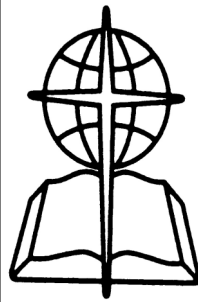


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Thursday, April 12, 2018
 Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along."
 2 Cor. 11: 28b

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"The Appointment"

Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. Each person has an appointment that can't be avoided or canceled. I don't know when yours is. I don't know when mine will be. I know it matters what you believe about that appointment.

Let's think about some views on the subject of death.

View # 1 The Dead Dog View.

View # 2 The Merry Go Round View.

View # 3 All dogs go to heaven View.

View # 4 The Biblical View. I call this one the "The Father knows best view".

First let's think about the non-biblical views of Death. The Dead Dog View says "death is the end of it all". It says, "Our fate is just like the dog or cat." This view communicates that we do not have to account for the actions in this life. It says "get all the gusto you can!" It suggests that a person can commit suicide to end all his or her problems. This view holds that euthanasia is a good and decent way out of this life.

The merry go round view says that life is a cycle. Good grasshoppers turn into lower cast men in the next life. The ultimate goal is to be good enough to become part of the universal one or make it to Nirvana.

Some believe all of us will end up in heaven. This kind of thinking suggests the Cross makes no difference and that people can treat the sacrifice of Jesus as nothing and still be right with the LORD. There is a way that seems right to man but it leads to death and destruction.

You see the above views are not based upon the Word of God but the philosophies of man.

The Father knows best view is what the Bible teaches us about death. The Bible teaches that when the non-believer dies that person continues to exist in hell. Read Luke 16:22-28. This teaches that when the non-believer dies the person has sight, (verse 23). The person is able to communicate, (verse 24). The person has feelings, (verse 24). The person has a memory (verse 25). Hell is a holding place for the unsaved while they await the great white throne judgment we learn about in Revelation 20:11-15. We understand that after the "White Throne judgment" the non-believer will exist forever in the lake of fire and will be forever separated from God and His love. It's a place of no hope, help, or comfort.

Scripture also reveals what happens after the death of the Believer. For the Believer, death is like a bee with no stinger. 1 Corinthians 15:55 Where O death is your sting. This illustration reminds me of my boyhood when I use to remove the stingers from bees. Two things happened: Number one the bee no longer intimidated me. I was no longer afraid of the bee because it could not harm me. Number two; I knew the bee was a goner. Jesus has removed the stinger of death. Death is a door into the presence of Jesus for those who have trusted in Jesus. Read 2 Cor. 5:8 "We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord". We have determined that the non-believer continues to exist so why should we think the believer wouldn't? We are not talking soul sleep here but a conscience existence. We are talking about a more glorious life, free from the earthly burdens. One day Christ will give each believer a glorified body that is fit for eternity in the new heaven and new earth.

The difference of what happens to a person after death is dependent on whether a person receives Jesus Christ as his or her personal savior. The one, who by FAITH trusts Christ needs not be menaced by death but can have a peace and joy concerning when death comes.

The non-believer can believe a multitude of things about death, but yet death holds a tremendous grip upon his or her life. The Christian, even though sometimes influenced by the non-believer views, can enjoy freedom from the grip of death. They can live with the peace and joy of knowing that death is harmless. It is just a doorway into a grander, fuller, more joyous life with our Savior.

What should you do? Put your trust in the victorious work of Jesus. He has removed the stinger from death so that your appointment with death will not have to be a fearful event. If you are a Christian and you are held in bondage by the terror of death, believe the Word of God. It is the Truth and the Truth will set you free.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 15— Homecoming @ Four Points Baptist Church, Special Music by John Ray & Message by Bro. David Grisham. Lunch @ noon. Everybody Welcome
- April 26- 28— Alabama Church Planting Basics
- May 3— Get Acquainted Day @ SBOM, Prattville
- May 6— Senior Adult Sunday
- May 7— Senior Adult Evangelism Conference 9:30- 3 pm @ Dalraida Baptist Church, Montgomery. Free Admission
- May 8— Church Insurance: Protecting People, Protecting Property—SBOM, Prattville— 10am-3 pm
- May 12— 3rd Annual Cruise-in @ Four Points Baptist Church @ 9 am-1pm. Antique Cars-Free Admission-Free Food-Fun Activities for Kids.
- May 13— Happy Mother's Day
- May 20-27— Association Mission's Week
- May 28— Memorial Day, Office Closed



		2017-2018
<u>Church Contributions</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u>
Antioch	120.45	842.80
Ashby	472.00	3,559.64
Bethel	100.00	700.00
Bethlehem	194.52	751.20
Bibbville	539.10	1,722.57
Blocton Third	100.00	400.00
Brent	649.00	4,743.23
Cahaba Valley	86.79	212.43
Calvary		300.00
Camp Branch		
Centreville	932.79	8,623.81
Community	122.90	243.02
Enon		
Eoline	100.00	200.00
Faith		175.00
FBC Woodstock	1,851.63	7,653.11
Four Points		2,700.00
Haysop		2,543.02
Johntown	61.30	892.25
Lowerytown		1,318.10
Lucile	208.00	1,052.00
Marvel		
Mt. Carmel		21.00
Mt. Moriah		219.97
Mt. Zion		
New Hebron	61.05	736.85
Old Union		100.00
Pineview	481.50	3,737.72
Pondville		958.60
Randolph	834.22	4,920.70
Rehobeth		663.46
Schultz Creek	386.47	3,290.34
Shady Grove	414.00	2,078.00
Shady Grove 2		
Six Mile		1,749.63
Smith Hill	75.00	450.00
Thomas Mill	280.18	1,016.69
West Blocton 1st		600.00
Anonymous	180.00	970.00
Totals	\$ 8,250.90	\$ 60,144.14
ALSBOM	722.16	3,181.28
OTHER	209.00	629.00