

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, TUSKALOOSA CO., ALA.,

September 6th, 8th and 9th, 1879.

Next Session will be held with Spring Hill Baptist Church, Lamar
County, Alabama, commencing on Saturday before the
1st Sabbath in September, 1880, at 9 o'clock A. M.

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MINUTES.

The Forty-fourth Annual Session of the UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was held with the Bethel Baptist Church, Tuskaloosa county, Alabama, commencing on Saturday, September 6th, 1879.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered, according to appointment, by Elder J. G. Thornton, at 11 o'clock, A. M., from text, Mat. 3: 8. "Will a man rob God."

After a recess of an hour and a half, the delegates assembled, and the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Elder J. C. Foster, and the session was opened with prayer by Dr. E. T. Winkler, of Marion, Ala.

Letters from the churches were read by brethren W. G. Robertson and J. T. Hancock, and the names of delegates enrolled.

The Association was organized by the re-election of Elder J. C. Foster, Moderator, and H. B. Chappelle, Clerk.

On motion, received Dr. E. T. Winkler, President, and Elder J. M. Bailey, Secretary, of State Mission Board of Southern Baptist Convention, Elder O. F. Gregory, President of Educational Board, and Bro. A. K. Yancey, President of Ala. Central Female College, Tuskaloosa, Ala.

On motion, received correspondence from sister Associations: From the Tuskaloosa, recognized Elder O. F. Gregory, and brethren S. B. Foster and J. W. Leatherwood as messengers. From the Columbus, no letter or messenger.

On motion, received W. G. Robertson and S. Hildreth as messengers from the Sabbath School Convention. To these visiting brethren and messengers the Moderator gave the right hand of fellowship, and cordially invited them to seats.

On motion, excused Elder J. H. Curry from preaching the Missionary Sermon on to-morrow, and requested Dr. E. T. Winkler to preach said sermon.

On motion, adopted same order of business as last year, and subsequent proceedings held accordingly:

I. Appointed following committees:

On Preaching—U. E. Allen, H. Strickland, J. M. Smith, C. Richey, with Pastor and Deacons of Bethel church.

Correspondence—W. G. Robertson, J. G. Thornton, J. A. Mitchell, H. L. Williams.

Education—R. H. Foster, R. A. Massey, J. T. Hancock, W. McCullough.

Documents—J. H. Curry, J. A. Burgin, James Mills, Jr., J. L. Ray.

Nominations—N. Cobb, L. M. Stone, U. E. Allen, Wm. Vail.

Missions—S. Hildreth, G. M. Lyles, M. P. Smith.

Finance—J. M. Smith, J. T. Hancock, F. R. Gallant.

Sabbath Schools—J. H. Curry, H. B. Chappelle, J. P. Lee, L. M. Stone.

Deceased Ministers and Deacons—R. A. Massey, A. Latham, W. T. Walker, R. D. Lucius, J. M. Gentry.

Publications—R. H. Foster, Jas. Fullerton, J. Bell, S. A. Comerford.

The committee on religious exercises reported: Lecture on Sabbath Schools to-morrow at 10 o'clock A. M., by Elder J. M. Bailey. The Missionary sermon at 11 o'clock A. M., by Dr. E. T. Winkler, followed by Elder J. M. Bailey. Elder O. F. Gregory to preach to-morrow night, and at the same time Elder J. H. Curry to preach at Mt. Zion Methodist church, five miles N. E. of Bethel church.

On motion, adjourned until Monday morning 8½ o'clock. Prayer by Elder O. F. Gregory.

THE LORD'S DAY.

The exercises of this day were conducted according to previous appointment. The attendance was unusually large. The profound discourse of Dr. E. T. Winkler, Acts 10: 38—"Who went about doing good," was plain and practical, and the impression for good "as bread cast upon the waters." All felt as Peter, "It is good for us to be here."

MONDAY—8½ O'CLOCK A. M.

The Association convened. Prayer by Elder G. M. Lyles.

2. Minutes of Saturday read and approved.
3. Read Constitution and Rules of Decorum.
4. Roll called and absentees marked.

On motion, suspended Order of Business, and received letters and delegates from Chalcedony church; also, brother J. B. Eddins as corresponding messenger of Tuskalooza Association, with letter and package of Minutes.

5. Order of Business resumed, and received the report of the Committee on Missions; adopted, as follows:

MISSIONS.

No christian can doubt the imperative obligation of the command "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." To discharge this christian duty, the means must be provided. Whatever instrumentalities experience has shown to have been most efficient and successful in the accomplishment of this great object should be employed. This great work is progressing, and our denomination are becoming more active in the discharge of this great christian duty. Your committee recommend that this subject be kept constantly before the minds of our people by the pastors of our churches, and that the duty of increasing our subscriptions to this great cause be pressed home upon every Baptist. The work already accomplished by the State Mission Board is most encouraging: During the last twelve months ten churches have been organized at important points in the State, one hundred and seventy Sabbath schools have been put into operation, ten efficient missionaries have been put into the field, and some churches almost extinct have been revived and restored to the denomination. These results are the fruits of the work through the State Mission Board. Let us by our generous contributions and christian co-operation strengthen the arm of the Board, and grander results will attend and bless this work in future. Last year, the amount contributed by the 96,893 Baptists of Alabama to the two Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention and our own State Board were only \$6,401.44, or about 6½ cents per member, as stated in the proceedings of our last Alabama Baptist State Convention. Let us wake up to our duty.

LEWIS M. STONE, Chm.

6. Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools, adopted :

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee is pleased to report, that the Sabbath school work is making more rapid and substantial progress than ever before known in the history of our denomination. Greater interest is being manifested on every hand, our people are becoming aroused on this important subject and are convinced of its great importance, and that a field is opened up by which the whole church can do something for the spread of religious truth and the upbuilding of our Lord's Kingdom in the world. Within our own bounds we have the labors of the Sabbath School Convention which is doing a great work. We learn that at the last session of that body, the interest had so increased that instead of only four schools, as reported the year previous, fifteen were represented, nearly all of which were in good working condition. At this time there are 18 schools within the bounds of the Association, numbering in the aggregate about 700 teachers and pupils.

Within the State of Alabama, the Mission Board has organized about 700 schools since it commenced work, 170 of which were organized by our missionaries during the last conventional year. The great absorbing question now is, how shall all the members of the churches be made to feel it their duty not only to approve of the work, but take hold and do all they can in furtherance of the cause. There is now a place for every child of God to work, and we do not believe they can neglect the Sabbath school work without incurring the displeasure of our Heavenly Father. Our brethren are urged to continue the work with unabated zeal and energy. We suggest that the Association make a donation to the Sabbath School Convention out of any funds not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of aiding in the benevolent work of that body. We urge upon all our brethren to see to it that a school is established in every church in this Association.

Fraternally submitted,

W. G. ROBERTSON, Chm.

On motion, suspended Order of Business, and gave Dr. Winkler the privilege of presenting the claims of the *Alabama Baptist* to the support of the Association. Brethren A. K. Yancey and O. F. Gregory also spoke in behalf of the same object.

On motion, leave was granted Elder J. M. Bailey to present the claims of the State Mission Board to the consideration of the Association.

7. Circular Letter read. On motion, adopted and ordered to be printed.

8. Report of Committee on Education was read, and after being amended with subjoined resolution, was adopted :

Knowing that this is the medium through which ignorance and indolence are dispelled from those who are properly brought under its influence, we feel that we *cannot* too highly recommend it, and would prayerfully and conscientiously exhort the brotherhood to consider well the importance of educating their children. We know that secular and religious education are in some respects different, yet it is of great importance that our institutions of secular learning should be guarded against evil, and surrounded by religious influences; it is our respective duty to cultivate the consciences, as well as the minds of our youth.

Therefore we should subordinate all learning to the truth, as it is in Jesus. With a view to this end, we especially recommend Howard College, Marion, Alabama, Judson Institute, Marion, Alabama, Alabama Central Female College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and the Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, which we deem worthy of our support and patronage.

Fraternally submitted,

J. G. THORNTON, Chm.

Resolved, That this Association adopt Elder J. G. Thornton as a beneficiary and pledge his support at either Howard College, or Southern Baptist Seminary.

On motion, adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by brother A. K. Yancey.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.—Association met pursuant to adjournment—Prayer by Elder J. A. Mitchel.

9 Report of Committee on Documents, adopted.

The church at Big Creek reports the death of Elder D. Duncan; Unity, that of Deacon J. W. Hanson, and Spring Hill, Lamar Co., that of Deacon Wm. Walker. Big Creek has ordained Elder H. B. Chappelle to the work of the Gospel ministry. Chalcedony has licensed brother J. D. Hamner to preach the Gospel. All the churches are supplied with pastors, except Ebenezer, New Arbor Springs, and Providence. Several report gracious revivals, while others report coldness. One hundred and fifty-two Baptisms reported. Shiloh reports the ordination of two Deacons, A. P. Smith and George Leavell.

Spring Hill, Pickens, and Bethlehem churches not represented.

Spring Hill, Lamar, asks the next session of this body to be held with her.

J. H. CURRY, Chm.

10. Report of Executive Board read, adopted:

The Executive Board appointed by your body at its last session, submit that they employed and put in the field Elder G. M. Lyles as evangelist within our bounds. He was engaged for half of his time, the board feeling unable to employ him for the whole time. For a full account of his labors, you are referred to the report of brother Lyles, herewith annexed. While your committee are satisfied that great good has been accomplished through the labors of our faithful Evangelist, they believe that the great mission work within our bounds and within our State, can be more successfully prosecuted by co-operation with the State Mission Board than by isolated organization within our Association. We would therefore suggest and recommend that this Association hereafter co-operate with the State Mission Board, and that means be provided to carry this object into effect.

Fraternally submitted,

LEWIS M. STONE, Chairman.

TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:—The following is a summary of my mission in the bounds of the Union Baptist Association:

I have traveled and visited all the churches within our bounds with the exception of five, and I have also visited all the destitute points as near as I could, and in doing so have traveled about 1,050 miles; preached 152 sermons. The labor performed was in Lamar, Pickens, Greene and Tuskaloosa counties. Exhortations delivered 90; Prayers offered, 165; Religious conversations, 125; Sabbath Schools organized, 5; Families visited, 125; Revival meetings, 6; Members received for baptism at those meetings, 35; Sabbath school lectures, 25; subscribers for Alabama Baptist, 7.

The following money has been received by me: Mineral Spring, \$10.00; Corinth, \$5.00; Liberty, \$3.10; Ebenezer, \$8.25; Union Meeting 2nd District, \$7.05; Individual subscriptions: J. G. Thornton, \$5.00; J. T. Hancock, \$5.00,—total, \$53.40.

Number of days worked, 175. In traveling through the destitute portions I find four churches without pastors. I have used every effort to supply them with preaching. There is a scope of territory of about forty miles, extending from the northwestern to the southeastern boundary of the Association, in which there has been but little preaching by Baptists, and I was informed that there were persons in that section of country that had never heard a Baptist minister before my visits. We should try to supply this destitution with Baptist preaching. I have, by the grace of God, performed

the work faithfully, with, I trust, an eye single to the honor of God, the good of our cause, and the salvation of sinners. I lack a few days of making up my time, owing to Providential hindrance, which I could not control.

May the God of Peace, Love and Mercy bless the work, is the prayer of your humble servant.—All of which I most respectfully submit,

G. M. LYLES.

Upon adoption of the above report, the State Board immediately employed Elder G. M. Lyles as evangelist, to labor in the bounds of the Union and Yellow Creek Associations. When this arrangement was made known to the Association, the churches and delegates at once pledged \$255.75 to the State Board for his support.

On motion, adjourned until Tuesday morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder S. Hildreth.

TUESDAY, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

The Association convened pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. L. Ray and J. A. Mitchell.

11. Report of Committee on Publications, adopted :

Your committee recommend, *first*, the Scriptures as a guide and text book for all. We earnestly recommend the "Alabama Baptist," Selma, Ala., edited by brethren Winkler and West. We cheerfully ask the adoption of the resolution referred to us in regard to this our only State paper, viz :

Resolved, 1st. That the "Alabama Baptist" is worthy of the zealous support of the Baptists of the State. *Resolved, 2nd.* That every member of the Association pledge himself to use constant and individual effort to extend the patronage of the paper; and that we will not desist until we have presented its claims to every Baptist family in the Association.

We also recommend "Kind Words," and "Foreign Mission Journal"—both published by the Southern Baptist Convention—the former at Macon, Ga., the latter at Richmond, Va.

R. H. FOSTER, Chairman.

12. Report of Committee on Nominations, adopted :

The next Introductory Sermon by Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Eld. J. A. Mitchell. Annual Missionary Sermon by Elder Jno. C. Foster; alternate, Elder G. M. Lyles. The next Circular Letter to be written by brother W. G. Robertson. Subject: "We believe that man is utterly unable, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature."

N. COBB, Chairman.

13. Reports of District Meetings were read and adopted :

FIRST DISTRICT—The next annual meeting of this District will be held with Pleasant Grove church, Lamar county, Ala., Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1880. Introductory Sermon by Elder E. Howell; alternate, Elder J. S. Wooten. Missionary Sermon by Elder J. A. Mitchell. *Queries for discussion*: 1. How should our Union Meetings be conducted so as best to promote our Master's cause? 2. How can churches best secure the attendance of her members at her conference meetings? 3. In Sab. Schools, which should we first teach, the commandments of the Old or New Testament? *Essays*: 1. The effect of fervent prayer. G. M. Lyles. 2. The benefits to be derived by the early training of youth. W. G. Robertson. Visiting brethren: G. M. Lyles, J. L. Ray, W. G. Robertson.

SECOND DISTRICT—The Union Meeting of the Second District of the Union Baptist Association convenes with the Baptist Church of Christ, at Cross Roads, on Friday before the first Sabbath in July, 1880. Introductory Sermon by Elder J. P. Lee. Missionary Sermon by Elder J. M. Land

Essays: 1. Exodus 6: 3—Elder G. M. Lyles. 2. 1st Peter 3: 9—Elder J. P. Lee. 3. The moral and religious status of the churches—J. H. Stinson. 4. Matt. 5: 19—H. B. Chappelle. 5. The history of the change of a sinner from nature to grace—H. L. Williams. *Queries*: 1. For what is a believer crowned? 2. What is taught in 1st Cor. 10: 12? 3. How does the idea taught in Hebrews 2: 9, that Christ tasted death for every man, harmonize with the doctrine of Election? Visiting brethren: W. G. Robertson, J. H. Curry, C. Richey.

THIRD DISTRICT—Next Annual meeting will be held with Antioch church, Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in July, 1880. Introductory Sermon by Bro. M. G. Lofton; alternate, Elder J. G. Thornton. Missionary Sermon by Elder R. A. Massey; alternate, Elder J. H. Curry. *Queries for discussion*: 1. Why are you a Baptist? Opened by W. H. Richardson. 2. Is any christian so poor that God does not require him to assist in the support of the Gospel? Opened by J. J. Taylor. 3. Who are meant by the elect?—Mark 13: 20, 22, 27. Opened by J. W. Hanson. *Essays*: 1. What is the design of Church Communion? L. M. Stone. 2. Can the heathen be saved without the Gospel? W. G. Robertson. 3. The influence of a pious life. Calvin Upchurch. Visiting brethren: U. E. Allen, H. B. Chappelle, H. L. Williams, M. C. Hollingsworth, J. A. Mitchell.

FOURTH DISTRICT—The next annual meeting will be held with New Hope church, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1880. Introductory Sermon by Elder M. P. Smith; alternate, Elder J. L. Ray. *Queries for discussion*: 1. The duties of church members toward each other? Opened by J. M. Smith and N. Cobb. 2. Design of the Lord's Supper. Opened by — Edwards and V. W. Barnett. *Essay*: Proper observance of the Lord's day. W. T. Parks. Visiting brethren: L. F. Taylor, J. A. Mitchell, H. B. Chappelle, J. H. Curry, F. R. Gallant.

14. Report of Committee on Finance, adopted:

Received from the Churches for Minutes.....	\$ 60 50
“ “ “ “ Association.....	26 70
“ “ “ “ G. M. Lyles.....	101 40
“ “ “ “ Home Missions.....	25 70
“ “ “ “ State Missions.....	1 75
“ “ “ “ Indian Mission.....	2 75
Collection on Sabbath.....	42 00
	—————\$260 80

J. M. SMITH, Chairman.

15. Report of Committee on Correspondence, adopted.

On motion, suspended Order of Business, and extended to brethren Winkler, Bailey, Gregory and Yancey the thanks of this body for their visit; and as previous appointment necessitates their now leaving, the hand of christian fellowship was extended to each.

16. Resumed Order of Business, and appointed delegates to the Baptist State Convention, Greenville, Ala., Wednesday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1880: L. M. Stone, J. H. Curry, G. M. Lyles, W. G. Robertson, J. A. Mitchell, J. G. Thornton, R. H. Foster, S. Hildreth, J. C. Foster, H. B. Chappelle, J. T. Hancock, J. L. Ray.

17. Returned correspondence to other Associations:

To the Tuskalooza—To convene with the Little Sandy church, on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in September, 1879: G. M. Lyles, N. Cobb, R. H. Foster, J. H. Curry, J. C. Foster.

To the Columbians—To convene with church on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1879: J. P. Lee, J. T. Hancock, J. H. Stinson, J. A. Burgin.

To the Sabbath School Convention—To convene with Enon church, Friday before the 5th Sabbath in August, 1880: H. B. Chappelle, J. G. Thornton, J. L. Marquis, J. P. Waller, J. T. Hancock, Wm. McCullough, H. L. Williams, R. D. Leavell, J. W. C. Bell.

18. Report of Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons; adopted:

Since our last meeting, it has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from us our esteemed and venerable brother, Elder DABNEY DUNCAN. He was born in Albemarle county, Virginia, March 15, 1796. After having removed to Fairfield county, South Carolina, he joined the Rock Creek Baptist church in 1824. Soon afterwards he was impressed with the duty of preaching the Gospel; and removing his membership to Beaver Creek church, he was called to the full work of the ministry in 1827. He spent eighteen years there in proclaiming the Gospel, and his labors were abundantly blessed. In 1845 he removed to Pickens county, Ala., and joined the South Carolina Baptist church, afterwards united with the Cross Roads Baptist church and finally joined Big Creek church, where he continued until the day of his death, March 14, 1879. His life was a long and useful one in the service of his Master. When age produced such infirmities of the body as to make it obligatory to cease serving the churches as pastor, yet upon every opportunity he failed not to preach Christ and the riches of His grace. He was faithful and zealous in all the relations of life. His labors are now ended, and he has gone to his reward.

It has pleased God to take unto himself another of his aged servants. On the 13th of June, 1878, our beloved brother, WM. WALKER, departed this life. He was born in North Carolina April 18, 1791, and moved to Alabama and joined the Baptist church at Providence in 1836. He was a member in the constitution of the Baptist church at Spring Hill, Lamar county, in 1836, and was there ordained Deacon. Brother Walker was an humble christian, a kind husband and an affectionate father. After a short sickness he was called to that rest which remaineth for the children of God.

Also, our highly esteemed brother, JOHN W. HANSON, has been removed from this life to the Christian's final home. He was born in Kershaw District, S. C., February 21, 1816, and moved to Alabama in 1838. Joined the Baptist church at Unity, near Olney. Our deceased brother was not only a consistent, but an active member of this church till the Master called him home. He faithfully served the church as Deacon and Clerk. He died July 24, 1879, and is now gone to reap the reward of a pious and godly life.

Be it therefore *Resolved*, That by this afflictive dispensation of Providence in the departure of these our brethren, this Association has lost valuable co-laborers, and the churches have lost zealous and useful members.

Resolved, That this Association tender to the three churches and families of our deceased brethren our warmest sympathy in their bereavement.

R. A. MASSEY, Chairman.

19. Appointed the next session of the Association to be held with Spring Hill Baptist church, Lamar county, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in Sept. 1880, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

20. The committee appointed at the last session in relation to the difficulty between New Hope and Chalcedony churches, made their report, adopted, as follows:

Your committee, to whom was assigned at the last session of this body the duty of reconciling the difficulty between New Hope and Chalcedony churches, beg leave to report, That the last week in September the following members of the committee, viz: Elders J.

P. Lee, R. A. Massey, J. H. Curry and Deacon M. G. Lofton, met at New Hope church with the members of both churches, and organized by making Elder J. P. Lee, Chairman. Elder R. A. Massey had been previously appointed to preach the sermon of reconciliation, and after the sermon, your committee went into a full investigation of the matter. We found no action of non-fellowship taken by either church against the other, although some ill feeling existed between some of the members. These we were enabled to reconcile, and both churches were left in full fellowship one with the other, except as to the difficulty between New Hope church and brother Anders, with which the committee did not think they had any right to interfere.

J. P. LEE, Chm.

21. The Committee in relation to New Arbor Spring church, reported the church in working order.

Miscellaneous Business.—1. On motion, the following committee was appointed to take charge of beneficiary funds, viz: Wm. G. Robertson, L. M. Stone, J. R. Long, C. Richey, J. P. Barnett, and M. L. Stansel.

2. On motion, appointed brethren L. M. Stone and W. G. Robertson to revise list of ministers of the Association.

3. On motion, the following preamble and resolution was adopted: In view of the greatness of the harvest and the small number of laborers, therefore, *Resolved*, That we earnestly request the churches of this Association to hold special prayer at least once a month, during the next associational year, that the Lord of the harvest would send more laborers into His vineyards.

4. On motion, ordered that we print a synopsis of the proceedings of the Sunday School Convention with our minutes.

5. On motion, the following Executive Board was appointed for ensuing year, viz: L. M. Stone, W. S. Coleman, U. E. Allen, C. T. Fort, W. G. Robertson, H. L. Williams.

6. On motion, the Clerk was instructed to have the file of Minutes of this Association bound, and \$2.50 was received for same.

7. Ordered, That the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, pay over the funds to their respective Boards, and retain out of Association fund \$25.00 for his services, and that all funds unappropriated and remaining in his hands be turned over to the Board of the Sunday School Convention for the use of Sabbath Schools.

8. Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the members of Bethel church and community for the kindness and hospitality extended to the delegates and visitors during its session.

On motion, adjourned. Suitable closing remarks were made by the Moderator. The delegates joined in singing a hymn and giving each other the parting hand, after which prayer was offered by Elder M. P. Smith.

J. C. FOSTER, Moderator.

H. B. CHAPPELLE, Clerk.

Preaching at the arbor on Monday by Elders J. H. Curry and S. Hildreth.

CIRCULAR LETTER:

WRITTEN BY LEWIS M. STONE

—We believe that Adam, by sin, fell from the state of purity in which he was created, that all his posterity are degenerate, and all human nature is corrupt and depraved.”—*Third Article of Faith.*

The Mosaic account of the creation and fall of man, is a narrative of most interesting and sublime truths. We are taught that man was created in a state of purity and holiness under the law of his Maker, and that by his own disobedience and by his own voluntary transgressions, by sin, he fell from his happy state, and “brought death into the world with all our woe.” In consequence of this transgression all mankind are now sinners. “By one man’s disobedience many were made sinners.”—Romans 5: 19. The history of the world, our own experience, and the word of God, all abundantly prove that mankind are sinners by choice, and prefer darkness to light, because their deeds are evil. They are therefore under just condemnation to eternal punishment, without defence, and without excuse. These important and vital Bible truths are embraced in the third article of our faith, now under consideration, and may be supported by numerous citations.

THE CREATION OF MAN.

The purity in which man was originally created is shown in 1 Genesis 26, 27. “And God said let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” “So God created man in his *own image*, in the *image of God* created he him.” This cannot refer to a mere physical or corporeal image or resemblance, because God is a Spirit, eternal, immortal, invisible. It must refer to the intellect, the soul, the mind of man, which was created after the nature, the image and the perfections of God. And as God is pure, holy, just, wise, good and perfect, so must the soul of man have been, when originally fashioned after God’s own image. “God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul.” He received reason, intellect, spirit from the “Father of Spirits.” Thus was he honored above inferior animals, and prepared to wield under God, supreme dominion over the earth. Reason was necessary to constitute him a subject of moral government, as there can be no moral accountability where there is no reason or intellect. Man was also created after the moral image of God. The scriptures tell us that “God hath made man upright.”—Ecclesiastes 7: 29. His original state was that of uprightness, innocence, and integrity. His heart was full of love for his Maker, and was lifted up in thanksgiving and praise for the rich blessings received. The divine will was the law he delighted to obey. Adam in his power and grandeur, and Eve in her beauty and celestial grace were sincere and acceptable worshipers at the throne of God. Blessed with the approving smile of Heaven, they were happy in their lovely Garden-Home. But soon from this state of happiness and purity our primeval parents fell by disobedience.

THE FALL OF MAN.

God created man “just and right,

Sufficient to have stood, though free to fall.”

He had the power to have said to the tempter, “Get behind me Satan,” but when his obedience was tested, he fell at the first temptation. “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.”—Genesis 2: 16. “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.”—Genesis 2: 17. “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave

also to her husband with her, and he did eat."—Genesis 3: 6. Milton says in his sublime description of this dreadful offence:

"Her rash hand in evil hour,
Forth reaching to the fruit, she plucked, she ate!
Earth felt the wound; and Nature from her seat
Sighing, through all her works gave signs of woe,
That all was lost!"

This act of disobedience, this first transgression was followed by a sense of shame and guilt. "The eyes of both were opened," and the trembling criminals who had hid themselves from the presence of the Lord were brought to the bar of God's justice, for trial and judgment. It is sometimes stated that the punishment of death denounced against our first parents was a penalty too severe, too far-reaching and disproportioned to the offense of eating the fruit of a certain tree. But God designed to test the obedience of the pair he had created. Dr. Pendleton says: "Obedience can be tested as well by a little thing as by a great thing, and possibly better. In doing a great thing a man may be influenced more by the magnitude of the thing than by the authority enjoining its performance; whereas in doing a little thing, so called, he is much more likely to act out of reverence for the authority of God. This is the very essence of true obedience. There is no genuine obedience without it. If any one of a thousand considerations possible should prompt one to the performance of an act that God requires, it would not be an act of obedience, unless it were performed because required by him." In vain did Adam attempt to shift the guilt of this disobedience upon God and the woman. "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat."—Genesis 3: 12. Neither was the plea of the woman recognized. "The serpent beguiled me and I did eat." Genesis 3: 13. But her sin may have been less in degree than Adam's, for she sinned under deception and cunning practised upon her by the Serpent, while Adam transgressed deliberately and knowingly. How few of us are willing to confess our own sins! How ready are we to plead excuses and to lay the burden of our guilt upon others! But until a man takes his sin fully upon himself, till he acknowledges that he alone is guilty there can be no genuine repentance, and consequently no salvation. The terrible penalty for this disobedience was inflicted upon the guilty parties. The seeds of disease were planted in the system which produced pain, wretchedness and physical death. The curse of spiritual death also, which is far more fearful than physical death, was upon them. When God abandons the spirit, when there is no longer union and fellowship with him, when the spirit is cut off from God as the source of all happiness and joy, and man no longer lives in the light of his countenance, but trembles continually beneath his frown and displeasure, then indeed does he suffer a dreadful death. In reference to this Jesus said: "If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."—John 8: 51. Meaning spiritual death. For their transgressions Adam and Eve were expelled from Paradise. "God drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."—Genesis 3: 24.

By his fall, Adam not only brought ruin upon himself, but upon all his posterity.

"ADAM'S POSTERITY ARE DEGENERATE, AND ALL HUMAN NATURE IS CORRUPT."

Adam's sinful and corrupt nature was communicated to his offspring; for the Bible tells us he "begat a son in his own likeness, after his image." Genesis 5: 3. Sin had poisoned the very source of life, and his descendants became the children of disobedience and wrath. "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."—Romans 5: 12.

Romans 8: 7. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Genesis 6: 12. "And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth."

Romans 3: 10—18. 10. "As it is written, there is none righteous; no not one.

11. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.
 12. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one.
 13. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips.
 14. Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness;
 15. Their feet are swift to shed blood;
 16. Destruction and misery are in their ways.
 17. And the way of peace have they not known.
 18. There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Genesis 8: 21. "For the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth."

"The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God." "They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no not one."—Psalms 14: 2, 3.

What a fearful indictment is this preferred against the human race! How wretched and lost is man's condition! Thoroughly diseased by the leprosy of sin, there is no remedy through human agency. Smitten by the hand of God for his disobedience, justly condemned under a law which "is holy and the commandment holy, and just and good," man stands a moral wreck, powerless to save himself, guilty and doomed to eternal punishment, unless God in his infinite love and mercy provides a Savior.

A SAVIOR PROVIDED.

This He did in the person of his son. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—St. John 3: 16. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."—Romans 5: 19. "And he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world."—John 2: 2. Immediately after the fall, and before Adam and Eve were driven from Eden, God provided for them and for all who should trust in the merits of his Son's sacrifice, a way to a celestial Paradise at His right hand. Jesus became "the way, the truth and the life." While pronouncing the curse upon the Serpent, God said: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel."—Genesis 3: 15. God renews his promise of a Savior to Abraham. "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."—Genesis 12: 3. The apostle Paul stated the great fact, that the seed of Abraham is Christ, in whom all nations are to be blessed. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."—Acts 4: 12. Will we accept this great salvation? Can we refuse it? God invites us. "And the spirit and the bride say come. And let him that heareth say come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

H. B. CHAPPELL, in account with the Union Baptist Association.

DR.

To cash received from Committee on Finance.....	\$260 80
" " " Spring Hill church.....	2 00
	—————\$262 80

CR.

By Cash paid Foreign Mission Board.....	\$ 21 00
" " Home Mission Board.....	46 70
" " Indian " " 	2 75
" " State " " 	1 75
" " Executive Board.....	101 40
By cash paid for printing Minutes.....	60 00
By cash retained for services as Clerk.....	25 00
By cash paid W. G. Robertson for Sunday Schools.....	4 20
	—————\$262 80

SYNOPSIS OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ELEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION
OF THE
UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Eleventh Annual Session of the Sunday School Convention was held with the Baptist Church at Unity, Friday and Saturday, August 8th and 9th, 1879.

The Introductory Sermon was preached at 11 o'clock A. M., Friday, by Elder J. H. Curry.

The President, Elder S. Hildreth, called the Convention to order.

The letters from the schools and churches were read, and names of delegates enrolled.

The Convention was organized by the re-election of Elder S. Hildreth, President, and W. G. Robertson, Sec'y and Treasurer.

The Queries submitted at the last meeting for discussion at this session were taken up and laid on the table.

A special committee was appointed to prepare Queries for discussion at this session. The committee reported as follows: Query 1st. What are the duties of parents to their children? Query 2nd. Do christians commit sin in neglecting or refusing to use their influence, or devote a portion of their time to the Sabbath School work

The queries were discussed warmly and with much interest.

The missionary sermon was preached on Saturday, by Elder J. H. Curry, instead of Elder R. A. Massey, the appointee, who was excused on account of sickness.

A collection was taken up amounting to \$7.85 cash, \$2.50 pledged.

Essays by Elder S. Hildreth and Wm. G. Robertson were read.

The committee on Sabbath School Literature recommend the continuance of *Kind Words*, Sabbath school paper, in all our schools, and that the Bible should be in every school as the ground work of our faith and practice.

The Committee on Documents made report showing a great increase and interest in the work. Fourteen schools with an aggregate membership of 521, and two churches were represented.

[Note by the Secretary.—There were several schools actively engaged in the work, with a membership of nearly 200, that were not reported. The report, and condition of the Sabbath school work, is truly encouraging to every servant of Christ.]

The Secretary and Treasurer made report of the missionary work. Pending the adoption of the report, \$13.00 was pledged for the continuation of the work. (This branch of the work of the Convention is the mainspring to the increased numbers and interest in our bounds.—SEC'Y.)

Next Introductory Sermon by Elder J. G. Thornton; Elder J. P. Lee, alternate. Missionary Sermon by Elder S. Hildreth; Eld. J. C. Foster, alternate.

The following Queries and Essays adopted for next session, viz: Query 1st. What are the best means to induce parents to take more interest in the Sabbath school work? 2nd. Are Sabbath Schools a necessity? 3rd. Is it right to give other than religious instruction in Sabbath Schools? *Essay*: 1st. What are the best means of promoting a more general interest in the Sabbath school work? By W. S. Coleman. (Continued to next session.) 2nd. What are the qualifications and duties of a Sabbath school superintendent? By J. P. Barnett.

Appointed the next session to be held with the Sabbath School at Enon, 10 miles S. W. of Carrollton, commencing Friday before the 5th Sabbath in August, 1880.

The committee on Sabbath School work takes an encouraging view of the situation and importance of this branch of christian labor, and urgently appeals to every christain to enter personally upon the work. Go to Sabbath school themselves and take their children with them.

We feel that a great work is being done for the increase of religious knowledge and personal piety. The Convention adjourned.

W. G. ROBERTSON, *Sec'y.* S. HILDRETH, *President.*

NAMES OF BAPTIST MINISTERS

IN THIS ASSOCIATION, WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

R. B. WILKINS.....	Reform, Pickens County, Ala.
I. HOLLINGSWORTH.....	Carrollton, " " "
S. HILDRETH.....	" " " "
F. M. WALKER*.....	" " " "
H. B. CHAPPELLE.....	" " " "
G. M. LYLES.....	" " " "
J. S. WOOTEN.....	Providence, Pickens Co., Ala.
J. H. CURRY.....	Pickensville, Pickens Co., Ala.
J. M. LAND.....	" " " "
J. P. LEE.....	" " " "
R. A. MASSEY.....	Vienna, " " "
M. P. SMITH.....	Union, Greene " "
J. A. MITCHELL.....	Sipsey Turnpike, Alabama.
J. D. HANNER*.....	Sipsey T'pike, Tuskaloosa, Ala.
T. G. THORNTON.....	Union, Greene County, "
J. C. FOSTER.....	Foster's, Tuskaloosa Co., Ala.
J. L. RAY.....	Hickman, " " "

ORDAINED MINISTERS, : : : : : 15

LICENTIATES* : : : : : 2