

Welcome to **HBC**A GREAT Way to Begin 2025 January 5, 2025

Highland Baptist Church

1500 Husband Road, Paducah, KY 42003 Phone 270-442-6444 – Fax 270-442-3373

Pastor Dr. Richard Beck Song Leader Mr. Carl Wilson Music Director Dr. Carolyn Watson-Nickell

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD

Psalm 33:12;

Today we continue our study of I Peter

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

I Peter 2:9;

JANUARY In the Year of Our Lord 2025

Sunday 10:30 - Worship Service

In Person and on Facebook Live

6:00 - The Rest of the Message

Wednesday 6:30 - Prayer & Choir Practice

Helping Hand Food Pantry will be open this Thursday (Weather Permitting)

Pray For Revival - For America - For the Peace of Israel

Why we are BAPTISTS

Church groups other than Baptists have held some of the Baptist distinctives, and one may even find churches that hold all of the distinctives but do not call themselves Baptist. Such groups are "baptistic", but for some reason they choose not to be identified as Baptists. On the other hand, some churches naming themselves "Baptist" are not truly Baptist.

Many mistakenly include "Baptist" in the Protestant group. Church history shows Baptist as a distinct group. History reveals that Baptists are known for 1. Salvation by grace-plus nothing and minus nothing and 2. Eternal security of the believer. Baptists are distinguished from other Christian groups by specific Biblical distinctives. This simple acrostic (that spells Baptists) helps to sum up the core distinctives of Baptists that define our name.

<u>B</u>iblical Authority in all matters of faith and practice. We believe the Bible is inspired and infallible and is the final authority (See 2 Timothy 3:16; John 17:17; Acts 17:11; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20–21.)

<u>A</u>utonomy or self governing power of the local church. (See Colossians 1:18; Acts 13–14, 20:19–30; Ephesians 1:22–23.)

Priesthood of believers. God's Word assures believers that we have direct access to God through our relationship with Christ. (See Hebrews 4:14–16; 1 Timothy 2:5–6; 1 Peter 2:5–10.)

Two offices within the church. Scripture only mentions two church offices—pastor (also referred to as elder or bishop) and deacon. (See Philippians 1:1; Acts 6:1–7; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:6–9; 1 Peter 5:1–4.)

<u>Individual soul liberty</u>. We believe that each person must make a personal decision of repentance and faith in Christ. (See Romans 10:9–17, 14:1–23.)

Separation of church and state. God established both civil and local church governments. They have distinct responsibilities and operations. Believers in a free society should influence government toward righteousness. (Matthew 22:15-22; 28:19-20; Romans 13:1-7)

Two ordinances—baptism and the Lord's Table (also called communion). These ordinances have no part in salvation and only serve as pictures of what Christ did for us. (See Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; Acts 2:38–43, 8:36–38; Romans 6:1–6)

Separation and personal holiness. We believe that Christ's ultimate sacrifice demands our complete dedication and commitment, and we desire that our daily living would reflect the holiness of our great God. (See 2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Peter 1:16.)