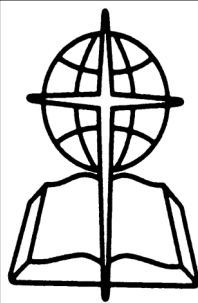


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Thursday, May 26, 2022
Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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

2 Cor. 11: 28b

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Who Needs the Church

Who needs the Church? People who are broken need the Church to be whole. People who are imperfect need the Church to grow more like Christ. Independent people who desperately need to depend on the LORD need the Church. Teachable people need the Church to learn about the wonders of God's love. Forgetful people need the church to remember the privilege of being God's children. People who are troubled need the church to find God's peace through Jesus. Lost people need the Church to point them to the Way, The Truth, and the Life.

Just how can we be the Church people need? We could shuffle around the organization but that will not enable us to be the church our world needs. The answer is not in a new program, new ways to worship, or a new way to share the old story. The answer is to listen to Jesus! He said; "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:1-11. That sounds like revival to me. Christ said if we would abide in Him we would bear much fruit. Without Him we can do nothing but if we abide in Him we will bear much fruit.

What is the fruit we will bear? It is the fruit of the Spirit! Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Let me tell you that if you abide in Christ, you will reflect the person of Christ as His Spirit lives in you, for you and through you. Jesus said if I be lifted up then I will draw all men unto me. When Jesus lived and walked among men those who met Him could not be neutral about Him. They either loved Him, followed Him or they walked away from Him or, wanted to get rid of Him. When the early disciples abided in Christ people were being added unto the church daily. So, the fruit is a life like Christ, which results in people finding the Christ and Church they need.

The next question is how do we abide in Christ? First, we must know Him as Savior and LORD by turning **from** sin, selfishness and Satan and turning **to** Christ for the free gift of eternal life. Next, we must spend quality time with Him. We listen to Him. We talk with Him. We worship Him. We walk with Him. We work with Him and we let Him work through us. We follow Him and we do what He tells us to do. We introduce the people we know to our Jesus. That's what it is to abide.

If there were more abiding in Jesus and Jesus abiding in us, we would be the Church we need and the Church the world needs us to be.

Bro. Bill



REMEMBER those who served before.
REMEMBER those who are no more.
REMEMBER those who serve today.
REMEMBER them all on Memorial Day.

Monday, May 30, 2022
OFFICE CLOSED



LIFEWAY VBS
2022

MOTTO:
CREATED!
DESIGNED!
EMPOWERED!

THEME VERSE:

**For we are His workman-
ship, created in Christ Je-
sus for good works, which
God prepared ahead of
time for us to do.**
Ephesians 2: 10

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