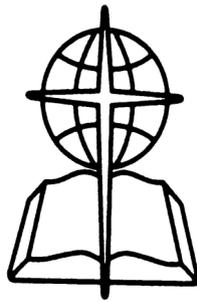


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 Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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

2 Cor. 11: 28b

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"The Secrets of Thanksgiving"

Psalm 107 is our text. The secrets of Thanksgiving is our subject.

The first secret of thanksgiving is celebrating the goodness of God (107:1). God's goodness is illustrated in different ways throughout the psalm. He "delivered them from their distress" (v.6). He satisfied the thirsty and filled the hungry with good things (v.9). "He brought them out of darkness and gloom and broke their bonds asunder" (v.14 RSV). He healed the sick and delivered his people from destruction (v.20). Sailors in bitter distress, staggering like drunken men on ships buffeted by mighty storms, cried out to the Lord; "He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed" (v.29). "He raises up the needy out of affliction" (v.41 RSV).

The people of God are called to be thankful to a God who is good. Thanksgiving to a good God necessitates congregations of God's people to say, "The Lord is good!" Let his people praise his name.

The second secret to thanksgiving is to focus on the main issues of life (107:4, 10, 17,23—27). The psalmist paints four pictures of people who have been forced to consider the main issue in life. First, there are travelers who have lost their way in the desert wilderness (v. 4). The second picture is of captives who suffer in terrible prisons, covered by darkness, and bound in irons. The third window through which we view the extremity of life reveals those who are sick and barely able to keep out of the grave. The fourth description of terror is of sailors who are helpless before a relentless storm (vv 23-27). In these illustrations the psalmist reminds us to the primary issues in life. Looking at how bad it could be puts life into perspective. Thanksgiving wells up in the hearts of men, women, and children who know the difference between necessities and luxuries, and who have learned to be grateful for the basic joy of life itself.

The New Testament gives its own word of grace to those trapped in the despair described in the four pictures of this psalm. For the lost Jesus is both the Shepherd and the Way (Jn 10:14). For the captives in dark prison, Jesus is the one who gives "deliverance to the captives (Lk. 4:18) For those who are sick, Jesus is the Great Physician who cared for the sick and healed those who came to Him. For those at sea who fear for their lives, Jesus is the one who spoke to the storm, "Peace be still" Mark 4:39). The secret of Thanksgiving is partly discerned when we face trouble and realize that all things are not equally important. When the basics of life are provided, then is the time of great thanksgiving.

The third secret of thanksgiving is to remember the source of our help (107: 3, 7, 14, 16, 20, 29—30). If we are to be thankful, we must remember from Whom the blessings flow. The people of Israel understood, as this psalm clearly shows. God was the source of their strength and deliverance. He had brought them out of bondage. He had led them through the wilderness. He would bring them safely home. On reflection of the only Helper we really have we too must admit that the astonishing joy of life is so magnificent that nothing less than God could have made it possible. We desire to say thank you God.

The fourth secret to thanksgiving is to take time for gratitude (107:8, 15,21,31). Psalm 107 reminds people that after God's deliverance of the people they needed to take time to be grateful. We have often wondered with some amazement that of the ten lepers whom Jesus healed, only one returned to say thank you (Luke 17:18). We are often guilty of the same carelessness. When we do not give thanksgiving, it is sometimes because we simply are not willing to do so.

Finally, then, the secret of thanksgiving is simple. (1) You must be open to the goodness of God. (2) You must be willing to focus on what really matters. (3) You must remember where your help originates. (4) You must be willing to take time to say thank you. Now you know the secret. Knowing this, you can turn every day into Thanksgiving Day. A truly thankful person should be the best steward of God's blessings. The ultimate way to say thanks is to receive God's good gifts and live for HIM.

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LOTTIE MOON
 CHRISTMAS
 OFFERING®

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is an annual offering collected by believers around the world to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by Woman's Missionary Union in honor of the missionary to China (Lottie Moon) who urged churches to start it and give sacrificially.

The offering is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. It is a valuable part of Southern Baptists' 175 year history of reaching the nations with the gospel and vital to reaching the vision of a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:9).

Be a part of a worldwide Gospel movement. Prayerfully ask God what He will have you and your church to give.

Your gift transforms lives.

The Goal for 2020 is \$ 175 million



2020-2021

<u>Church Contributions</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u>
Antioch	112.75	217.60
Ashby	543.11	1,176.46
Bethel	100.00	200.00
Bethlehem	73.70	125.00
Bibbville	149.40	326.55
Blocton Third	75.00	150.00
Brent	553.92	1,227.42
Cahaba Valley		
Calvary	300.00	300.00
Camp Branch		
Centreville	988.95	2,445.81
Community		
Eoline		
FBC Woodstock	789.89	2,017.33
Four Points		679.93
Haysop	747.24	747.24
Johntown	143.50	234.85
Lowerytown		
Lucile	193.00	408.00
Marvel		
Mt. Carmel	623.28	854.07
Mt. Moriah		
Mt. Zion		
New Hebron	101.29	222.76
Old Union		
Pineview	694.00	1,268.00
Pondville	185.00	568.65
Randolph	660.04	1,263.80
Rehobeth	110.97	326.28
Schultz Creek	463.89	892.85
Shady Grove	234.00	539.00
Shady Grove 2		
Six Mile	650.37	650.37
Smith Hill		
Thomas Mill	229.60	229.60
West Blocton 1st		200.00
Church Plant-Braehed	209.45	264.85
Anonymous	120.00	240.00
Totals	\$ 9,067.35	\$ 17,791.42
ALSBOM	361.08	722.16
OTHER	216.00	216.00
TOTAL	\$ 9,644.43	\$ 18,729.58