

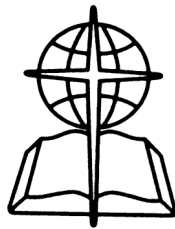
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BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along." 2 Cor. 11: 28b

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Clear and Present Danger

In the 1940s the United States, England, and others, joined Russia to wage war against Nazi Germany, Japan, and Italy. The U. S. and England had a lot more in common with each other than they did with Russia, but they all had a common enemy. These countries focused on what they needed to do rather than on their differences. They overcame personal agendas, dislikes and personality differences because defeating a common foe was more important. They understood the fate of the free world was at stake and so sovereign and autonomous countries joined in an alliance together.

In a recent Pew Research Center report, two-thirds of American respondents claimed that "it's not necessary to believe in God to be moral." The news reports do not agree. That means today there is a battle raging. We are engaged in a spiritual battle for the fate of Bibb County, the U. S., and the world. We must work as a unit—the Body of Christ. We cannot get caught up in struggling against one another. We need to focus on the task that Jesus gave. Matthew 28:19-20 reveals the task is making disciples who trust in Jesus and who grow in grace each day. Each Bibb Baptist Church is autonomous. Every Bibb Baptist Church is different, but we face a clear and present danger that requires us to be a unit. Let us help each other to grow in grace. Here is a list of things that will keep any of us and all of us from growing in grace.

PRAYERLESSNESS. Prayerlessness is a serious enemy to the spiritual life. Prayer solves our problems. Prayer changes things. Prayer changes people. Let's stay close to God in prayer and even more so in this day of battle.

SELFISHNESS. There never has been a selfish person who was a great Christian. These two things do not go together. Jesus was totally unselfish and if we follow Him, we, too, will be unselfish. Selfishness keeps us from growing in grace and it keeps us from the battle.

NEGLECT AND INDIFFERENCE. If we neglect our church and Bible reading and the things of God, we will never grow spiritually. Many souls fall under the sway of the enemy because they have been both indifferent and neglectful. Indifferent to the claims of Christ. Neglectful to the spiritual battle. The resolution we each need is this, "I will throw my neglect and indifference overboard and give God an enthusiastic and consecrated life."

DISOBEDIENCE. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." How can anyone build a great Christian life with a disobedient life? Don't you love Him for having saved you? Then why not give to Him an obedient life? God wants you to obey Him now. Disobedience is an enemy of the spiritual life.

STINGINESS. The true Christian learns the lesson of generosity. He knows that God owns it all. He gives God His part. The stingy person worships money. A person cannot grow in grace by putting material things before God. It is always more blessed to give than to receive, but let us be sure that we give in the right spirit. Stinginess is an enemy of the spiritual life.

An UNFORGIVING SPIRIT. If we are to grow in grace, there is only one spirit to have and that is the spirit of love. We are to love our friends and love our enemies. If we cannot love and pray for our enemies, we have not learned the lesson of Christ. What did the people do to Him? They lied about Him. They called Him bad names... they ridiculed and mocked Him. They arrested Him, put a crown of thorns on His head, beat Him and spat in His face. They demanded His death. They took Him out and crucified Him. They scorned Him from the foot of the cross. What would you do if this had been done to you? Jesus had no bitterness. He didn't seek revenge. We hear Him say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." We see Him paying for our sin in full. We discover Him trusting His future in the will of the Heavenly Father. You cannot be joyful if you have the wrong attitude toward other people. We simply cannot carry grudges and be victorious. Do we want to grow in grace? Then we must get all envy and jealousy and hatred and malice out of our hearts. Our spiritual growth is dependent on it. So is the fate of others.

As each of us grow in grace by the power of God's love, all of us will be better. As we overcome the clear and present danger, we all will share in the victory in Jesus.

May 14 - Mother's Day



May 15 - BCHS
Graduation at 7pm



May 16 - WBHS
Graduation at 7pm

May 25 - Last day of school

May 29 - Memorial Day

June 6 - Executive Committee
meeting. Meal at 6:30 &
Meeting at 7pm



"Spring Renewal"

Mt Carmel hosted approximately 130 people from 14 different churches. Lowerytown's choir sang and Bro. Bill Russell brought the message.

CHURCH	APR	Fiscal Year to date
ANTIOCH	\$ 119.95	\$ 829.85
ASHBY	\$ 645.50	\$ 4,251.07
BETHEL	\$ 100.00	\$ 800.00
BETHLEHEM	\$ 53.10	\$ 602.80
BIBBVILLE	\$ 144.00	\$ 1,404.30
BLOCTON III	\$ 75.00	\$ 600.00
BRENT	\$ 606.71	\$ 5,245.46
CAHABA VALLEY		\$ 114.08
CALVARY		\$ 300.00
CAMP BRANCH		\$
CENTREVILLE	\$ 1,047.25	\$ 10,530.81
COMMUNITY	\$ 48.29	\$ 48.29
EOLINE		\$ 100.00
FBC WOODSTOCK	\$ 1,049.87	\$ 8,529.40
FOUR POINTS	\$ 511.91	\$ 5,626.16
HAYSOP	\$ 706.47	\$ 2,009.44
JOHNTOWN		\$ 536.99
LOWERYTOWN	\$ 2,102.09	4,158.95
NEW LIFE	\$ 417.81	\$ 2,151.50
MARVEL		\$
MT. CARMEL		\$ 1,610.48
MT. MORIAH		\$
MT. ZION		\$
NEW HEBRON	\$ 149.00	\$ 896.25
OLD UNION		\$
PINEVIEW	\$ 466.00	\$ 3,799.00
PONDVILLE	\$ 190.70	\$ 1,764.90
RANDOLPH	\$ 858.75	\$ 5,017.21
REHOBETH		\$ 603.69
SCHULTZ CREEK		\$ 2,376.03
SHADY GROVE	\$ 362.00	\$ 2,455.00
SHADY GROVE 2		\$
SIX MILE	\$ 378.34	\$ 2,434.25
SMITH HILL	\$ 150.00	\$ 640.52
THOMAS MILL		\$ 889.90
WEST BLOCTON FBC	\$ 100.00	\$ 700.00
BRAEHEAD (Church Plant)	\$ 132.11	\$ 851.16
ANONYMOUS	\$ 120.00	\$ 980.00
Church Receipt Sub Total	\$ 10,534.85	\$ 72,857.49
MTI class at Bibb Prison	\$ 144.49	\$ 144.49
Other Donations		\$ 200.00
MORTGAGE	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,000.00
Alabama SBOM	\$ 443.08	\$ 3,544.64
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$ 11,622.42	\$ 80,746.62

