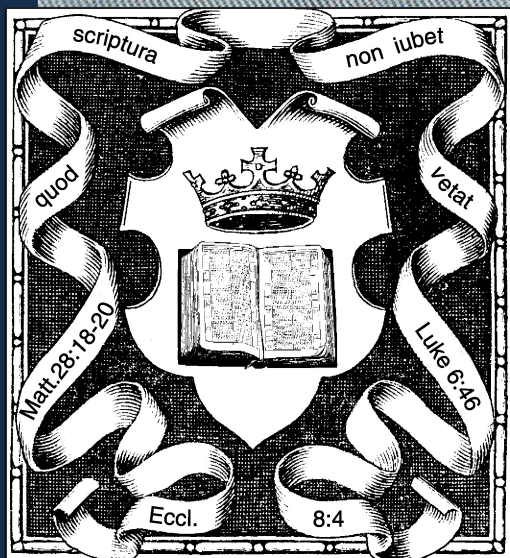


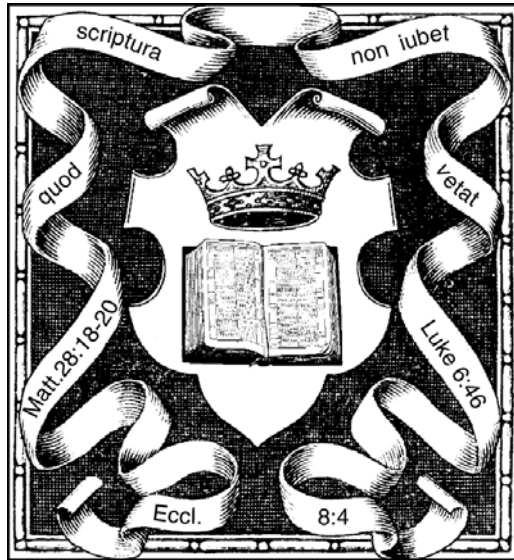
The Baptist Distinctives Series

Number 7



Pedobaptism: Is It From Heaven or of Men?

J. M. Frost



Quod scriptura, non iubet velat

The Latin translates, “What is not commanded in scripture, is forbidden:”

On the Cover: Baptists rejoice to hold in common with other evangelicals the main principles of the orthodox Christian faith. However, there are points of difference and these differences are significant. In fact, because these differences arise out of God’s revealed will, they are of vital importance. Hence, the barriers of separation between Baptists and others can hardly be considered a trifling matter. To suppose that Baptists are kept apart solely by their views on Baptism or the Lord’s Supper is a regrettable misunderstanding. Baptists hold views which distinguish them from Catholics, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, Pentecostals, and Presbyterians, and the differences are so great as not only to justify, but to demand, the separate denominational existence of Baptists. Some people think Baptists ought not teach and emphasize their differences but as E.J. Forrester stated in 1893, “Any denomination that has views which justify its separate existence, is bound to promulgate those views. If those views are of sufficient importance to justify a separate existence, they are important enough to create a duty for their promulgation ... the very same reasons which justify the separate existence of any denomination make it the duty of that denomination to teach the distinctive doctrines upon which its separate existence rests.” If Baptists have a right to a separate denominational life, it is their duty to propagate their distinctive principles, without which their separate life cannot be justified or maintained.

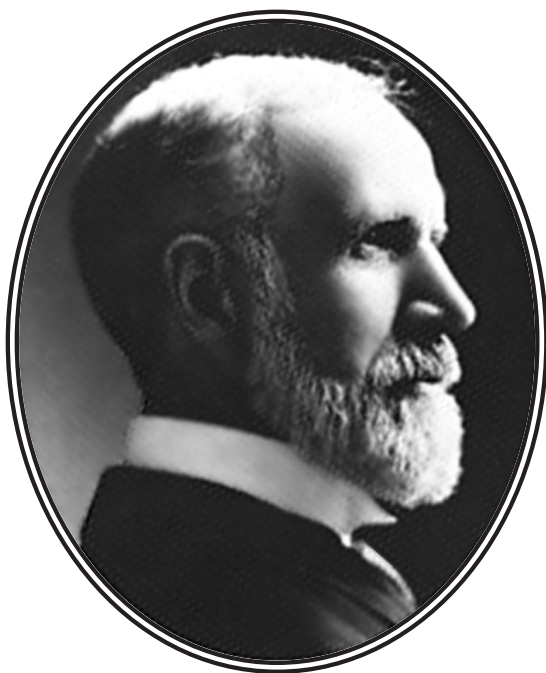
Many among today’s professing Baptists have an agenda to revise the Baptist distinctives and redefine what it means to be a Baptist. Others don’t understand why it even matters. The books being reproduced in the *Baptist Distinctives Series* are republished in order that Baptists from the past may state, explain and defend the primary Baptist distinctives as they understood them. It is hoped that this Series will provide a more thorough historical perspective on what it means to be distinctively Baptist.

The Lord Jesus Christ asked, “*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*” (Luke 6:46). The immediate context surrounding this question explains what it means to be a true disciple of Christ. Addressing the same issue, Christ’s question is meant to show that a confession of discipleship to the Lord Jesus Christ is inconsistent and untrue if it is not accompanied with a corresponding submission to His authoritative commands. Christ’s question teaches us that a true recognition of His authority as Lord inevitably includes a submission to the authority of His Word. Hence, with this question Christ has made it forever impossible to separate His authority as King from the authority of His Word. These two principles—the authority of Christ as King and the authority of His Word—are the two most fundamental Baptist distinctives. The first gives rise to the second and out of these two all the other Baptist distinctives emanate. As F.M. Jans wrote in 1894, “Loyalty to Christ as King, manifesting itself in a constant and unswerving obedience to His will as revealed in His written Word, is the real source of all the Baptist distinctives:” In the search for the *primary* Baptist distinctive many have settled on the Lordship of Christ as the most basic distinctive. Strangely, in doing this, some have attempted to separate Christ’s Lordship from the authority of Scripture, as if you could embrace Christ’s authority without submitting to what He commanded. However, while Christ’s Lordship and Kingly authority can be isolated and considered essentially for discussion’s sake, we see from Christ’s own words in Luke 6:46 that His Lordship is really inseparable from His Word and, with regard to real Christian discipleship, there can be no practical submission to the one without a practical submission to the other.

In the symbol above the Kingly Crown and the Open Bible represent the inseparable truths of Christ’s Kingly and Biblical authority. The Crown and Bible graphics are supplemented by three Bible verses (Ecclesiastes 8:4, Matthew 28:18-20, and Luke 6:46) that reiterate and reinforce the inextricable connection between the authority of Christ as King and the authority of His Word. The truths symbolized by these components are further emphasized by the Latin quotation - *quod scriptura, non iubet vetat*— *i.e.*, “What is not commanded in scripture, is forbidden.” This Latin quote has been considered historically as a summary statement of the regulative principle of Scripture. Together these various symbolic components converge to exhibit the two most foundational Baptist Distinctives out of which all the other Baptist Distinctives arise. Consequently, we have chosen this composite symbol as a logo to represent the primary truths set forth in the *Baptist Distinctives Series*.

PEDOBAPTISM:

IS IT FROM HEAVEN OR OF MEN?



JAMES MARION FROST
1848-1916

PEDOBAPTISM: IS IT FROM HEAVEN OR OF MEN?

BY
JAMES MARION FROST

With a Biographical Sketch of the Author by John Franklin Jones

“Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you
more than unto God, judge ye.” — Acts 4:19

“We ought to obey God rather than men.” — Acts 4:29

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1875



The Baptist Standard Bearer, Inc.

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Thou hast given a *standard* to them that fear thee;
that it may be displayed because of the truth.
— *Psalms 60:4*

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THE WALDENSIAN EMBLEM

lux lucet in tenebris

“The Light Shineth in the Darkness”

ISBN# 157978450X

To My BELOVED PARENTS,

WHO HAVE CARED FOR ME SO TENDERLY, WHO HAVE
WATCHED OVER ME SO ANXIOUSLY, AND WHO HAVE PRAYED
FOR ME SO FERVENTLY, THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS MOST AF-
FECTIONATELY INSCRIBED, AS A FEEBLE TESTIMONIAL OF
THE GRATITUDE AND THE LOVE OF THEIR SON,

JAMES MARION FROST.

(3)

PREFATORY NOTE.

INSTEAD of a formal preface, simply a few words will be offered by way of explanation. When this work was begun, nothing could have been further from the author's expectations and intentions than to write a book. His only purpose was to give the subject a thorough investigation for himself. As it opened up before him, however, and as his interest increased, he determined, in the midst of the investigations, to give the result of his labors to the public, selecting the *Western Recorder* as the medium. The following chapters were, therefore, originally designed as so many articles of a serial for that paper. This fact will account for the marked personal cast they sometimes assume in the way of appeal. Their publication in book-form was first suggested by one of Kentucky's oldest and most judicious pastors, to whom the entire manuscript was read, and whose judgment and opinion deserved the utmost confidence and respect. The advice to put the matter into a small book was taken, partly because it had become rather bulky for a newspaper publication, but especially because it was hoped that by giving to it a more permanent form, more good would eventually be accomplished, which was the sole reason for publishing at all.

It would, perhaps, be well to state also that scattered along through the work, in every chapter, and especially in Chapters IV., VI. and X., are to be found a large number of concessions from Pedobaptist authors. Many of these are new, and all of them very valuable, and if widely circulated will be for the furtherance of gospel truth. Special mention might be made of those quotations, taken from the recent controversy on this subject, published in the *Southern (Methodist) Review*, and conducted by two Methodist divines—Rev. A. T. Bledsoe, editor of the *Review*, and one of his brethren, of considerable *notoriety* in this State. These will be of great value to any one studying the subject. Great care has been exercised to preserve perfect accuracy in all the quotations given. All of them, unless otherwise designated, were copied directly from

the original works; and those from a second-hand source are taken from the most reliable authorities, whose names are also given. Some Baptist authors have been quoted without mentioning their names.

The quotations are made very accessible by a completed index of authors quoted, arranged in alphabetic order.

The earnest and prayerful endeavor throughout has been to give the subject a purely practical turn. It has been written in a Christian spirit and for a Christian purpose, and is offered for the kindly consideration of those who differ from the positions taken. First read, and then approve or condemn. As the work was designed especially for the masses, any assistance in giving it a wide circulation among them, will be very gratefully received. Already much pleasure, and profit, and real Christian joy have been found in the preparation of the work; and now that it may find its way into the homes and hearts of many, and that, under the gracious influence of the Holy Spirit, the cause of truth may be advanced, while that of error is checked, at least a little, by the contribution of his mite, is the earnest prayer of

THE AUTHOR.

JULY 17, 1875.

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“REASONS WHY BAPTISTS OUGHT TO TEACH THEIR DISTINCTIVE VIEWS . . . First, *it is a duty we owe to ourselves*. We must teach these views in order to be consistent in holding them. Because of these we stand apart from other Christians, in separate organizations. . . We have no right thus to stand apart unless the matters of difference have real importance; and if they are really important, we certainly ought to teach them.”

JOHN A. BROADUS

The Duty of Baptists To Teach Their Distinctive Views.
(Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1881).

“No religious denomination has a moral right to a separate existence unless it differs essentially from others. Ecclesiastical differences ought always to spring from profound doctrinal differences. *To divide Christians, except for reasons of gravest import, is criminal schism*. Separate religious denominations are justifiable only for matters of conscience growing out of clear scriptural precept.”

J. L. M. CURRY

A Baptist Church Radically Different From Paedobaptist Churches.
(Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1889).

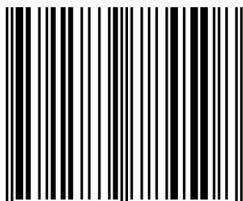
“There is something distinctive in the principles of Baptists. They differ from all other denominations; and the difference is so great as not only to justify, but to demand, their separate existence as a people . . . What distinctive mission have the Baptists, if this is not their mission? - to present the truth in love on the matters wherein they differ from Pedobaptists. What is there but this that justifies their separate denominational existence and saves them from the reproach of being schismatics? *If they have a right to denominational life, it is their duty to propagate their distinctive principles, without which that life cannot be justified or maintained.*”

J. M. PENDLETON

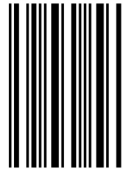
Distinctive Principles of Baptists.
(Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1882).

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