

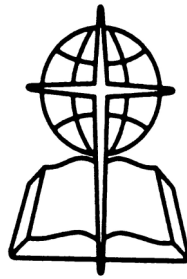
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Thursday, March 9, 2023
Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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

2 Cor. 11: 28b

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Revival By Dr. Lewis A. Drummond (With some editing by Bro. Bill)

"An awakening is ready to burst on the dismal scene when Christians have a deep, profound Spirit of prayer for an awakening." When we are done with hypocrisies, exclusiveness, and theatre. When we are ready to do business with God. When we are ready to wrestle with God's will and God's way. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. What is revival? That is the question!

Revival is an ambiguous word in Southern Baptist life. Ideas range from the annual "preaching time the third week in April," to the 1734 awakening, when the ministry of Jonathan Edwards saw multitudes won to Christ in a matter of days. But a precise definition based on the Bible, and visible in history, is vital if we are to pray and seek God.

A good description of a revival, or spiritual awakening, from a biblical and historical perspective is given by H. C. Fish, "Revivals are seasons when Christians are awakened to a more fervent prayer life, to a more earnest effort to promote the cause of Christ and redemption, and seasons when the unrepentant are aroused to the concerns of the soul and the work of personal religion. Revivals are times when the Spirit of the Lord moves, and the freshness and beauty of the new creature comes forth. Nature itself seems fuller of God! The words of Scripture seem invested with a new light, glory, fullness, and meaning. As Edwards says: "All things abroad—the sun, moon and stars, the heavens and the earth appear as it were with a cast of divine glory and sweetness upon them." Such a definition of revival or spiritual awakening points to a most important and foundational truth. ***Real revival comes only from God.*** He alone is the fountainhead. A spiritual awakening cannot be scheduled, worked up or humanly engineered. If we are to experience a "refreshing time from the Lord," it will be because God's sovereign hour has arrived. God grants revival blessings when and where He pleases.

All history attests to this fundamental reality. Why did God come down in power to the church in Northampton, Mass., in 1734 and touch the ministry of the brilliant Jonathan Edwards to spawn America's "First Great Awakening?" Because God chose to do so!

Why did our Lord reach down to a little Bible study group of Moravian brethren meeting on London's Aldersgate Street in 1738 and transform John Wesley, who then was used by the Holy Spirit to birth the 18th century revival in England? Because God chose to do so!

Why did the Holy Spirit come mightily on Barton Stone in 1801 at the Cane Ridge Meeting House in Bourbon County, Ky., that July weekend and explode into America's "Second Great Awakening," which wove the deep south "Bible Belt?" Because God chose to do so!

Similar historical accounts of awakenings can be repeated almost endlessly, recalling God's sovereign mercies in revival power. But why does He move as He does? There is no final human explanation of why God moves when, where, and how He does to grace us with revival blessings, only that in His sovereign love He does. We must rest in God's sovereign grace and wisdom alone.

Of course, it is true that God pours out His Holy Spirit on His people in free grace because they need a fresh touch. Without revival times the church inevitably strays away from the cross and grows cold, slipping into the Laodicean Syndrome. There is that much explanation. But the when, where, and how of revival rests in God's sovereignty.

Yet, God never works in a vacuum. He always uses His people in spiritual awakenings. That leaves us with the inevitable paradox of divine sovereignty and human responsibility. But even that paradox means there are things we are to do if God is to bless in revival. Responsibly seeking revival should never be de-emphasized.

We must view God as the sole source of all awakening grace, prostrate ourselves at His feet and simply trust Him for sovereign mercies. If we do that, it just could be God will bless us with that "one divine moment" when it will be said, "God revived His people." Let us seek Him to that divine end.

May we earnestly, humbly, and in resignation cry out with the psalmist: "Wilt thou not revive us again; that thy people may rejoice in thee? Show us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation" (Ps. 85:6-7).

It just may be **this is God's sovereign hour.** As we look around at Asbury, Samford, and other campuses across the United States it appears we are in one of those Sovereign awakenings of God's people by God's Spirit. My own admonition is **"Don't miss the boat!" Get on board!!!**

Mark Your Calendar. . .



March 12 - Daylight savings time begins at 2am

March 21 - Senior Singing at Chapel Hill Baptist, Northport, 10-Noon.

March 27 - Spring Break for our Bibb County Schools

March 28 - VBS Training at Chapel Hill Baptist, Tuscaloosa at 6pm with a light dinner.

April 09 - Hallelujah! Resurrection Sunday!

April 22 - Women's Conference at Lowerytown. "The Master Gardener" 9-12 with lunch. Registration at 8:30

April 23 - Spring Renewal 6pm at Mt. Carmel.

Contributions Received in February

| CHURCH | FEB | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| ANTIOCH | \$ 53.05 | \$ 564.95 |
| ASHBY | | \$ 2,339.36 |
| BETHEL | \$ 100.00 | \$ 600.00 |
| BETHLEHEM | \$ 67.35 | \$ 448.53 |
| BIBBVILLE | | \$ 992.04 |
| BLOCTON III | \$ 75.00 | \$ 450.00 |
| BRENT | \$ 625.50 | \$ 4,098.18 |
| CAHABA VALLEY | | \$ - |
| CALVARY | | \$ 300.00 |
| CAMP BRANCH | | \$ - |
| CENTREVILLE | \$ 1,121.15 | \$ 7,964.91 |
| COMMUNITY | | \$ - |
| EOLINE | \$ 100.00 | \$ 100.00 |
| FBC WOODSTOCK | \$ 1,262.46 | \$ 6,383.70 |
| FOUR POINTS | \$ 907.31 | \$ 4,522.09 |
| HAYSOP | | \$ 1,302.97 |
| JOHNTOWN | \$ 119.10 | \$ 536.99 |
| LOWERYTOWN | | \$ 2,056.86 |
| NEW LIFE | \$ 396.00 | \$ 1,407.88 |
| MARVEL | | \$ - |
| MT. CARMEL | \$ 259.50 | \$ 1,198.98 |
| MT. MORIAH | | \$ - |
| MT. ZION | | \$ - |
| NEW HEBRON | \$ 106.75 | \$ 614.15 |
| OLD UNION | | \$ - |
| PINEVIEW | \$ 616.00 | \$ 2,834.00 |
| PONDVILLE | \$ 298.35 | \$ 1,324.20 |
| RANDOLPH | \$ 512.80 | \$ 3,442.71 |
| REHOBETH | | \$ 144.47 |
| SCHULTZ CREEK | \$ 307.04 | \$ 1,907.28 |
| SHADY GROVE | \$ 420.00 | \$ 1,717.00 |
| SHADY GROVE 2 | | \$ - |
| SIX MILE | | \$ 1,412.25 |
| SMITH HILL | \$ 150.00 | \$ 490.52 |
| THOMAS MILL | | \$ 615.23 |
| WEST BLOCTON FBC | \$ 200.00 | \$ 600.00 |
| BRAEHEAD (Church Plant) | \$ 66.60 | \$ 625.75 |
| ANONYMOUS | \$ 90.00 | \$ 740.00 |
| Church Receipt Sub Total | \$ 7,853.96 | \$ 51,735.00 |
| Schultz Creek-Gideon Bibles-Ms. Wanda | \$ 200.00 | \$ 200.00 |
| Other Donations | | \$ 200.00 |
| MORTGAGE | \$ 500.00 | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Alabama SBOM | \$ 443.08 | \$ 2,658.48 |
| MONTHLY TOTAL | \$ 8,997.04 | \$ 57,793.48 |