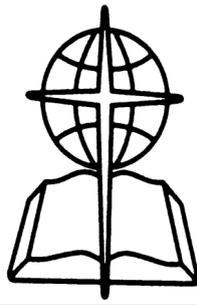


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Thursday, June 28, 2018
Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along."

2 Cor. 11: 28b

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The Cost of Freedom

The United States Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The text of the second section of the Declaration of Independence reads,

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Just because that declaration was made didn't mean that the freedom was automatic. There were several requirements for the liberty to actually take effect. The Revolutionary war was fought and won. Men and women gave their lives. Families were disrupted and fortunes were spent. The freedom had a cost. There's a price that must be paid if this nation is to continue to be a free people.

Likewise, Paul declares followers of Christ are liberated by Christ. (Galatians 5:1) The Christ event (Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection) was the price paid for our liberty from sin, selfishness, and Satan. Christ frees us from the shame of our pass. We enjoy the freedom of the abundant life on this side of eternity. We look forward to a home in heaven where we will be free forever. This is a result of what Christ did for us! We could never pay for spiritual freedom. We must know that there are requirements that come along with living in the liberty Christ has secured for us. We discover those in Galatians 5:13.

The first requirement is that we are **called** to this liberty. This calling has to do with responding to the work of Christ in faith—trust and reliance. We are born with a sin nature. Sometime in our life we each made a choice to sin against God. These facts enslave us to sin. Sin results in a life of bondage which insures that we will not have a relationship with God and the benefits of being His children. But God, in His grace, mercy, and love sent His only begotten Son to redeem us from that bondage. God inspired His word, sent His Spirit, and works through His church to call sinners to repent from sin, and turn to a life of trust in Jesus. To enjoy the freedom purchased by Christ a person must heed the call to salvation.

The second requirement is that I must live a life of discipline. A person who has heeded the call is positionality free, but if he abuses that freedom by using it as an opportunity to sin then he is still enslaved. For example, I don't have to pray, read the Bible, go to Church or Bible study, give offerings, sing songs or work in any fashion to have a relationship with Christ. But if I don't discipline myself to do these, I will miss out on the joy that comes by walking, working and worshipping Jesus.

Also, any sinful attitude, aspiration, or action keeps me away from fellowship with God. These rob me of the liberty to be free from my sinful habits. The Scripture reveals that if we will discipline our self then God will not have to discipline us. (1 Corinthians 11:21-32) If I am to enjoy the riches of my freedom I must confess my sin, receive forgiveness and cleansing from sin and let Christ live in, for, and through me. Then I will not only be positionality free but I will also experience that liberty. I will have victory over the sins that hold me in bondage.

The third requirement of liberty is service to one another in love. Apathy is the opposite of love. Apathy drags a person down. Apathy keeps a person from doing what's best. Someone said, "Evil prevails when good people do nothing." Selfish living keeps a person focused on his own problems, wants, desires and enslaves a person to using all his time, talent and treasures to address what "I want". There is something that enslaves more than apathy. That is hate. All of us have known someone who was/is totally controlled by hate and anger. All that person's energy was/is used to try to exact revenge from the object of that hate. The freedom comes when a person is able to put hate under the blood of Jesus and follow the admonition of Jesus to love our enemies. Victory comes when you learn to serve Christ and others in the power of the Spirit.

You want to be truly free? Follow the call of Jesus. Refuse to use your liberty as an opportunity to sin. Ask Jesus to love and serve the hopeless, hurting, homeless, hungry, and helpless people in this world through you. Then you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you FREE!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- July 1: Citizenship & Religious Sunday
- July 1: Homecoming @ Johntown Baptist church
Special singer: Donna Weaver
- July 4: Happy Independence Day! Office Closed
- July 10: Executive Board Meeting, Associational Building @ 6:30pm
- July 11-13: VBS @ Six Mile Baptist Church from 5:30-8pm
- July 19-21: Alabama Church Plants Basics, Tuscaloosa Baptist Assoc.
- July 20-21: Youth Conference, "Speak" Tell Your Story @ Eastmont Baptist Church, Montgomery
- July 24: Clerk Training @ ALSBOM 9:30-3pm
- July 27-28: Equip Leadership Training of Alabama WMU, Shocco Springs



TO SEND IN
YOUR VBS
REPORTS!!!

Mondays For The Master Haysop Baptist Church

July 9th— Guest Speaker: Ted Sessoms, Evangelist
Guest Singer: Roasco Kornegay

July 16- Guest Speaker: Josh Reed, Calvary Baptist Church
Guest Singer: TBA

July 23— Guest Speaker: Brad Lowery, New Prospect Baptist Church
Guest Singers From: New Prospect Baptist Church

July 30- Guest Speaker: Ted Sessoms, Evangelist
Guest Singer: Terrel Nelson

Haysop Baptist Homecoming will be
July 8, 2018

10:30am until 3pm with noon meal.
Guest Singers: "Redeemed"

A fellowship meal will be offered each night at 6:00pm,
Everyone is invited to attend and stay for the preaching
and special music hour that starts at 7:00pm

