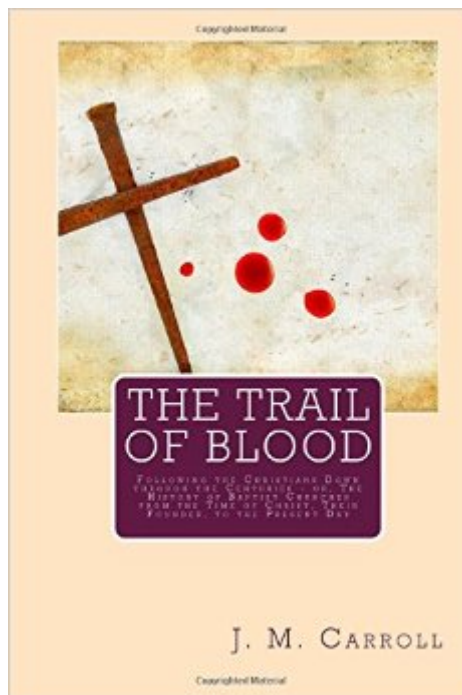


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# The Trail Of Blood: Following The Christians Down Through The Centuries - Or, The History Of Baptist Churches From The Time Of Christ, Their Founder, To The Present Day



## Synopsis

Table of Contents INTRODUCTION by Clarence Walker "Marks of the New Testament Church" • FIRST LECTURE Some Unerring, Infallible Marks The Chart First Period: 30-500 A.D. SECOND LECTURE: 600-1300 A.D. "The Trail of Blood" • THIRD LECTURE: 1400-1600 A.D. "The Trail of Blood" FOURTH LECTURE: 17th, 18th, 19th Centuries FIFTH LECTURE: Religion in the United States "The Trail of Blood in America" • SOME AFTER WORDS FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES "Dr. J. M. Carroll, the author of this book, was born in the state of Arkansas, January 8, 1858, and died in Texas, January 10, 1931. His father, a Baptist preacher, moved to Texas when Brother Carroll was six years old. There he was converted, baptized, and ordained to the Gospel ministry. Dr. Carroll not only became a leader among Texas Baptist, but an outstanding figure of Southern Baptists, and of the world. "Years ago he came to our church and brought the messages found in this book. It was then I became greatly interested in Brother Carroll's studies. I, too, had made a special research in Church History, as to which is the oldest Church and most like the churches of the New Testament. "Dr. J. W. Porter attended the lectures. He was so impressed he told Brother Carroll if he would write the messages he would publish them in a book. Dr. Carroll wrote the lectures and gave Dr. Porter the right to publish them along with the chart which illustrates the history so vividly. "However, Dr. Carroll died before the book came off the press, but Dr. Porter placed them before the public and the whole edition was soon sold. Now, by the grace of God, we are able to present this 66th edition of 20,000. I want to ask all who read and study these pages to join me in prayer and work that an ever-increasing number shall go forth. "To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Christ Jesus; to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in Heavenly places might be known by the Church, the manifold wisdom of God ... unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end, Amen." (Eph. 3:9-10, 21)" -Clarence Walker

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I gave this pamphlet 3 stars because it is the classic expression of a movement within the Baptist denomination known as "Landmarkism." It is good to read if you understand its context. The Trail of Blood has been called "successionism" because Landmarkers believe that the Baptist church has existed in unbroken succession since Jesus was baptized at the Jordan River by John the Baptist. (It is also called the JJJ theory.) Landmarkist beliefs began circulating in the 1830s and stem primarily from the teaching of J.R. Graves who was a Baptist editor and preacher in Tennessee. Graves taught that Baptist churches are the only true churches; the true church is local and visible and that the Baptist church and the kingdom of God are one and the same. Landmarkism split Baptist churches and threatened the unity of the denomination after the Civil War. This pamphlet was written by J. M. Carroll, the brother of the prominent Texas Baptist and founder of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, B. H. Carroll. (Baptist historians still debate whether or not B. H. Carroll espoused Landmarkist views.) Most Baptist historians today contend that Baptists derived from English Separatism in the 17th Century. Some believe that Baptists were also influenced by Dutch Anabaptists. It is abundantly clear that Baptists were not connected to groups such as the Donatists or Waldensians mentioned in this pamphlet. For more on Baptist history see: H. Leon McBeth, *The Baptist Heritage* (1987); Walter Shurden, *Not a Silent People* (1995); Bill Leonard, *Baptist Ways* (2003); C. Douglas Weaver, *In Search of the New Testament Church* (2008) and David W. Bebbington, *Baptists Through the Centuries* (2010).

I found some it a little hard to piece together. It is interesting but I wonder about the historical accuracy and how the theology of the different parties meshed. A stretch of the imagination.

Old favorite, good to read it again. great champion of the Faith. Good documentation of historical facts. reccomend it to all.

Quite an interesting read. Seemingly accurate and brings into perspective the uniqueness of this

denomination. Very well organized and written.

This "book" is actually a compilation of a series of lectures given by Bro. Carroll at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church. The information in the book and, just as important, the (short) list of referenced documentation is invaluable. The source list is given because Bro. Carroll doesn't expect one to take his lectures all at face value. The problem with most "researchers" is they take too much at face value without considering the complete context of source writings. For instance, would you trust Catholic or Protestant (Reformers') writings about the beliefs & practices of these churches? Unfortunately, most critics of this work do. They don't realize that Catholics and Reformers **MUST** disagree with this work because to agree with it would mean they would have to disagree with their own alleged history. So, before you critique this work for its accuracy, do what Bro. Carroll did and research the writings in full. I would direct you to search out "The History and Theology of the Ancient Vallenses and Albigenses" by George Sanley Faber (it's on Carroll's source list).

I am enraged that this book is spewing such lies. A very easy way to show how void of truth this book is, is to show that all the sects that Carroll labels as "Baptist" had beliefs that were heretical and absolutely unacceptable to modern-day Baptists: Carroll claims the Montanists were Baptists, but the Montanists believed apostles and prophets could forgive sins in addition to God. They also required virgin girls to wear veils. Carroll claims the Donatists were Baptists, but the Donatists believed in confession, veneration of the saints and the Virgin Mary, and almost everything else Catholicism teaches. Carroll explicitly stresses that the Cathari and Paulicians were Baptists, but neither of these groups even baptized people! In fact they strongly preached against it! Look up any of these "Baptist" groups if you do not believe me. I fully encourage research: "The truth shall set you free." Carroll has invented a fairy tale which no self-respecting Baptist or Christian should take seriously.

This is a poorly written booklet and does not jive with the documented truth. Baptist did not have their origins in the Anabaptist movement of the 16th century Reformation nor did they exist in the days of John the Baptist. They were one of the separatist movements who broke away from the Church of England in the early 17th century. You will get all kinds of stories from Baptist people who in fact like to make you think that they were part of the church in the Apostle Paul's day. Not true. I do not know where the author of this little book received his Doctorate's degree by I can tell you that he was poorly educated. If you read this pamphlet it will be very obvious from the first page. So one

must have bestowed a Honorary Doctors Degree upon him. Most Baptist churches are the most prejudice churches you can attend. Most discriminate against divorced men serving as deacons or pastors by misrepresenting scriptures from 1 Timothy and Titus. With the exception of a few they discriminate against people of other than the white race. I know this for a fact as my grandfather and father were both Baptist ministers. There is nothing like attending a good Bible teaching Elder led church.

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