

August 8th, 9th and 10th, 1888.

Pittsylvania Co., Va.,

MILL CHURCH

HELD WITH

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

STANTON RIVER

OF THE

MINUTES

22nd. Agreed that our next Association be held with Mount Arrarat Church, Pittsylvania county, Va., to commence on Tuesday after second Sunday in August 1889, and that Elder W. S. McDowell preach the introductory sermon, Elder E. C. Dodson alternate.

J. G. WOODFIN Moderator.

C. P. WILLIAMS Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

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KEELING, VA., August 1, 1888.

DEAR BRETHREN,—As I was requested to prepare a Circular Letter by you at our last Association to be placed in minutes of our next Association to be held with the Mill Church, Pittsylvania county, Va., on the 8th, 9th and 10th of August 1888, I now make the attempt, though feeling my weakness and imperfection I shrink at the task. But knowing that God is able to bring strength out of weakness I hope my mind may be directed by his divine spirit to write words of comfort and consolation to his dear saints.

Dear brethren and sisters, as Paul was a chosen vessel to bear Christ's name to us, the Gentiles, we would profit to consider well his teaching and admonition. In the eighth chapter of Romans the Apostle commences by saying, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Dear brethren, it is the duty of all christians to bring their bodies under, and keep them in subjection, and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. When we live after the flesh we die to all spiritual joy and comfort, and go mourning in sorrow without hope: but if we through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body

we live a life of peace in the presence of Jesus and have a comfortable assurance of our acceptance with him.

The law of sin and death is such to us because we are unable to satisfy its just demands, but blessed be God for his mercy, we are made free by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, who is the only Saviour, and the only mediator between God and men. For what the law could not do through weakness of the flesh, or in other words by reason of the weakness of the flesh, we are unable to keep the law, therefore could never be justified by our good works, because he that seeks justification by the law is debtor to keep the whole law.

Therefore by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified. This being the case with all of Adams' race, when there was no eye to pity, nor arm to save, God, to display his power and make his love and mercy known, devised a plan of Salvation, and in pursuance of his own appointed time sent his Son into the world in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, and condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Not that we are able even after regeneration to yield sinless obedience to the law, but Christ who knew no sin, was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Our sins are imputed to him, and his righteousness to us, and herein is the gospel plan of salvation set forth, and the only one that would save any of the fallen sons and daughters of Adams. For they that are of the flesh do mind the things of the flesh. Those who are in nature's darkness and have not been killed to the love and practice of sin have no desire after Christ, no love for the truth of the gospel; but they that are after the Spirit do mind the things of the Spirit. These have been born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever, these have been so changed in regeneration that they love the things they once hated. They now love Christ and his people. They love to talk to each other of his goodness and mercy. They love to speak of the glory of his kingdom and power. Yes, dear brethren and sisters, when we can have the presence of Jesus with us, how it is that he

STATISTICAL TABLE.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	POST OFFICES.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Received by Adoption.	Dismissed by Letter.	Deceased.	Error.	Fellowship.	Finances
Whitehorn.....	W. F. Jefferson, T. H. Brumfield, G. H. Thomas.....	Mt. Airy, Va.....	4	1	1	1	1	1	35	\$2.00
Mill.....	C. R. Lewis, H. W. Chaney, R. S. Dodd.....	Malmison, Va.....	3	3	1	1	1	1	52	2.25
Mt. Ararat.....	*G. W. Hundley, *T. N. Walton, L. Payne.....	Whitman, Va.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	58	2.00
Banister.....	J. H. Abbott, A. C. Cox, W. T. Ragsdale.....	Chestnut Level.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	31	2.35
Strawberry.....	*W. S. McDowell, E. W. Emerson, *W. H. Oaks.....	Swansonville, Va.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	21	1.50
Union.....	Not Represented by Letter.....	Pullen's, Va.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	18	1.50
Stonewall.....	A. C. Owen, J. A. West, D. T. Pickral.....	Campbell C. H., Va.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2.50
Weatherford.....	R. L. Dodson, J. A. Ferguson, W. H. Wilson.....	Sycamore, Va.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	54	2.50
Cane Creek.....	*E. C. Dodson.....	Danville, Va.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	32	2.25
Barton's Creek.....	*E. C. Dodson.....	Barton's Creek, Va.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	17	1.50
Chesterfield.....	*J. G. Woodfin.....	Skinquarter, Va.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	.50
Rehoboth.....	T. J. Bowman.....	Milre, Va.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	31	1.00
Malmison.....	W. H. Giles, C. H. Barker, R. B. Adams.....	Malmison, Va.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	26	1.50
Total.....	Note *Elders' Mark. *Absentees' Mark.		21	21	21	21	21	21	267	\$20.35

Names of Ministers and Their Post-office Addresses.

W. S. McDowell, Progress, Franklin Co., Va.
J. G. Woodrin, Skinquarter, Chesterfield Co., Va.
E. C. Dodson, Campbell C. H. Va.
G. W. Hundley, Swansonsville, Pittsylvania Co., Va.
Thoms. N. Walton, Whitwell, Pittsylvania Co., Va.
J. E. Hultsman, Lawyer's Road, Campbell Co., Va.
S. M. Price, Pigeon Run, Campbell Co., Va.

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if we have the Spirit of Christ, of which this warfare is an evidence, though we might and would suffer tribulation in this life, having been chosen thereto, yet we have the pledge that in the resurrection our vile bodies will be changed, fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body, when we will with joy and gladness receive the full fruition of that hope which is to us an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entereth into that within the veil, where Christ our forerunner has for us entered.

Dear brethren, the same eminent apostle in writing to the dear people of God tells them, ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God, and when Christ, who is our life shall appear, we shall also appear with him in glory.

Yes my dear brethren and sisters, if it ever shall be our happy lot to appear with him in glory, it will be enough for us. Then we shall see him as he is and he like him. Then we can spend an endless eternity in praising him for the great love he had for us when he bore our sins in his own body.

Dear brethren, may all that is done and said during our Association be to the honor and glory of God while the benefits shall be ours.

W. H. GILES.

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found us in a wilderness of sin, in a parched and desert land, how he led us about and instructed us, and when we were poor and needy he clothed us with garments of salvation, and when we were hungry and thirsty he gave us the true bread from heaven, and gave us to drink of that fountain whereof if one drinks he never thirsts again. The Holy Spirit takes the things of Jesus and with them comforts his people, supplying all their needs. This is why they mind the things of the Spirit. To be carnally minded is death. There is nothing so destructive to the peace of God's people as living after the flesh, being led astray by the snares of satan who uses every opportunity to ensnare the child of God. Hence the admonition of the Savior watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation. Dear brethren and sisters, Paul tell us to be spiritually minded is life and peace, for we thereby grow in grace and knowledge, have more joy and comfort of the presence of Jesus. Paul tells why it is death to be carnally minded, because the carnal mind is enmity against God, not subject to his law. This is the condition of every unrenewed person. They have no love for God, no love for his people, nor have they any love for the truth. They are yet in darkness, and have no light out of this state of sin and misery and rebellion against God. They can never be brought except by the almighty power of God to quicken them into life, writing his laws in their hearts and imprinting them in their minds; then they will be spiritually minded, made new creatures, fit for the kingdom of heaven, the gospel church. Yes, dear brethren and sisters, the apostle tells us if we have not the Spirit of Christ we are none of his, and if we have the Spirit of Christ it will manifest itself by an orderly walk and godly conversation. If Christ be in you the body is dead because of sin, has no joy in sin, it being subdued by the Spirit; but the spirit is life because of righteousness. God works in his people to will and to do of his own good pleasure. The apostle after lamenting the weakness of the flesh, and the warfare between it and the Spirit, speaks words of comfort and strong consolation to the poor, afflicted child of God, that they through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. He give us the assurance that

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1st. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. S. McDowell, from 2nd Tim. 2:7. Consider what I say and the Lord give thee understanding &c.

2nd. After an intermission the Association met and opened with prayer by Elder Wm. Lundy.

3rd. The Rules of Decorum were read.

4th. Chose Elder J. G. Woodlin Moderator.

5th. Letters from the several churches were read and their standing minuted in the statistical table. (See Table).

6th. Correspondents and visiting brethren were invited to take seats with us whereupon the following were received:

From Country Line—Elders J. S. DAMERON, J. M. HARRIS and brethren Wm. Lewis, Green Dix, Robert Preett and Willis Aaron. (Visitors).

From Mayo—Elder F. J. Stone and R. W. Dix, with file of minutes.

From Black Creek—Elder P. D. Gold.

From Kehukee—Elder B. Greenwood (visitor).

From New River—Elder P. G. Lester.

From Mountain—Elder Wm. Lundy with file of minutes.

From Fishers River—Elder J. D. DRAUGHN (Visitor).

7th. Chose Elder W. S. McDowell, W. H. Giles and G. H. Thomas with the moderator and clerk a committee of arrangements and brethren A. C. Owen and A. C. Cox a committee of finance.

8th. Agreed that the committee of arrangements choose preachers to occupy the stand to-morrow and next day.

7th. Elders Gold and Greenwood preached this afternoon. Adjourned until to-morrow morning.

PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY AUGUST 6th.

11th. The Association met and opened with prayer by Elder E. C. Dodson.

12th. Messengers names were called and absentees marked.

13th. Circular letter prepared by brother W. H. Giles was read and adopted.

14th. Chose brother G. H. Thomas to write the next Circular Letter.

15th. The committee chose Elders Greenwood, Lundy and Stone to preach Thursday, and Elders Gold, Lester and Jones to preach Friday, whereupon they were discharged.

16th. Agreed to change the time of holding our Association so as to commence on Tuesday after second Sunday in August, and days following.

17th. Called on brethren that were appointed to attend sister Associations to report.

18th. Appointed messengers to attend sister Associations as follows:

To Pig River—ELDER W. S. McDOWELL, W. F. JEFFERSON, G. H. THOMAS and A. C. OWEN.

To Mayo—ELDER T. N. WALTON and BROTHERN C. R. LEWIS and C. P. WILLIAMS.

19th. Agreed to continue correspondence by minute with Little River, New River, Smith's River, Mayo and Black Creek Associations.

20th. Elders McDowell and Walton reported that Sycamore, Stone Road, and Staunton River churches were dissolved.

21st. Committee of finance reported:

Received from the churches.....	\$20.85.
Balance in Clerk's hand.....	\$1.80.
Total.....	\$21.65

EXPENDITURES.

Printing and postage on 500 copies of these minutes.....	11.00.
Clerk's fee.....	10.00.
Total.....	21.00.
Balance in Clerk's hands.....	1.65