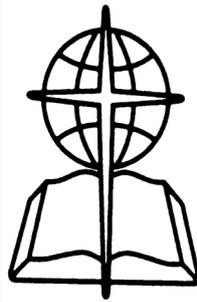


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Thursday, February 8, 2018
 Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along."
 2 Cor. 11: 28b
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True Worship

In chapter three of the book of John Jesus has a Divine appointment with Nicodemus in Jerusalem and we discover many great truths about God from that encounter. In chapter four Jesus goes to Samaria for another Divine appointment. This place was considered unclean by the orthodox Jews. In the conversation with the woman by the well, where she got a drink of spiritual water that was not from the well, we can discover some other wonderful insights. There is a great revelation about true worship in John 4:21-24. Let's think about what Jesus reveals.

There is a dangerous manmade worship present in the world. Jesus alluded to the fact that the Samaritans had made up a lot and really didn't know what they were worshipping. (v.22). It was manmade worship. Manmade worship is artificial because its object and subject are wrong. The Samaritans didn't acknowledge all the Scripture that was available to them and twisted much of the Scripture that they did acknowledge. Their worship was based on half-truths and lies. Some of what the Samaritans used for worship was based on superstitions and traditions that they held. What the Samaritans did then, some still do today.

The manmade worship of the Samaritans was dangerous and unacceptable by the LORD. Manmade worship of today is still dangerous because it takes our focus away from the One who deserves our love and devotion and the results are not what the LORD desires. The results of manmade worship keeps us from growing spiritually and receiving the equipping we need to be effective in our walk with Christ.

There is a God Centered worship that our Father in heaven deserves. God centered worship is initiated by God. V.23 Jesus tells us "The Father seeks" true worshippers to worship Him in two ways.

God centered worship is spiritual. This is true regardless if the worship is your private worship in your quite place or if it is your corporate worship with others. It includes spiritual songs: Colossians 3:16--Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and **spiritual** songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Spiritual worship includes spiritual sacrifice: Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service; (spiritual worship). Also 1 Peter 2:5; "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. It includes spiritual food; 1 Peter 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere (spiritual) milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." It includes spiritual prayers like John the revelator who was "in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet: (Rev. 1:10).

God centered worship is based on the truth. We should ask; what is truth? The Bible is God's written Truth. When who we worship, how we worship, and why we worship is based on God's written word it is God centered rather than manmade. When we examine our private and corporate worship the first question should be; "is this biblical?" Is this song biblically correct and theologically sound? Is the inclusion of an activity mandated or encouraged by the Word of God? Is the focus toward God or is it toward someone or something other than God?

Jesus is the living Truth. He is the "Word" in the flesh. (John 1:14.) An understanding of that should cause us to ask; "Is Jesus pleased with all we do in private or public worship." "Does it lift Him up?" If it does then it is right. It is never wrong to be right.

The Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. That means He wants you to worship Him truly and spiritually! Will you cooperate with Him in true worship?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January & February— Assoc. Diaper Drive for ALBCH'S

- Feb. 13— Executive Board Meeting @ Association Building @ 6:30 pm
- Feb. 14— Happy Valentine's Day!
- Feb. 21— BCUCM meets @ Association Building—9 am

NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN SOON

HE SPEAKS TO ME By Priscilla Shirer

Morning Group: First class will meet at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, February 14th and will run for six consecutive weeks. This class will meet at the Bibb Baptist Associational Building. Workbooks will be \$14 ea. For questions: please call 205.926.7866 or 205.299.2904.

Night Group: First class will meet on Monday, February 19th at 6:30 PM in the Johnston Family Life Center, Brent Baptist Church. Workbooks will be \$14 ea.. For questions: please call 205.926.7057.

- Feb. 15— The Gideon's Annual Pastors Appreciation Banquet will be at the Sawmeal Restaurant Thursday, February 15th @ 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to 205.926.6654 or 205.310.4356 to let them know how many will come from your church (Please a Limit of 6). Also, they need to know if your church wants a Gideon Speaker for Sunday, Feb. 18th.
- Feb. 22— Annual Sav-A-Life Banquet @ Pineview Baptist Church @ 6 pm. Special Guest Speaker will ne Jennifer Christie—Pro-Life Speaker. Call to make your reservations @ 205-926-3170—205-340-2367

Church Contributions	Jan.	2017-2018 Yearly Total
Antioch	157.75	602.75
Ashby	699.10	2,755.88
Bethel	100.00	500.00
Bethlehem	153.36	556.68
Bibbville	495.20	1,183.47
Blocton Third	100.00	300.00
Brent	874.19	3,608.83
Cahaba Valley	125.64	125.64
Calvary		300.00
Camp Branch		
Centreville	2,477.10	6,613.63
Community	120.12	120.12
Enon		
Eoline		100.00
Faith	163.00	175.00
FBC Woodstock	1,108.31	5,008.69
Four Points	450.00	2,250.00
Haysop	1,381.90	2,643.02
Johntown	125.60	646.85
Lowerytown		1,318.10
Lucile	107.00	715.00
Marvel		
Mt. Carmel		21.00
Mt. Moriah		168.25
Mt. Zion		
New Hebron	59.40	637.85
Old Union		100.00
Pineview	705.00	2,805.00
Pondville		958.60
Randolph	607.13	3,504.18
Rehobeth	231.12	663.46
Schultz Creek	432.49	2,452.69
Shady Grove	311.00	1,461.00
Shady Grove 2		
Six Mile	298.30	1,505.11
Smith Hill	75.00	375.00
Thomas Mill	183.55	736.51
West Blocton 1st		300.00
Anonymous	150.00	760.00
Totals	\$11,691.26	\$ 45,972.31
ALSBOM	361.08	2,459.12
TOTAL	\$ 12,052.34	\$ 48,851.43