

I. Introduction

- A. During the hard struggle for reformation, the Baptists gave continuous and valuable aid.
- B. They fought bravely with the Reformers, but they were doomed to bitter disappointment.

II. All the leading Reformers who so heroically freed themselves from the Roman Catholic Church were guilty of establishing "State Churches" which continued to persecute the sovereign local church, as had the Catholics.

- A. Luther fastened a "State Church" upon Germany
- B. Zwingli fastened a "State Church" upon Switzerland.
- C. John Knox fastened a "State Church" upon Scotland.
- D. Henry VIII fastened a "State Church" upon England
- E. These Protestant churches carried with them many of the errors of Catholicism.
 - 1. Church and State combination.
 - 2. Preacher-Church government.
 - 3. Infant baptism.
 - 4. Sprinkling or pouring for baptism.
 - 5. Baptismal regeneration.
 - 6. Persecution of others.

III. The name "Protestant" identified those churches who had protested the Catholic errors and separated themselves from her.

- A. All "Protestant" churches had their beginnings in the period of the Reformation or since that time.
- B. Baptists were not "Protestants." They existed before the Catholics and were never part of Catholicism.
- C. So-called Christianity is divided into three groups, or possibly four:
 - 1. Baptists
 - 2. Protestants
 - 3. Catholics
 - 4. Greek Orthodox Catholic

IV. As the Anabaptists (Baptists) were known for their continued opposition to Catholicism and error, it became common to call all the enemies of Catholicism (and associated error) Anabaptists. In this manner, the name was misused and many groups, who were not Anabaptists, came to bear the name.

- V. History records the presence of Baptists in many different countries during the Reformation such as Switzerland.
- A. By 1525 the Baptists had numbers in Switzerland. In the vicinity of St. Gall, there were three large churches Teuuffen, Herisau, and Brunnen.
- B. The Baptists in Switzerland not only suffered persecution from the Catholics but also from the Reformers such as Zwingli!
1. The council of St. Gall, September 9, 1527, called by Zwingli, determined to rid themselves of the “Dippers” or Baptists and issued the following edit: “In order that the dangerous, wicked, turbulent, and seditious sect of Baptists may be eradicated, we have thus decreed : In anyone is suspected of rebaptism, he is to be warned by the magistracy to leave the territory under penalty of the designated punishment. Every person is obligated to report those favorable to rebaptizers, Teachers of rebaptism, rebaptizing preachers, and leaders of hedge [to limit or qualify (something) by conditions or exceptions] meetings are to be drowned. No one is allowed to secede from the (Zwingli) church.
 2. This decree did not produce the desired effect, for upon March 26, 1530, another and similar edict was put forth.
- C. In Zurik, one of the main cities in Switzerland, persecutions were even worse.
1. At first, Zwingli held debates with Baptist leaders without much success, and then he invoked the strong of the law.
 2. In 1525, Zwingli issued an edict at Zurick, which read: “We, therefore, ordain and require that hereafter all mem, women, and boys and girls forsake rebaptism, and shall not make use of it hereafter, and shall let infants be baptized.”
 3. This edict was carried out with great zeal and the Baptists who were convicted and were drowned.