

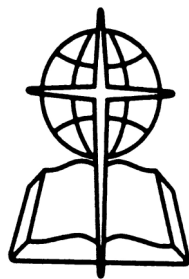
Director of Missions: Bro. Bill Russell

Cell Phone: 256-738-2791

Ministry Assistant, Secretary/Treasurer: Traci Lowery

Office Phone: 205-926-7866

Thursday, April 13, 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

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

Praying from the PIT

I read Psalms 88 the other day. In it I found the psalmist going through a desperate and dark time in his life. He writes about his experience, and his emotions. The psalmist's complaints are not relieved by joyful anticipation or expressions of strong confidence. At the end of the psalm there is only darkness remaining for his troubled soul. I cried, "Lord, show me the victory in this psalm!" Then I remembered the Bible is about Jesus!

For me, God uses this psalm as a vision of the paradox of the crucified Christ Jesus. He was lying in Joseph's tomb. He was awaiting a rescue from the darkest pit anyone can imagine. I picture Jesus in a garden tomb close to Calvary praying about the experiences of His life that parallel the words of this psalm.

Jesus endured the temptations of Satan. Jesus faced all the opposition of people trying to catch him in a fault. He experienced the laughter of people who did not believe He could raise a little girl from her death bed.

Jesus faced death on Calvary for a long period of time. Jesus told His disciples several times that He was going to Jerusalem to be arrested, abused, mocked, and killed. Then it all happened. Thursday night Jesus cried out in great agony. His enemies came to arrest Him. One disciple had betrayed Him. Another disciple denied Him. All His disciples ran away from Him. He was abused by those who arrested Him. He was falsely tried by those who wanted to get rid of Him. Friday morning He found Himself being drug before a Roman judge. He was beaten beyond recognition. He was mocked by people He loved. A crown of thorns was forced upon His brow. He was nailed on a cruel cross to die for people who would swear falsely against Him. He incurred the wrath of God as the Father turned His face from Him when Jesus became sin for the sinful. When the innocent died for the guilty. He would forgive those who did all these cruel and unjust things to Him. He would speak words of assuring hope to one dying next to Him. He gave His last drop of blood, His last breath of air, His last physical brain wave for sinners. They took His dead body from the cross and placed it in a tomb on Friday. Jesus remains in the tomb awaiting the victory of the resurrection on Sunday morning. I can picture Him praying the words of this psalm.

God's answer to this prayer is found in the Resurrection of Jesus! His Father rescues Him from darkness. When we look at this psalm through an empty tomb then we see the victory. When we answer the questions the psalmist asks in this dark pit, thinking of a resurrected Savior, then the questions can be answered in a different way.

What are the questions the psalmist asked?

Notice verse 10. **"Will You show wonders to the dead?"** In the natural world the answer has to be no! Looking through an empty tomb changes the answer to YES! **"Shall the dead arise and praise thee?"** A risen Savior says, "absolutely!"

Verse 11. **"Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave?"** Oh, how wonderful is the love of Jesus! That love proven to me as He comes out of my grave of sin!

"Or your faithfulness in destruction?" The doubts of God's faithfulness is erased by a living Christ!

Now verse 12. **"Shall Your wonders be known in the dark?"** The light becoming the living Light of the World is the greatest wonder in the world!

"And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?" God's righteousness arose from the land of forgetfulness!

Verse 13. **"But unto You have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent You?"** The psalmist is asking if His prayer will be answered. YES!

In verse 14 we find two more questions. **"LORD, why cast You off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me?"** Because Jesus was faithful, willing to be obedient to the Father's will, His soul is not casted off and the Father's face turns to Him and rescues Him from the dark pit! Jesus' rescue validates the ministry and sacrifice He made. It provides everyone with a rescue from the deep dark pit and a brand-new perspective about the issues in our lives that cause our souls to feel like we are in darkness with no light, no help, or any hope.

Faith in Christ's work gives us victory over death, hell, and the grave! We are delivered from the deepest darkest pit to the marvelous light of Living HOPE!

Mark Your Calendar . . .

April 22 - Women's Conference at Lowerytown
"The Master Gardener" 9am - 12 noon
with free lunch, door prizes and a great message
Registration begins at 8:30

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

May 3 - "Speak Tour" at Bibb Wellness Center
5:30 - 8:00pm with games, food, worship, evangelism



CHURCH	MARCH	Fiscal Yr Total
ANTIOCH	\$ 144.95	\$ 709.90
ASHBY	\$ 1,266.21	\$ 3,605.57
BETHEL	\$ 100.00	\$ 700.00
BETHLEHEM	\$ 101.17	\$ 549.70
BIBBVILLE	\$ 268.26	\$ 1,260.30
BLOCTON III	\$ 75.00	\$ 525.00
BRENT	\$ 540.57	\$ 4,638.75
CAHABA VALLEY	\$ 114.08	\$ 114.08
CALVARY		\$ 300.00
CAMP BRANCH		\$ -
CENTREVILLE	\$ 1,518.65	\$ 9,483.56
COMMUNITY		\$ -
EOLINE		\$ 100.00
FBC WOODSTOCK	\$ 1,095.83	\$ 7,479.53
FOUR POINTS	\$ 592.16	\$ 5,114.25
HAYSOP		\$ 1,302.97
JOHNTOWN		\$ 536.99
LOWERYTOWN		2,056.86
NEW LIFE	\$ 325.81	\$ 1,733.69
MARVEL		\$ -
MT. CARMEL	\$ 411.50	\$ 1,610.48
MT. MORIAH		\$ -
MT. ZION		\$ -
NEW HEBRON	\$ 133.10	\$ 747.25
OLD UNION		\$ -
PINEVIEW	\$ 499.00	\$ 3,333.00
PONDVILLE	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,574.20
RANDOLPH	\$ 715.75	\$ 4,158.46
REHOBETH	\$ 459.22	\$ 603.69
SCHULTZ CREEK	\$ 468.75	\$ 2,376.03
SHADY GROVE	\$ 376.00	\$ 2,093.00
SHADY GROVE 2		\$ -
SIX MILE	\$ 643.66	\$ 2,055.91
SMITH HILL		\$ 490.52
THOMAS MILL	\$ 274.67	\$ 889.90
WEST BLOCTON FBC		\$ 700.00
BRAEHEAD (Church Plant)	\$ 93.30	\$ 719.05
ANONYMOUS	\$ 120.00	\$ 890.00
Church Receipt Sub Total	\$ 10,587.64	\$ 62,452.64
MTI class at Bibb Prison		
Other Donations		\$ 200.00
MORTGAGE	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Alabama SBOM	\$ 443.08	\$ 3,101.56
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$ 11,530.72	\$ 69,254.20