

Alabama Baptist Historical Society

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CONDOUR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

BULAH CHURCH, PIKE COUNTY, ALABAMA,

FROM THE 13TH TO THE 17TH OCTOBER,

1849.

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M. C. BRYAN





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9th. From *Wetumpha Association*, presented a letter by her delegate, John Howard, of the same name, dated 1850, which was rejected; the cause for which we do not receive a response, unless it yet belongs to 1851.

From *Wetumpha Association*, a letter and minutes by her delegates, Elders JOHN B. EASTON, and E. NELSON.

From *Claybank Association*, minutes by the hand of her delegates, Elder G. BRYAN, and lay brethren, J. A. COOK and W. JOHNSON.

All of which were cordially received, the Moderator giving to their delegates the right hand of fellowship.

8th. Appointed F. Pickett, J. Thigpen, J. B. Stinson, T. J. Gardner, a committee to examine documents, and report as soon as practicable.

9th. Called for reports of the district meetings; which were presented, read, and received.

10th. Appointed district meetings, as follows:

*First District*.—With Ramah Church, Pike county, to commence on Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1850.

*Second District*.—With Union Church, Pike county, to commence on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1850.

*Third District*.—With Elin Church, Pike county, to commence on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1850.

*Fourth District*.—With Union Church, Corington county, to commence on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1850.

11th. Returned correspondence to sister Associations:

To *Ebenezer Association*, to convene with Cool Spring Church, Lowndes county, to commence on Friday before the First Sunday in October, 1850, Elders R. WARREN, R. F. MISLEDINE, J. KNIGHTON, and lay brethren, J. W. Timmons, S. Russell, M. Rushton, delegates.

To *Choctawhatchie Association*, to convene with the Mount Zion Church, Henry county, to commence on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, (inst.) Elders I. H. HOX, R. TOLER, and lay brethren, J. Thigpen, T. J. Gardner, J. Kennedy, J. Stallings, T. Conner, messengers; Brother calling to write the letter.

To *Claybank Association*, to convene with Leon Church, Dale county, to commence on Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1850, Elders R. TOLER, WM. HUSSEY, B. S. BROOKS, and lay members Wm. Easters, Wm. Collingsworth, H. Kimbrough, J. A. Smith, J. A. Owens, D. Crague, and J. Thigpen, messengers.

To *Wetumpha Association*, to convene with Smyth Church, Coosa county, to commence on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1850, Elders R. WARREN, D. DOZIER, and lay brethren J. Stallings, H. L. Jones, J. W. Timmons, M. Carter, T. J. Gardner, and Wm. Bell, messengers.

12th. Resolved, That this Association append to these minutes, a corresponding letter to sister Associations with whom she corresponds.

13th. Called for the Circular Letter; which was presented, read by the writer, received, and ordered to be printed with the minutes.

14th. The committee on documents presented the following report: "We, your committee, beg leave to report, we find nothing worthy of your consideration." Respectfully submitted and ordered to be printed.

15th. Appointed Elder D. DOZIER to write our next Circular Letter, and Elder R. TOLER to preach the next introductory Sermon, and Elder R. F. Misledine his alternate.

16th. Called for the report of the Presbytery appointed last year to visit Fellowship Church, Pike county, who reported her dissolved.

17th. Appointed our next Association with *Chambliss Church*, Butler county, commencing on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1850.

#### MEMORIAL.

18th. Whereas, it has been the good pleasure of our heavenly Father to call from off the earth, Zion's faithful servant, and our Heavenly Father's anointed, the late Elder Mansfield, whose wife, with his beloved family, deplore our loss, we do hereby memorialize you.

19th. The Committee on Finance report that they have received from the late Elder Mansfield, of the same Church, the sum of \$100.00, which they have deposited in the hands of the Treasurer.



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the same.

21st. Resolved, That Friendship, Pike county, be attached to the first ( . . . ) of the  
Association, and Antioch, Butler county, to the second.

22d. Resolved, That we give a vote of thanks to the members of Bulah Church, and  
friends in its vicinity, for their kind assistance during the present session.

23d. Read the minutes and adjourned to time and place stated. Prayed by the both  
or Moderator.

DANIEL DOZIER, Moderator.

WILLIAM J. POUNCEY, Clerk.

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### CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Congech River Baptist Association of the Primitive Order, in session with the  
Bulah Church, Pike county, to her sister Associations with whom she corresponds,  
sends Christian love and affection:

*Dear and much esteemed Brethren in the Lord:*

Through the goodness of our Heavenly Father, we are again permitted to meet in  
our twenty-second Annual Session, and have received a full representation from the  
Churches in our union; and have conducted the business of the Association with peace  
and harmony; and several Churches express their gratitude to Almighty God, for his  
blessings bestowed on them in adding to their numbers, while others complain of cold-  
ness and barrenness of soul; yet all remain in peace with themselves and with sister  
Churches. And we have also received a full correspondence from sister Associations,  
by letter and messengers, for which we feel thankful to Almighty God for sending in our  
midst so many of our beloved brethren, whose coming has been a source of enjoyment  
to us, and whose labors in the Gospel have been with zeal and much ability, and we  
pray God that their labors may be a lasting blessing to all the dear children of God.  
Dear Brethren, we desire your correspondence to be continued with us, for which  
purpose we send you this, our epistle of love, by the hands of our brethren as stated in  
our minutes, whom we hope you will receive in our behalf.

Our next Association will convene with Consolation Church, Butler county, on  
Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1850; at which time and place we hope  
to meet your delegation.

Dear Brethren, we desire an interest in your prayers, and hope you will visit us as  
often as you can. Now may the God of all grace be with you and us, and keep us all in  
the unity of the Spirit, and bonds of peace, is the prayer of your little sister, for Christ  
sake.

DANIEL DOZIER, Moderator.

WILLIAM J. POUNCEY, Clerk.

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### CIRCULAR LETTER.

BY JOSEPH THOMPEN.

THE CONECH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, of the *Primitive Order*, to the several  
Churches composing the same:

Dearly beloved Brethren:—According to a custom of long standing among Baptist  
of the Primitive order, and agreeable to previous arrangement, you will be looking for  
a Circular Address from us; and in trying to comply with that duty that seems to  
present itself to our minds, we shall call your attention to a subject as a foundation for  
what may follow, viz: Love.

Dear Brethren, though the subject that we have laid as a foundation for this epistle  
is only comprised of four letters, yet it contains more than any other subject that our  
minds could possibly be directed to

Brethren, we are aware that the narrow confines of a circular are infinitely too small,  
were we in possession of the ability to set forth the glories contained in this subject, and  
it is probable that through weakness we may scatter thought, it is not possible for us to  
go beyond our subject, for when we speak of Love we speak of God, for God is Love.

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1st John, 16th and 17th verse. We understand that the Apostle here speaks of the love of the Father, and the love of the Son, and the love of the Holy Spirit, and the love of the Father towards the Son, and the love of the Son towards the Father, and the love of the Father and the Son towards the Holy Spirit, and the love of the Holy Spirit towards the Father and the Son, and the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit towards the world, and the love of the world towards the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We understand that the Apostle here speaks of the love of the Father, and the love of the Son, and the love of the Holy Spirit, and the love of the Father towards the Son, and the love of the Son towards the Father, and the love of the Father and the Son towards the Holy Spirit, and the love of the Holy Spirit towards the Father and the Son, and the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit towards the world, and the love of the world towards the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

View the love of God in placing of his creature, man, in that Patriarchal family, when he placed him in, at first, that of giving him a righteous law for the government and the rule of life; see the love and union that existed so long as he observed that law. We find that Love is a law requisition, and therefore it is enjoined on the whole of the Adamite family; as a proof of that, we cite you to Deuteronomy, 6 chapter, 5th verse: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Matthew, 22d chapter, 37th verse: "Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy mind." Luke, 10th chapter, 28th verse: "And he answering said thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself." Romans, 13th chapter, 10th verse: "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore Love is the fulfilling of the law."

We might call your attention to many more passages, but we think that we have quoted enough, and as we have said that love is a law requisition, and as such, the duty of the Adamite family to observe its regulations as it was our fore-parents' in the day that God gave them the law. Yet we do not wish to be understood that man by being up to all the requirements of that law would be entitled to any reward, but that he as the creature of God has done nothing more than what was his duty; and the Apostle has said, If there had been a law given that could have given life, verily righteous would have been by the law; and as we are addressing the Adamite family, we say to you in the language of the Savior, "Ye must be born again." This was the language of the Savior to Nicodemus, that great ruler of the Jews, and notwithstanding his greatness, he could not see how these things could be, and we are of the opinion that there are many in this day that profess to be the followers of Jesus, that are in the same situation. May God open their eyes if agreeable to his will!

We must stop as regards this requisition of the law, and try to come to speak of it in a special point—or, in other words, try to speak of the love of God towards his children, or those that God gave to his son Jesus Christ, in the Covenant of redemption. We are aware that people professing to know God, objects or denies the doctrine of the Covenant plan of redemption as existing between God, the Father Son and Holy Ghost before time, but in this we see the love of God predicated upon his fore-knowledge, and we think that John had a view of that when he said: "Behold what manner of Love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." Then, Brethren, we contend that God being Love, and that he is without variableness or shadow of a turn, and that he was God before time, and if you can tell when God began to be God, then we can tell when his love began to exist toward his children. And by that are disposed to deny such a thing as a Covenant or agreement, as we understand them to be the same, we cite your attention to the 89th Psalm of the Psalmist David, and 3d verse: "I have made a Covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant." We are in hopes that no person will deny that the chosen one here alluded to was Jesus; as all will admit that God chose his son to be the Savior of sinners. Also read the Psalm down from the 3rd to the 30th verse, and we think that you will, by the help of God, see that in that Covenant that there is brought to view was between God, the Father and his son Jesus Christ, and that David was enabled through the revelation of God to view it by faith, and glory therein. Also Isaiah 42d chapter 1st, to 6th verse: "Behold my servant whom I uphold, mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth, I have put my spirit upon him, he shall bring forth judgment unto the Gentiles." 5th verse: "I, the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thy hand and will keep thee and give thee for a Covenant of the people for a light of the Gentiles. We will call your attention to one more passage, as we hope it will be enough to satisfy any unprejudiced mind of the truth of the doctrine of an everlasting Covenant. Malachi 3d chapter, 1st verse: "Behold I will send my messenger and ye shall prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, and the messenger of the Covenant whom ye delight in. Behold he shall come, and the Lord of Hosts."

We shall notice the love of God in that of placing or changing the law, in the











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