

**BAPTIST MISSIONS IN THE SOUTH: A CENTURY
OF THE SAVING IMPACT OF A GREAT
SPIRITUAL BODY ON SOCIETY IN THE
SOUTHERN STATES. A MANUAL FOR MISSION
STUDY CLASSES AND AN INSTRUCTIVE STORY
FOR THE GENERAL READER**

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Baptist missions in the South: a century of the saving impact of a great spiritual body on society in the Southern States. A manual for mission study classes and an instructive story for the General reader by Victor I. Masters

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**A Century of the Saving Impact of a Great
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By

VICTOR I. MASTERS, D. D.

Editor of Publications for the Home Mission
Board of the Southern Baptist Convention,
and Author of Baptist Home Missions
and Home Mission Task.

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P R E F A C E

Baptists have had no small part in the making of America. They were patriots and participated in the Revolution of 1775; they bore a valiant part in that great struggle for liberty. To their everlasting credit, the Baptists gave the Tories no comfort. Their democratic principles as to church polity helped to make them democratic in civil affairs.

Along with their doctrine of democracy they have laid great stress on individualism, personal responsibility. Sponsorship in religion is alien to their thoughts. To his own Master each one must give account. They have no mediator except Christ; direct approach through him to God, the Father, is the right of every individual.

Growing out of these ideas is the great doctrine of civil and religious liberty, freedom from the tyranny of kings and priests, the right to worship God according to the dictates of one's own conscience.

Possibly the greatest contribution that Baptists have made to America is their consistent championship and prevailing influence in securing religious liberty for their great Republic. For it they have paid fines, suffered the whip's lash, and been immured in prison, and these principles they have not claimed for themselves only, but for all the people.

They have contended, not for toleration, but for full and unqualified freedom of conscience. Bancroft, the great historian, said that religious liberty,

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full and free, was from the first a trophy of the Baptists.

Other people, especially Presbyterians, were in the fight for religious liberty, but it is a matter of history that the chief crown for that victory should be placed on the Baptist brow. This is clearly proved by the two admirable chapters of this volume on the struggle for religious liberty.

Baptists have made rather than written history and their great part in the making of America has not been given due consideration. We are coming to realize the importance of setting down the achievements of our denomination.

Baptists have been a great missionary people. In a roll call of the great missionary heroes, many Baptist names would have to be recorded. Carey and Judson are immortal in the foreign field. We have men equally great who have given themselves to the Home Mission task. The recital of our triumphs in Home Mission endeavor is as interesting as romance; indeed much of it in the early days was as romantic as the work beyond the seas.

The present volume of Dr. Masters is an attempt to give a succinct and realistic treatment of Southern Baptist missions. It sets forth in admirable fashion the great missionary trend and progress of Southern Baptists. The reading of this book should provoke hundreds of our people to a diligent study of Southern Baptist progress and to a greater appreciation of the significant part we have had in the making of this great section of our common country.

B. D. GRAY.

AUTHOR'S FOREWORD.

There is no standard by which to measure the future except the past. Past failures and successes warn and instruct and the devotion and heroism of those who have gone before are for our inspiration. Understandingly to study the past is to gain wisdom and enthusiasm to serve the future.

Belief in these principles has given shape to the method of this book. It is an effort to present the most significant events in the development as a saving force in the American Republic of a great spiritual body. In form and extent arranged to meet the needs of Mission Study Classes, it seeks to tell the story of the saving impact on society of the Baptists in the South from the end of the Colonial Period to the present time. The effort is also made to inform the general reader and to incite in those who may need it a desire to study further the history of Southern Baptists.

Many books have been consulted in the preparation of this work. No attempt will be made here to catalogue the sources of information. Wherever it has seemed desirable, the authority for statements is given in the text. For the rest the Bibliography at the close of the book must suffice. A startling fact confronted the author at the outset, the fact that there is not in existence an authoritative history of Southern Baptists as a body. Histories of the denomination in many of the States were available, though