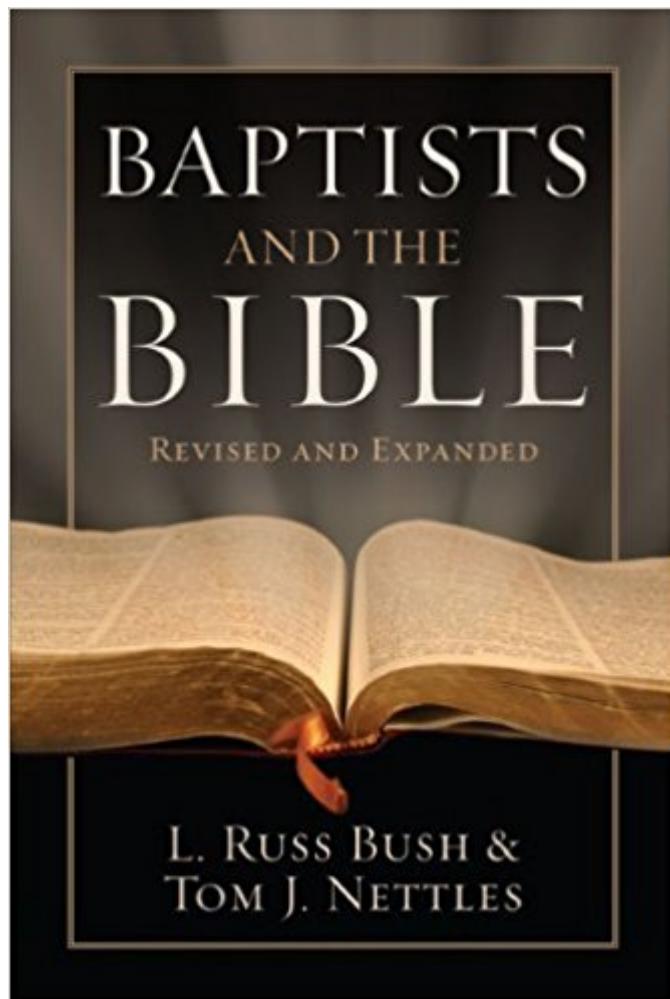


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# Baptists And The Bible



## **Synopsis**

A revised edition for students at the divinity school level who study the origins of modern Baptists in 17th Century England, bibliology of the 18th and 19th century Baptists of England and America, and the sources for present-day uncertainties in the field of bibliology, especially as it relates to the Southern Baptist Convention as well as the Northern Baptist Convention. An excellent tool for researchers, scholars, as well as laymen.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Tom J. Nettles is professor of Historical Theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and he currently resides in Louisville, Kentucky. Russ Bush is Academic Dean at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he teaches theology and philosophy of religion. Bush lives in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Southern Baptist have recently gone through a period of tumult over the question of biblical authority, and more specifically, biblical inerrancy. Does the Bible have errors in any field of reality? Does the Bible contain errors when it comes to science or history? Conservatives within the Southern Baptist Convention chose to face this question head on. Today, the inerrantist view of Scripture has become the prominent position of most everyone in Baptist leadership. Baptists and the Bible (Broadman & Holman, 1999) by Russ Bush and Tom Nettles, was very influential during the early years of the Southern Baptist debate over inerrancy. It first was released in 1980, right at

the time when the political battle over theology was beginning in Baptist life. Baptists and the Bible was instrumental in that it makes a strong case for Baptist continuity between contemporary inerrantists and the forefathers of the Baptist heritage. Bush and Nettles argue that inerrancy is not something new in Baptist life. Historical documentation establishes a wide consensus on this issue in the past. Baptists and the Bible is not primarily about the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention during the last decades of the last century. It is a book of history and theology. With meticulous historical detail, the book outlines a Baptist theology of the Word of God through the centuries, asking such potent questions as: How is the Bible authoritative? How is the Bible inerrant? How is the Bible both a message from God and from man? This influential book made the case that inerrancy is not an innovation, but rather the historic doctrine of Baptists throughout history.

This book documents how Baptists throughout the past few centuries have been known as men of the Book. Whether a man was a general or particular Baptist, a common thread through them was a high and proper regard for the Word of God. This is, one hand, a most encouraging book, as it shows how Baptists have been faithful to the Word of God in face of opposition from within and without the camp of Christ. On the other hand, it is a reminder that sin yet inhabits the saints of God and some will be led astray - and worse: there are false brothers within the camp and some will be shown by their works and doctrine to be no child of God. Heart-breaking as it is, such false ones must be treated as such and not as brothers. Perhaps God will yet bring them to repentance and faith. Our call is to be faithful to the message He has given us and not curry favor with men.

This book was also written by D. L. Russell Bush, good reading and study material. He was a local man from our hometown.

I am reading this book for class I am taking the class with the author so expect to enjoy the book

I have read the newer version of this book. Its focus seems to be on the Southern Baptists, but it extends to other groups as well. Its purpose is to show throughout Baptist history the default is that all of Scripture is inspired by God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) and is the standard we should live. The reason Baptists as a whole are not credal is primarily because the standard is the inerrant and infallible Word of God (Scripture), not the words of man (i.e. a creed). This is a deep and for me a difficult read. It goes into a lot of Baptist history, but as stated the focus is on what individuals and groups

believed about Scripture. It does show that there are variations on issues such as the predestination/free will debate, but that those on both sides have the common ground in the Scripture. Bush and Nettles also point out that the questioning of Scripture is not historically Baptist but crept in from worldly philosophies. That brings the focus on the book: Is the default characteristic of the Baptist movement the soul liberty which allows variation on this and other issues among Baptists, or is it a foundation of the Bible being inerrant and the ultimate authority? When I took a class on Baptist distinctives at Bible college, both were listed, but the one on the Scripture being the only authority for the believer was the first and foundational one. I echo the reviewers who believe every pastor should have this book. While I can argue that every believer should read the book, the unfortunate reality is that most believers would find this a little too boring and wouldn't finish it.

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