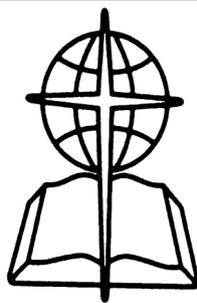


Director of Missions: Bro. Bill Russell
Phone: 256.738.2791
Secretary: Wanda Creel
Phone: 205.926.7866

Thursday, May 24, 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

The Rest of the Story

I am surprised when someone who is not a Baptist, tries to tell everyone what Baptists believe. I have been a Baptist all of my life. I have been a born again Christian close to forty-two years. Since repenting from my sin, and turning to the grace found in the work of Jesus, I have participated actively in Baptist life. I have worked, worshipped, and witnessed in a variety of churches, most of which have been Southern Baptist. In my experience I've discovered that many Baptists don't understand the basic doctrines of Baptists. I will go out on a limb and say that many Baptists are Baptist because that is the church where most of their relatives attend. Most Baptists feel like family inside the walls of a Baptist church. That is the place they heard the gospel preached, the scriptures taught, and the songs of the faith sung. That is the place where they felt safe and the territory was familiar.

I also have done a lot of study in the Scriptures, in Baptist institutions, and in the local churches. I can tell you that there is a lot of diversity in the interpretation, and the application of God's Word among the people who are called Baptist. I can tell you what has historically been the main doctrines of Southern Baptists. The first one has to do with the freedom of each person to decide what to believe and what not to believe. Historically, a learned Baptist, will say each individual has the God given right to choose to believe or not to believe. To be sure, there are consequences for the choice one makes, but God gives freedom of choice, as well as a reminder, you will be judged for the choices you make.

Since, Baptists believe in the freedom of each soul, Baptists have urged individuals to make informed choices concerning the matters of faith and practice. To that end, the Baptist Faith and message, is an ongoing work with the goal of helping all to make the best choices. Let, me share the main sections of this helpful document in my own words.

The first is the Scriptures. God's word is the guide for **all faith**. The Bible informs us about God and how we can have a relationship with Him through His only begotten Son, Jesus. It informs us about how to make the best choices for life and the consequences of making the wrong choices.

We believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe humans are the crown of God's creation and that we were created in His image. We have sinned and fallen short of God's design for our existence. We are hopeless, and helpless to live the life God designed us to live. We need His help!

We believe life, eternal and abundant, comes as a gift from God, through faith in the work that Jesus accomplished by His life, death, burial, and resurrection. That happens when a person turns from sin, and toward God. In its fullest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

We believe in the Church of Lord Jesus Christ. It is the family of God. It is the people of faith. It has local expressions where a person can experience the presence of God, learn about spiritual birth, spiritual growth, and spiritual service.

We believe in baptism by immersion in water as a physical picture of what God has done for us spiritually when we trust in Christ. We do it in obedience to God's word. We do it to testify to the world that Jesus is our savior. We do it to communicate that we have died to sin, been buried with Christ, and have been resurrected to serve God's cause for the good of the world and to the glory of the Father.

We believe in celebrating the LORD's Supper often. We do this to take a look back to the work of God's incarnation and the sacrifice of His body and the shedding of His blood. We do it to take a look inside our own life to make sure we are right with God, and those people God has placed in our life. We do it to take a look forward to when we will be with the LORD.

We believe in evangelism and missions. We each have a part to play in sharing the message of Jesus with the world.

We believe we are stewards of the time, talents, and treasures God has given each of us.

We believe we are in partnership with God and with God's people to make a difference in the world for the glory of God.

Well there are other things I could say, but this is just a general overview. What I urge each reader to do is to make sure of what you believe, and know why you believe what you believe. When you do, then you will recognize for yourself when a "wind of doctrine" is trying to take you into the wrong direction.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 24— Last Day of School for Students
- May 27— 150th Anniversary Celebration @ Bethlehem-10am-3pm—"Crimson Stain"
- May 28— Memorial Day, Office Closed
- June 3— 149th Anniversary & Homecoming @ Mt. Carmel Baptist Church—Starts @ 10:15—"Inspirations Singing"
- June 3— Homecoming @ Six Mile Baptist Church starting @ 10am—"Surrender Singing"
- June 12— Executive Board Meeting @ Association Building Starting @ 6:30 pm
- June 17— Happy Father's Day



Johntown— June 2: 8:30am—1:30 pm
Centreville— June 3rd: 5:30pm & June 4th-7th—9am-Noon
Brent—June 4th—8th—5:30pm—8:30pm
Six Mile—July 11th-13th—5:30pm—8pm
Shady Grove—June 11-15th—5:30pm-8:30pm
Kickoff June 10—12:30—3pm
Four Points—July 16th-20th—6pm-8:30pm



Free Community Dinner



FREE

FREE

Beginning June 18th

Each Monday at 6:30 PM

JOIN US!!!

First Baptist Church Woodstock

Family Life Center

John 14: 6

FELLOWSHIP

GOD'S WORD



