The First Principles

WHAT ARE THE FIRST PRINCIPLES?

We believe the Bible.

We believe that Eternal Life is only available through a correct understanding of the Bible.

But... How much do we have to understand to be saved?

What are the "First Principles"?

And how do we determine what they are?

This study will attempt to address these questions

Based on the Book by Bro. George Booker

The First Principles

Class 1 • The Two Extremes

"First Principles" are the set of beliefs that you are required to understand and believe before your baptism is valid.

True Belief precedes True Baptism

• Acts 2:36-42 • Acts 8:4-12 • Acts 18:4-11 • Matthew 28:19

It is vital that we attempt to define these First Principles, so that we can have some standard whereby we agree to fellowship one another.

The Two Extremes in attempting to define fellowship are:

_____ _____

We need to avoid these extremes, and find a "middle ground":

> *"How far ought we to go and where ought we to stop... in our demands on our fellow believers?*
>
> *Men of God are afraid on the one hand of compromising the truth in fellowship; and on the other, of sinning against the weaker members of the body of Christ. The only end there can be to this embarrassment is found in the discrimination between true principles and uncertain details that do not overthrow them."*
>
> - Robert Roberts, "True Principles and Uncertain Details", *The Christadelphian*, May 1898, Page 182

• A "Statement of Faith" is not just a list of the First Principles •

Ideally, the three should be the same:

- First Principles are the Doctrines essential to salvation
- These Doctrines are the ones that you need to believe before baptism
- Your Statement of Faith should include these Doctrines

The First Principles

Class 2 • The Gospel

- Matthew 4:23
- Luke 24:46-47
- Romans 1:1-5
- Romans 4:23-5:9
- 1st Corinthians 15:1-4
- Galatians 3:8-14
- Galatians 3:26-29
- Ephesians 2:11-20
- 1st Thessalonians 1:5-10
- 1st Peter 1:18-25

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Class 3 • The Apostle's Public Lectures

• Peter in Jerusalem	Acts 2:22-42
• Peter at the Healing of the Lame Man	Acts 3:12-26
• Stephen at his Stoning	Acts 7:2-56
• Philip with the Ethiopian	Acts 8:30-39
• Peter to Cornelius	Acts 10:34-48
• Paul in Antioch	Acts 13:15-39
• Paul in Athens on Mars Hill	Acts 17:22-31
• Paul in Caesarea to Felix	Acts 24:14-21
• Paul in Jerusalem to Festus and Agrippa	Acts 26:2-27

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The First Principles

Class 4 • Paul's "Faithful Sayings"

- 1st Timothy 1:15
- 1st Timothy 2:3-6
- 1st Timothy 4:9-11
- 2nd Timothy 1:9-13
- 2nd Timothy 2:7-8
- 2nd Timothy 2:11-13
- 2nd Timothy 3:16-17
- Titus 2:11-15
- Titus 3:4-8

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The First Principles

Class 5 • The Seven Ones

• One Body	• Ephesians 2:16 • 1st Corinthians 12:12-27	• 1st Corinthians 10:16-17 • Colossians 3:15
• One Spirit	• Ephesians 2:18 • 2nd Timothy 3:16	• 1st Corinthians 6:17 • Philippians 1:27
• One Hope	• 1st Corinthians 13:13 • Galatians 5:5	• 1st Corinthians 15:19 • Colossians 1:5
• One Lord	• 1st Timothy 2:5 • Romans 5:18-19	• Philippians 2:11
• One Faith	• Romans 3:22&30 • Ephesians 2:8-9	• Philippians 1:27
• One Baptism	• Romans 6:3-4 • Galatians 3:27-29	• Colossians 2:12
• One God	• Romans 3:30 • 1st Timothy 2:5	• 1st Corinthians 8:6 • Galatians 3:19-20

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The First Principles

Class 6 • The Apostle's Creed

"I believe in God the Father, Almighty; **1**
Maker of Heaven and Earth; **2**
and in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; **3**
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, **4**
born of the virgin Mary; **5**
suffered under Pontius Pilate, **6**
was crucified, dead and buried; **7**
the third day he rose from the dead; **8**
he ascended into heaven, **9**
and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; **10**
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. **11**
I believe in the Holy Spirit; **12**
the holy church; **13**
the communion of saints; **14**
the forgiveness of sins; **15**
the resurrection of the body; and **16**
the life everlasting." **17**

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The First Principles

Class 7 • ***"Synopsis of the One Faith Taught by the Apostles"***
Dr. John Thomas, 1867

One God, inhabiting light unapproachable, yet everywhere present by 1
Universal spirit (irradiant from Himself) revealed to Israel and manifested in 2
Jesus of Nazareth, a mortal man, who was 3
Born of Mary, by the Holy Spirit, and thus constituted the Son of God; 4
He was put to death as a "sin offering"; 5
Exalted to the heavens "until the restitution of all things", 6
Thus confirming the Promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and 7
The Covenant made with David, which have realization in 8
The Second (personal) Coming of Jesus to the earth; 9
The Resurrection and Judgment of the whole household of God (just and unjust); 10
The bestowal of Immortality on those who are found worth, 11
and appointed rulers in His kingdom; 12
The condemnation of the unworthy, to the second death; 13
The enthronement of Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews, and of the whole earth; 14
The establishment of the Kingdom of God (the kingdom of Israel), in the Holy Land; 15
Involving the restoration of the Jews from dispersion; 16
The destruction of the Devil and his works, scripturally understood as sin 17
and lusts of the flesh, in every mode of manifestation, and 18
The subjugation of all kingdoms and republics on earth. 19
The kingdom, in it's mediatorial phase, will last one thousand years, and 20
will destroy "all enemies", including death itself. 21
The human race is essentially mortal, under the law of sin and death. 22
Jesus, the Christ, through death and resurrection, brought immortality to light. 23
Salvation is attainable only by the belief of the things concerning the 24
Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ; and 25
Baptism (ie. immersion) in water, for a union with that Name. 26
It is necessary to believe the Old Testament in order to have a correct New Testament faith. 27

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The First Principles

The Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith

I God, the ONE Father, Creator of all, everywhere present by His Spirit
II Jesus, Born of God, anointed with the same Spirit at his Baptism
III Jesus had to come because of Adam's actions
IV The first man was Adam, created "very good", and placed in a garden under laws
V Adam broke the law, and sentenced to return to the ground, thus condemning all
VI God, in kindness, devised a plan to save man from this state
VII God inaugurated His plan by making promises to Adam, Abraham, and David
VIII These promises had reference to Christ
IX This mission of Christ's necessitated him sharing our condemnation yet sinless
X Christ was "God with us" - Yet was Mortal & subject to temptation of sin & death
XI His message was a call to repentance to the Jews
XII That for delivering this message, he was killed, providing a sacrifice for our sins
XIII That on the third day, God raised him from the dead, and exalted him to heaven
XIV That Christ is a priest over his own house only, and doesn't intercede for the all
XV That Christ sent forth apostles to proclaim salvation through his name solely
XVI That the way to obtain this salvation is to believe, be immersed, and obey
XVII The Gospel is the "Things concerning the Kingdom of God and Name of J.C."
XVIII That the things of the Kingdom are defined in the next twelve statements:
XIX That God will set up His Kingdom on Earth
XX That for this purpose God will send Jesus personally to the Earth
XXI That the Kingdom established will be the Kingdom of Israel restored
XXII That this restoration will involve the gathering of the Jews
XXIII That the governing body of the Kingdom will be the Brethren of Christ of all ages
XXIV That at the appearing of Christ the responsible will be raised & judged
XXV That the unfaithful will return second death, and the faithful will reign w/ Jesus
XXVI That this Kingdom will last one thousand years
XXVII That a law will go forth for the nations to be instructed, and peace will grow
XXVIII That the mission of Kingdom will be to subdue all nations, and finally death itself
XXIX That at the end of the 1,000 years, there will be another resurrection & judgment
XXX That the Earth will then be delivered to God by Jesus, with no more sin or death

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