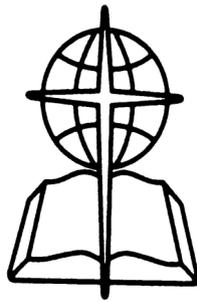


Director of Missions: Bro. Bill Russell
Phone: 256.738.2791
Secretary: Wanda Creel
Phone: 205.926.7866

Thursday, April 26, 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

1055 Montgomery Hwy., PO Box 158, Centreville, AL 35042

Phone: 205.926.7866

E-mail: assocbibb@bellsouth.net ■ www.bibbbaptist.com

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 am-4 pm— Closed Fridays

Legalist-Humble-Excuse Maker-Salty Disciple

We have been studying the Parables of Jesus in our Ministry Training Institute. I was reading Luke 14 to put the "Come to the Banquet" parable into its context. I rediscovered some great lessons that will help us all if we keep them at the top of our memories. Let me share a few with you.

Lesson one is the priority of the law of love found in Luke 14:1-6. In the days of our LORD, the ritual and traditions associated with the Law of Moses took precedence over all other considerations. In this incident our LORD Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. Jesus declared by His actions that the law of love takes priority over all other customs, traditions, or accepted interpretations of the law of God. The Pharisees believed that the Sabbath should be observed negatively in terms of doing no labor and positively in terms of resting and feasting.

Jesus taught by words and actions that the Sabbath was made for man and was intended to be a continual reminder that God was our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. By healing the sick on the Sabbath, our LORD said loud and clear that an expression of genuine goodwill must never be restricted to a particular time or place. It is never wrong to do something good.

Lesson two is, humility leads to honor discovered in Luke 14:7-14. Our LORD Jesus spoke to those who had been invited to the feast. He taught the fact that selfishness and disregard for others disqualifies a person from the place of honor at God's banquet table. He points out that in the practice of hospitality we should not restrict ourselves to an exclusive circle of self-serving friends. Rather we should befriend the unfortunate, the needy and the helpless.

He says that service to those who cannot return the favor will be remembered by the Father God on the day of resurrection.

Here is lesson three. Beware of trying to make excuses. (Luke 14:15-24). Jesus warned those who considered themselves to be inside the circle of God's favor against the peril of making excuses for themselves. Such excuses points to a heart that is far from God. A heart far from God leads to exclusion from the favor of God. Something in the nature of people causes them to have an inflated concept of their own piety and acceptability in the sight of a holy God.

It is always possible to find excuses for neglecting to respond to the invitations that come from God to His people. We need to beware lest we rationalize and exclude ourselves from some experience with God when His invitation comes to us.

These invitations usually come in the form of a command. Every command is linked to a promise. To make foolish excuses for not obeying God's invitation or God's commands is to deny ourselves the privilege of experiencing the fulfillment of His promises. What a shame to miss out on God's goodness!

Lesson four deals with the demands of discipleship which are found in Luke 14:25-33. Our LORD Jesus never offered any easy, cheap, convenient way to achieve success. While salvation is a free gift of God's grace. Being a disciple requires faithful discipline. The passage under discussion is not teaching that we must hate instead of love. Rather, here is an example of the use of hyperbole, which was common among Orientals as they seek to speak in the strongest words possible to convey an important truth.

Our LORD is declaring that if one would be His disciple, then the claims of this discipleship must have priority over all personal relationships interests, and ambitions. Followers of Christ must have no competing loyalties. Jesus is commanding that potential disciples count the cost of discipleship before beginning the journey. Those of us who claim to be disciples must examine the quality of our "Fellowship."

As you read Luke 14, do you have ears that hear? Do you have a heart that is open and receptive? Are you willing to begin to do as our LORD taught that we should? Not following these lessons bring discredit upon the cause of Christ, and it places us in the category of salt that has lost its saltiness.

Love is the supreme law, humility comes before honor, there are no good excuses not to follow the LORD, and discipleship is demanding. Let's hear and heed this word from the LORD.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 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— 2018 Cruise-in @ Four Points Baptist Church @ 9 am-1pm. Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, 4x4's-Free Admission-Free Food-Fun Activities for Children, Door Prizes for Cruise-In Entrants. Everyone Welcome!
- May 13— Happy Mother's Day
- May 13—Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries Sunday
- May 20-27—Association Mission's Week- Pray for your Association.
- May 24— Last Day of School for Students
- May 27— 150th Anniversary Celebration @ Bethlehem-10AM
- May 28— Memorial Day, Office Closed



CONGRATULATIONS!

Bibb County 2018 Graduates

- May 21-Bibb County High School Graduation @ 7 PM
- May 22— West Blocton High School Graduation @ 7 PM
- May 25— Cahawba Christian Academy High School Graduation @ 6 PM— Reception @ 5 PM



GEAR UP! GET READY! GAME ON!

Theme Verse 2 Peter 1:3—His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

Well its almost time for Vacation Bible School once again. Hope you were able to attend the Association VBS clinic on the 22nd at FBC Woodstock. Melissa Thompson, Association VBS Director always does an excellent job sharing and helping our churches prepare and get ready for VBS. Lifeway's VBS "Game On" is a good choice; but there are other good ones available if you don't like this one. We hope your church will plan to have one this year. Vacation Bible School has been a vital part of church ministry since 1898 and is used by more than 25, 000 churches each year to reach 2.5 million people. Last year more than 70,000 salvation decisions were reported as a direct result of VBS. VBS isn't just about fun, games, and snacks. Its primary purpose is leading people to experience the life-transforming power of the Gospel.

Join God's team, Train hard, Celebrate salvation and Encourage one another. Get in the spirit today with "Game On" VBS.

If your church needs assistance or help call Melissa Thompson @ 334/590-2802 or Bro. Bill Russell @ 205/926-7866

