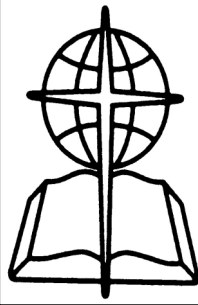


Director of Missions: Bro. Bill Russell
Phone: 256.738.2791
Secretary: Wanda Creel
Phone: 205.926.7866

Thursday, September 28, 2017
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 ■ Fax: 205.926.7869

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

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

Heaven Can Be Yours

I have heard a lot of talk lately about the end of the world. Jesus said He will come back one day and so everyone should be ready. Even if the world doesn't end before long, I will die one day and so will you. No one knows the day he or she will die. Life's greatest certainty is death. Death has stalked its prey from the beginning of man's recorded history until now. The sentence of death was pronounced upon mankind for sin in the Garden of Eden. Death entered the world first with a note of tragedy, as Cain rose up to kill his brother. Since that introduction, death has held humans in fear of its power. Since Jesus came, heaven, not the grave, is a real possibility as a final destination. But, what is heaven like? Jesus tells us in John 14:1-6.

Heaven is real. Heaven is not the figment of man's imagination. Some think it is only a place made up to make children behave. Not so! You can't get there by being good anyway. It is as real as the place you are right now. It is not a state of mind. Some say that it is here in this life. Not so! It is much better than here. It is true that we can have a touch of heaven here and now. Christ is with his believers on earth as they obey God's commands John 14:2, 23. His presence is a taste of heaven, but heaven is more than that. It is a real place.

This is documented in the Scripture: Jesus told us, "I go to prepare a place for you..." Heaven is also the dwelling place of God, Gen. 28:17 and Rev.12:7-8. The word heaven is also used as a substitute for the name of God; Luke 15:18, 21 and John 3:27. The kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven are often spoken of interchangeably; Matt. 4:17 and Mark 1:15. In that sense heaven is where God is and some will go to be with Him in that real place where He is one day.

A song once said "I don't believe in heaven and I hope there is no hell." The person that believes that lie will know the reality of both real places one day. Part of what makes hell so bad is knowing that there is a real heaven.

Heaven is ready. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you." The writer of the book of Hebrews describes Jesus as our "forerunner" Heb. 6:20. A Roman army always had forerunners that did the reconnaissance for the troops. Jesus is the one who goes (literally, runs) before. The word is used only once in the New Testament to describe Jesus, who has opened a new and living way to God as our Savior and High Priest. Jesus has blazed the way to heaven so we could follow in His steps to that place He has prepared for us. He has made all things ready. It is like the contractor who called and told us our house was ready to move into.

Jesus has gone to prepare a place and when my place is ready He'll call. He is preparing a place for you too! Heaven is a real place and Jesus will make sure it is ready for each person who trusts in Him.

Heaven is Reachable. How can we get to heaven? It is sad that some don't know. A dying man asked those gathered around him, "How can I go to heaven?" There was no one there who could tell him because they did not know. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Jesus is the way-without Him there is no going; Jesus is the truth-without Him there is no knowing; Jesus is the life-without Him there is no living.

Heaven can be yours! You can reach heaven through faith in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

As Gloria's grandmother approached her death, she said; "my bags are packed. I am ready to leave." What about you?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October is Minister Appreciation Month
And Cooperative Program Month

- Oct. 8— Global Hunger Sunday
- Oct. 9-11—Fall Senior Adult Retreat @ Shocco Springs
- No Executive Board Meeting for October.
- Oct. 18— BCUCM meet @ Association Building @ 9 am
- Oct. 23— Samford MTI Classes begin @ Association Building @ 6 pm on Monday nights, studying the "Writings of Moses". If you want to attend call Bro. Bill @ Association Office or go online and register .

ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, November 2, 2017
Lowerytown Baptist Church
5:30 pm with a meal
6:30 pm Meeting



**National Collection
Week For Operation
Christmas Child Shoe-
boxes
November 13-20**

Operation Christmas Child collects shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world. Every one of these shoebox gifts is an opportunity for the Gospel. In the hands of local churches, it is a powerful tool for evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication.

Our local Collection Center is at Brent Baptist Church.

Myers—Mallory State Missions Offering

The Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering was launched in January 2016. Funds are received throughout the year, with a special emphasis coinciding with the Week of Prayer for State Missions held each September.

The Myers - Mallory State Missions Offering is named after two spiritual giants from Alabama.

Martha Myers was a missionary to Yemen who was martyred for her faith in 2002. But more important than the death she died is the life she lived.

Kathleen Mallory was a pioneer in Woman's Missionary Union. She was born in 1879, lived a humble, frugal lifestyle so she could have more money to give to missions. She was known for her deep devotion to prayer and sacrificial giving from the heart.

Your gifts help support:
Alabama WMU/Disaster Relief/Church Planting/
Alabama Partnership Missions /
Church Revitalization
State Goal—\$1,000,000

