

SCRIPTURAL LIBERTY

Interpreting the Bible in one's own way

"It seems to me a great thing that Baptists are not chained by creeds, but have taken the Bible as their authority; the full significance of that principle has never yet appeared among us. We have paralyzed the Bible by turning it into a law-book and a collection of proof-texts. We have often refused to take it in its own plain meaning and to comprehend the largest sweep of history in it. We have fussed about trifles and have missed the greatest things." -- *Walter Rauschenbusch*

"I could not deal with any crucial problem in thought and life without seeing text after text lift up its hands begging to be used. The Bible came alive to me—an amazing compendium of every kind of situation in human experience with the garnered wisdom of the ages to help in meeting them." -- *Harry Emerson Fosdick*

BAPTISTS ARE A NON-CREEDAL PEOPLE!

Every person has the right and responsibility of reading and interpreting Scripture.



Joanna P. Moore believed in the Bible's liberating message. In 1863, she became the first missionary of the Women's American Baptist Home Missionary Society, serving freed black slaves on Island Number 10 in the Mississippi River. She taught them how to read, and helped those who couldn't read to memorize parts of the Bible. She wanted the freed slaves to hear that the Bible had a liberating message for them.

