reached home. We read in the precious Scriptures of our Lord and Saviour saying that ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill can not be hid. O where was the light of this man, that ought to have been shining? Brethren, it had gone out. Just think for a moment what an awful condition this man was in. Not caring for the solemn obligation that he entered into when he joined the church. In Art. 5 of the church covenant, we covenant and agree not to trade in the use of intoxicating beverages. Oh how little we care for one obligation knowing that the Scriptures teach that none but the pure in heart can see God. Now let us look back at the first quotation that we have given. What did God mean when he wrote those words through inspiration? Did he not mean for us to be temperate and abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks and be zealous in all things, being instant in season and out of season. Did he mean when the tempter came along to partake with him? No he didn't mean anything of the kind. He meant what he said, and he said for us to abstain from the very appearance of evil. Again he tells us that he will not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance So if we intend to reach heaven we will have to do as God says, regardless of what man may say about us. The Bible teaches us, if we will resist the Devil he will flee from us, but if we listen to his lies and the words of influencing men, and do unchristain acts all will end in woe. He wants you to think that the little word "no harm" is a small thing Here he comes in the shape of a man, with a bottle of whiskey, and he will say take a drink. It will do you good, but if you thank him and say no you don't drink. He will say it is no harm to take a drink. And if he can't get you to take it and say you do not think it is any harm to take a dram. That is just what he wants you to believe, and if you don't watch he will have you just like the clerk that we have been talking to you about. So look out moderate dram drinker the Devil has got you just where he wanted you. You are a good neighbor and a good man. He keeps his whiskey and takes his dram, once a day. Now here is what the young fellow will say. "I don't believe it is any harm, and I am going to get some and take me a dram every morning, and so he gets it and pretty soon one is not enough and he takes two and on and on until he has reached the state of a drunkard, and that good neighbor and moderate dram drinker has captured a soul for the devil. My God, what are we doing? where are we standing? Is it true that we are standing in the way of sinners. God forbid, but may we desire in heart to live nearer the cross than ever before. If we claim to be the children of God, let us prove that we are by our works Let us do his bidding and keep his commands. He tells us, if we love him, that we will keep his commands. He tells us in the epistle of John to keep ourselves from wine and all strong drinks. Yes some one is going to say that he is talking to the little children. Yes and you say that you are a child of God And I say the same. So we constitute children—there is not any way for you to compromise with sin nor the things that are ungodly. Hoping that this will be edifying and not destructive, and that the light of God's redeeming love may shine on the columns in which this appears.

Yours in the Gospel,
W. C. JONES.

ADVICE TO YOUTH.

DEAR EDITOR —Please allow me space in the BAPTIST to say a few words of instruction to the young people, who have enlisted in the great warfare, and who act in obedience to his commands. Those who have been baptized and commemorated the death and suffering of the Lord. Mind how you let your light shine before your associates and to the world. Christ said let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and be constrained to glorify your Father which art in heaven. Again, he says, "If therefore the light that is in you be darkness, how great is that darkness. Watch your conversation and the songs you sing Let them be spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Be not swayed by the multitude and carried down the stream toward hell. Let them go, you shall have better companions. The saints of God will love you. The angels of God will guard you The presence of God himself shall be with you. If you find yourself still inclined to do as the most do, consider that you can not have that pleasure in sin which others may. Conscience will mix gall with the honey. When alone and away from them, it will read sad lectures to you and make you receive your past delights with bitterness. Remember what Christ said, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye can in no case enter into the kingdom of God. Be careful what kind of books you read. Let them be good books. Not dime novels or love stories, which fill the mind with unreal imaginations and injure the memory. Be sure you read your Bible Let no day go by without reading some portion of Scripture. Be sure that this is done. You will find it very profitable to begin the day with such a converse with God. See the command of Christ. John 5. 39. "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me" Hear the command of God with a promise. Joshua 1: 8. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein, for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt have good success." The Scriptures discover sin and the Devil's devices. It discovers duty and the love of God and Christ. It discovers your strength and encouragements. There are the promises of assisting and of crowning graces. By these the spirit acts, the devil is conquered and the soul is comforted. Through these the eye of faith can see Christ in all his beauty, the grace of God and the glory of heaven. This is the word of reconciliation and truth. The power of God to salvation. Therefore every day look into these praying for the Spirit's teachings and mixing faith with what you read. See what Paul's direction was to Timothy. "Let no man despise thy youth but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith and in purity. Till I come give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." Remember you have engaged yourself to God. You must keep yourself from idols. You have given up your name to God and you must give up your heart to him also. You have made a covenant with God by sacraments If satan or the world are suitors for your hearts, tell them you are already disposed of You are pre engaged to God. You have chosen your God and you must not think of changing him. It pleases the Lord to see just one sinner turn and follow him. Now let us see if we can't live for God, and not the devil. Let us continue to pray for one another, that we may be found faithful, when the Lord Jesus comes to receive his own.

May God bless these few lines.

Your sister in Christ,
MENDIA GODWIN.

What is put into the first of life is put into the whole of life. Start right.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

LITERATURE.

To my mind the Bible itself is a vast collection of literature; that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished to every good word and work.

I am no more opposed to Sabbath school literature than I am opposed to reading any other good books. In my opinion Sabbath school literature is the very best literature that can be put into the hands of children. Of course we are opposed to the attachment of anything like catechisms. Much of the opposition to literature is brought about by the incompetent use of it. Nothing is so sure to result in failure as the incompetent use of literature. One that would substitute the explanation of the lessons for the Bible is to be pitied.

Sunday school literature is only a systematic order of Bible lessons with a few definitions and explanations added. The systematic order, definitions, explanations of the text, and daily readings are only aids to the study of the Bible No one should rest satisfied with only the questions and answers laid down. These point out something definite to be learned, but should be supplemented.

One grand feature of the S. S literature is systematic order of lessons. Another feature is the daily home readings which require the daily reading of Scripture bearing on the lesson. Each teacher should see that these daily readings are read by each member of the class. If the teacher cannot encourage the class to read and study them it is good evidence of incompetency and a remedy or resignation should follow. The same should be done by superintendent if the lack of interest is thus manifest in the school. If the school does not encourage the study of the Bible it should be reorganized or dismissed.

I will not say that there cannot be a well organized Sunday school without literature, but I have to confess that I have never seen one without it. Generally there is very poor classification or none at all where no literature is used. Generally the training of small children is entirely neglected. Almost always there is no system of lessons and thus no chain of thought is formed in the mind. Sometimes the questions are more than half answered by the teachers by a sort of drawing out process Sometimes singings or something of that sort are allowed to take alternate Sundays.

It is sad to know that so many of our churches allow the time and opportunity to pass without having a well organized Sunday School where young and old can be trained every Sunday. Let us have Sunday schools. Let us have competent teachers if they have to be sent to the Literary school for training. Let us use our own literature.

WILLIAM T. KENDRICK.
McCalla, Ala.

NEW FINDS IN BABYLON.

One of the most interesting archaeogical finds, says the *Independent*, ever made in the Bible lands is reported by Dr. Koldewey, who has been at the head of the German expedition that for nearly two years has been digging on the side of ancient Babylon. This is the ancient Babylon. This is the famous throne room of Nebuchadnezzar, a magnificent structure, 55 feet in width and 157 feet in length, and directly opposite the entrance is found the niche where at one time stood the throne of that mighty ruler. On both sides of the niche are still seen the remnants and remains of the former splendor of the room, magnificently colored decorations in the walls that are of great importance for the history of art. In addition to this work in the old castle, or Kasr, and long the old processional street of Marduk, the Germans have been unearthing the treasures of the city proper, near the modern village of Jimjima, and in a comparatively short time have found an abundance of new tablets with important inscriptions, which, according to Dr. Weissbach, the Assyriologist of the expedition, contain letters, psalms, contracts, word lists, etc, all documents that appeal to the interests of wide circles and will directly or indirectly add to the material that can be used for the interpretation of the Old Testament, both historically and linguistically. In the near future the work is to be extended to the hill, called Amran-bar-Ali, and the excavation of this unique Pantheon of the Babylonian metropolis, which lies so deeply imbedded in the ruins of centuries, promises rich returns. The work of the expedition is not to be restricted to Babylon, as the managers have secured the right to make diggings in the neighboring hills of Fara and Abu Hatab, which, in all probability, belong to the so-called pre-Sargon period, dating from the fourth millennium before Christ, and will doubtless furnish data for the very earliest history of mankind. These two hills are not far from Nippur, the old home of Abraham, where the Americans have been so successful. In addition to the work of the expedition as such, individual members have been publishing the results of their own investigations, chief of these being a *brochure*, entitle "*Von Babylon nach den Ruinen von Hira und Huarnag*," by Bruno Meissner, on the historic ground of ancient Chaldea. In this connection it should be added that Koldewey's report shows that the accounts published in New York papers to the effect that the banquet hall of Belreshazzar had been discovered by the Germans, with the picture of the Lion of Babylon, and even with the words Mene, Mene, Telkel in large letters, were the product of a vivid imagination.—Gospel Messenger.

Find your purpose and fling your life out to it. Try to be somebody with all your might.