

Baptist History

Lesson 12

Baptists in Georgia

- Nicholas Bedgewood was first known Baptist in Georgia. He baptized Benjamin Stirk who became a missionary to Georgia.
- Another missionary named Edmond Botsford came to Tuckasoking. “He preached all over the country from Augusta to Savannah, baptized 148 persons, organized the Botsford church 25 or 35 miles below Augusta, and laid the foundation of future churches.” (Cathcart)

Baptists in Georgia

- Daniel Marshall (Shubal Stearns' bro-in-law) helped organize the Kiokee church. This was the first Baptist church in Georgia (1772). His son, Abraham and grandson Jabez pastored the church after he died in 1784. This church's sponsoring church was Big Stevens Creek, SC.

Georgia Associations

- Georgia Association was started in 1784. Other association broke off this one, but by 1810, there were 52 churches in the Georgia Association.
- There were five associations by 1803. In 1813, the Savannah Association started the Savannah Baptist Society for Foreign Missions.

Georgia Baptists

- A state association was formed by 1822 and was called the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia.
- On May 8, 1845, the Southern Baptist Convention was formed by churches from Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia.

Definition of Association

- Group of churches of like faith and order that fellowship on an equal basis, regardless of its relative size or financial contributions, for some particular purpose such as missions, education and benevolence.
- Possesses no power or authority over the churches

Definition of Society

- Made up of various entities (churches, organizations and individuals) that work together for a specific purpose. Representation is based mainly on the financial contributions made to advance the society's goal.
- Larger churches can sometimes have more influence. Many conventions today act like societies. They are more centralized than associations.

Triennial Convention

- Adoniram Judson and Luther Rice
- Compromise led to the formation of the General Convention of the Baptist Denomination of the USA for Foreign Missions. (Triennial Convention)
- Did not take on much of the associational thought of equal representation regardless of contributions.

Triennial Convention

- Wayland's 1857 Notes on the Principles and Practices of Baptist Churches: "An attempt was made, pretty early in the history of this organization, to give it control over all our benevolent efforts. It was proposed to merge it in our Educational Societies, Tract Societies, Home Mission Societies and our Foreign Mission Societies, so that one central board should have the management of all our churches, so far as their efforts to extend the kingdom of Christ were concerned...(this was defeated)... We look back, at this present day, with astonishment that such an idea was ever entertained."

Southern Baptist Convention

- Two factors leading to the split for the Triennial Convention = migration of Baptist and slavery
- Baptists in the South thought the TC wasn't doing its job in sending missionaries to the Southwest.
- Southern Baptists weren't in favor of taking a stand against slavery

Back to Georgia Baptists

- Joseph Scarboro was a proponent of Landmarkism in Georgia.
- “Elder Scarboro was self-educated and became a mental giant. Unequaled as a theologian, as a public speaker few equaled him. He used his abilities in championing righteous causes, unafraid to challenge anything he believed was wrong.” –Bogard’s “A Leader Who Refused to be Called a Leader.”

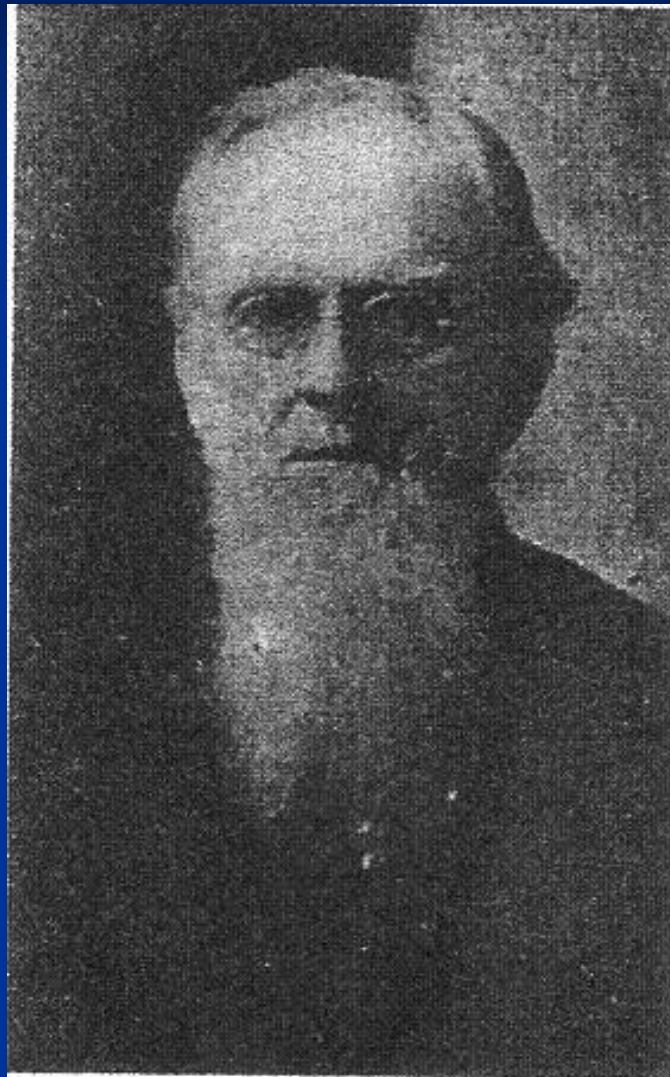
Georgia Baptists

- Scarborough was at the forefront of the battle between the SBC and Global Missions.
- J.R. Graves spoke out against the way the SBC did missions in 1859, saying that missionaries should be sent out by local churches or individual churches working together rather than being under the authority of the Foreign Missions Board.

Global Missions

- Tarleton Perry Crawford
 - Missionary to China who threw himself into the culture, language and ways of the people in a way his contemporaries wouldn't.
 - Was part of the movement that went against the way the SBC did mission work.
 - “I am not opposed to the existence of Conventions, Societies, Boards or Committees of the proper kind, but I am deeply opposed to all those which intrude themselves and their enterprises upon the Churches.”
 - His name was removed from the board's approved list.

T.P. Crawford



THE LAST PICTURE OF DR. CRAWFORD
MADE IN 1901

Georgia Baptists

- Scarboro – published a Baptist paper, which allowed him to speak out against the board method of missions.
- He left the SBC and joined the Landmarkers in Arkansas, who would help form the General Association in 1905.

Tennessee Baptists

- Tidence Lane was a man whom Shubal Stearns led to the Lord. He was a member of the Sandy Creek Church in North Carolina.
- Lane led a group of church members to Tennessee, where they organized Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church in 1779.
- By 1781, five or six churches had been organized and they decided to form an arm of the Sandy Creek Association.

Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church



Tennessee Baptists

- This Tennessee branch of the Sandy Creek Association soon became known as the Holston Association. (1786)
- Holston Association contained seven churches.
- Jonathan Mulky was the first Baptist preacher recorded in Tennessee, but Lane helped organize the first Baptist church and was moderator of the first association.

Holston Association

- From Burnett's Sketches of Tennessee's Pioneer Baptist Preachers: The association was "not an association of ministers, but of churches, organized, not to legislate but to give counsel, each being an independent body. The Association answered queries sent up by the churches, and gave advice on such matters as points of doctrines, church discipline, the duties of deacons, qualifications of deacons' wives, the laying on of hands, foot-washing, etc."

Tennessee Baptists

- Many other associations formed during the next few decades.
- In 1824, churches in central Tennessee had doctrinal arguments over election and the extent of atonement.
- Alexander Campbell soon moved into the area.
- In 1833, the Tennessee State Convention was started.

Alexander Campbell

- Founder of the Church of Christ movement.
- Moved into central Tennessee and cause problems for Baptists.

