

The International Old Baptist Union.

The following Synopsis of what we believe, teach and practise, was written in 1899 by the late Rev. H. Augustus Squire, founder of the English Conference and first President of the International Old Baptist Union :—

We believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost—Three Persons in One Godhead—as set forth in the Scriptures.

We " contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered unto the saints"—the faith that honours God by obedience to His Word.

We believe that now, as in the time of the Apostles, " God commandeth all men everywhere to Repent " and Believe the Gospel ; and that the first principles of the Gospel, were then, and are now, Repentance towards God, and Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Baptism of repentant believers (by immersion) unto remission of sins—through the Atonement—and for the gift of the Holy Ghost, by the Laying on of hands (see the doctrines of Christ, Heb. vi. 1-2 and xiii. 8). Then said Peter unto them, " Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for [unto] the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost " (Ac'ts ii. 38-39). Thus the gift of the Holy Spirit follows Baptism, through the ordinance of the Laying on of hands with prayer. " Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost " (Acts viii. 17 ; see also Acts ix. 17 ; Acts xix. 5-6 ; and I Cor. xii.). These spiritual gifts are for every member of the Body or Church of Christ on the earth, as He the Holy Spirit wills. " He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son " (II John 9, 10, 11, and Gal. i. 6-9).

We believe that all true ministers—Pastors or Bishops, and Deacons—should be called to their sacred work by the Holy Ghost, and set apart by fasting, prayer, and the Laying on of hands of those previously ordained, according to the Scriptures. " As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate Me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted, and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away "—(Acts xiii. 2-3, see also Deut. xxxiv. 9).

Thus we teach and administer the fulness of the Gospel, strictly observing all things whatsoever the Lord hath commanded in His Word. " Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God "—(Matt. iv. 4). We believe that " God would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth," there being but One Saviour and Mediator between God and man—Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all. We believe that God is unchangeable, and is no respecter of persons or generations, and therefore the power of God by the signs promised by Christ with the Gospel, shall follow them that believe (Mark xvi. 17-18) now, as in the days of the Apostles ; for " All the promises of God are yea and amen in Christ Jesus." We thus believe that the sick may still be healed according to James v. 14-15.

While in sympathy with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, we scripturally maintain that the Church of Christ is composed of baptized believers who, as of old time, continue steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship ; and we believe that all such should partake of the Lord's Supper in remembrance of His death until He come.

As a people, we are united Internationally, to observe and teach all the principles of the first Christian Church founded by Christ and the Apostles. We invite all—individuals and churches—who love the truth in its old-time fulness and simplicity, and are seeking to return from the systems of uninspired men to " the old paths " of power and blessing, to communicate with our leading ministers or read our publications.

T. H. SQUIRE, D.D.