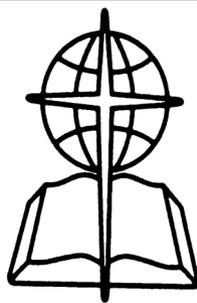


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Thursday, November 12, 2020
Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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

2 Cor. 11: 28b

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Time to Seek the Lord

"Sow for yourselves righteousness;
reap steadfast love;
break up your fallow ground,
for it is the time to seek the LORD,
that he may come and rain righteousness upon you." (Hos. 10:12)

Hosea has been called "the prophet of the broken heart." Against the backdrop of his own personal woes he received a vivid revelation of the heart of God. He was able to see that God suffers when His people are unfaithful. Hosea preached God's love for Israel and tenderly pleaded, "O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God"

Hosea admonished the people to "Seek the Lord". This text is powerful against the dark background of Hosea's day! How important his words are today! Time to seek the Lord? Indeed it is!

For whom is it time to seek the Lord: There is news of corruption and double-dealing among the political, media, and financial leaders of this country. *There is need to seek the LORD for them.* Only God can transform governments into the sources of good. We need to pray for them to seek the LORD to be saved and sanctified and to serve in accordance with the principles of God's Word.

In our own communities it is time to seek the LORD. A pastor said he felt good about the growth in the local congregation he served. Then he totaled the attendance of all the churches in town and subtracted the number from the total population of his city. He discovered how many were not in any local church. It was a sobering discovery.

In our churches. The indifference, the lack of enlistment, the few who are being won outside the families of our own members, the failure to train leaders—all this is alarming. Our failure to train leaders is revealed in the drought of leaders now.

In our own hearts. Our hearts are cold. Our minds are divided. Our hands are idle. The absence of joyfully serving the LORD. Our sparsely filled auditoriums. All these indicate it is time to seek the Lord.

Why is it time to seek the Lord? Why should we be urgent? Why should the Christian's witness "be urgent in season, out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2 ASV)? Why should the unsaved person "give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip" (Heb. 2: 1 KJV)? This is the time to seek the Lord because: The time for sowing is passing, the harvest time is coming. And what shall the harvest be? It all depends on whether we seek the Lord or not. Here is our exact image: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hos. 10:12). We are already beginning to see the harvest of secular education. We are already seeing the harvest of the influence of sinful media. It is time to seek the Lord and to keep on seeking until he comes and rains righteousness upon us.

The time when we may seek the Lord will end. The owner of a fig tree had sought fruit for three years but to no avail. His patience ended, he said to the vinedresser, "Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?" (Luke 13:7). And why didn't they cut it down? Because of the vinedresser's plea: "Sir, leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down" (Luke 13:8-9). The day of grace for the fruitless tree was a year. The point is, every period of grace has an end. The time when one may seek the Lord will end.

"Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2 ASV). This is the confirmation of our own observation. Who does not know someone who delayed too long to seek the Lord? Now is the time to seek the LORD!



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

When upon life's billows
You are tempest tossed
When you are discouraged
Thinking all is lost
Count your many blessings
Name them one by one
And it will surprise you
What the Lord has done.

Are you ever burdened
With a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy
You are called to bear?
Count your many blessings
Every doubt will fly
And you will keep singing
As the days go by.

So, amid the conflict
Whether great or small
Do not be disheartened
God is over all
Count your many blessings
Angels will attend
Help and comfort give you
To your journey's end.

Count your blessings
Name them one by one
Count your blessings
See what God has done
Count your blessings
Name them one by one
Count your many blessings
See what God has done.

Songwriters: Edwin Othello Excell/Johnson Jr. Oatman



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- ◆ Our Schools
- ◆ Hurricane Victims & Care Givers
- ◆ Our Association
- ◆ Our Director of Missions
- ◆ Bibb Baptist Churches & Pastor's
- ◆ Churches looking for a Pastor: Brent, Braehead
- ◆ ALSBOM & SBC
- ◆ Our President & Nation
- ◆ Our State and Local Leaders
- ◆ Coronavirus Caregivers, Patients & Families
- ◆ A Vaccine for the Coronavirus

