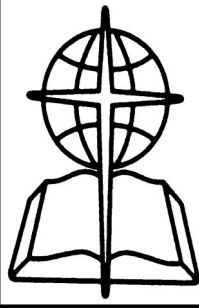


Director of Missions: Bro. Bill Russell
Phone: 256.738.2791

Secretary: Wanda Creel
Phone: 205.926.7866

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BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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

1055 Montgomery Hwy., PO Box 158, Centreville, AL 35042
Phone: 205.926.7866 ■ Fax: 205.926.7869

E-mail: assocbibb@bellsouth.net ■ www.bibbbaptist.com
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 am-4 pm— Closed Fridays

Who are you?

Someone asked me the other day, "How do you identify yourself today?" I replied, "I am an old white fat man!" Well, that was a silly answer to a serious question. Our identity is extremely important. Just ask those who are trying hard to steal your identity. We need to know that Satan and his kind are liars and want to steal our identity so we can be used for their purpose. We need to listen to someone who will tell the truth because the truth will set us free.

Just ask God. He tells us who we are in His word. Ephesians 2 reveals that without Christ we are dead in our trespasses and sins. We are alienated from God without hope in the world. 1 Peter 2:9-10 communicates clearly who we are if we are in Christ. It tells us five important facts about our life in Christ.

In Christ we are chosen instead of rejected. We are God's chosen race. Not those of some ethnic heritage but those who cooperate with God's plan. God made a choice before anything became everything Eph. 1:4. The Creator knew the bad choices we would make in our brokenness, but He decided to repair the broken before they were broken. God decided that Jesus would repair us with His work. It is a gift. It is not achieved. It must be received. John 1:12-13. The lie is that we are rejected by God. God's word says He made a choice before anyone did anything good or bad. God gave His Son. That was His choice. My choice was to trust in the Gift God gave. God said He made me one of His chosen because of His choice combined with my choice.

In Christ we are valuable instead of worthless. God says His nation is made up of folks who are holy and His. The value of something is determined by who owns it and how much the owner is willing to pay. Think about the difference between how much one of your old bibles is worth compared to the value of a bible owned by Abraham Lincoln. How much is a gallon of gas worth if you are on the way to save a life of someone dear to you? A person who is in Christ belongs to God. We are "His own possession". How much was God willing to pay so we could call Him Abba Father? Look to the cross to see your value to our Heavenly Father. See Philippians 2 to discover how much God values us.

In Christ we are loved instead of hated. Once I was a nobody. Now God has made me a somebody because He loves me. God is not ashamed of me. Hebrews 2:11, Jere. 31:3. The lie says God loves you only when you are good. God says His love is unconditional, and it is unending. God is not fickle. God never changes and He is never going to stop loving you or me. Why is His love eternal? Because God is love and He is eternal. Ps 100:5.

In Christ we are forgiven instead of guilty. The lie says there is no mercy. God says His children have received mercy. God is never surprised by sin. He totally forgave us. Romans 8:1. Hebrews 12 tells us that God disciplines us but never punishes us for our sin. God is naturally forgiving Is. 43. Jesus paid for all sin. Eph 1:7

In Christ we are able instead of useless. 1 Peter 2:9. In Christ each person is a royal priest. Every member is a person who represents God to humans and humans to God. We are fully capable of representing God. God has a calling for you. A purpose for you. A job for you. A role for you. God says He gives you power fulfill your purpose. 2 Cor 3:5-6. The lie says we are useless to God. God says I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me Philippians 4:13.

How to stop the lies? BELIEVE GOD! His word, His Spirit, and His people.

Here is your identity. When you trusted Christ, you became one of His family. You became part of His Church. He says you are freely chosen, you are priceless, you are amazingly loved, you are absolutely forgiven, and you are completely capable of growing into the likeness of Christ. You are entirely capable of fighting the good fight of the faith. You are absolutely capable of making a difference in the world where you can share the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Mark Your Calendar

- **August 19th— Senior Adult Leadership Training— Canaan Baptist 2543 Morgan Rd Bessemer Free box lunch. Register by August 15th 334-613-2312**
- **Writings of Peter —August 22-October 12 At the office on Mondays 6-9 p.m. At FBC Woodstock on Wednesdays 9-Noon. To register call Bro. Bill or online at Bibbbaptist.com**
- **The Called Conference is one day event, Saturday, August 6th at Samford University. The purpose is to help students (9th grade through college) who are dealing with the life-changing call to ministry. Dr. Jim Shaddix, professor of Preaching at Southeastern Baptist theological Seminary, will speak of the call to ministry. Students will be able to choose from several breakout sessions on different areas of ministry. The cost is \$30 a person and lunch is included, For more information about the Called Conference and to register, go to [HTTPs//alabamamen.org/called](http://alabamamen.org/called).**
You can also call Mary Kelly at the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions 800-264-1225 ext. 227 or call direct 334-613-2227
We ask that you pray for the Called Conference . Pray God will bring students who God has called to ministry, those who are not sure, and those who are struggling with the next steps in their Call.
- **Pinnacle Alabama @ Shocco—August 5-6 see details at makingdisciplesal.org/event**

1 Peter 2:9-10

However, you are chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, people who belong to God. You were chosen to tell about the excellent qualities of God, who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not God's people, but now you are. Once you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

Mine are days that God has numbered.
I was made to walk with Him.
Yet I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer
Though I fall, yet His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing
I am His forevermore.
Mine are tears in times of sorrow
Darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel
Where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from heaven
And strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted
Christ completes His work in me
Mine are days here as a stranger
Pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter
Harm and hatred for His name
But mine is the amour for this battle
Strong enough to last the war
And He has said He will deliver
Safely to the golden shore
Words by CityALight