



AND THE PEOPLE "TUNED IN"...

Week of March 29, 2020

- Number of people who watched our services live on Facebook -	
Sunday Morning Service -----	113
Sunday Evening Service -----	81
Wed. Evening Service, 04/01/20 -----	43

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of March 29, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,223.97
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/29/20:	\$ 1,223.97

- Week of March 22, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 890.31
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/22/20:	\$ 890.31

- Week of March 15, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 856.38
Insurance Fund -----	\$ 20.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/15/20:	\$ 876.38

- Week of March 8, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 757.15
Insurance Fund -----	\$ 145.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/08/20:	\$ 902.15

- Week of March 1, 2020 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 853.29
Insurance Fund -----	\$ 5.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/01/20:	\$ 858.29

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

PLEASE BE FAITHFUL TO GIVE, EVEN THOUGH WE CANNOT MEET FOR NOW!



CHURCH INSURANCE FUND

Monthly Premium, Due 04/05/20-----	\$ 506.00
Amount Received To Date -----	\$ 20.00

TOTAL STILL NEEDED BY 04/05/20 ----- \$ 486.00

Thank You For Your Faithful Help With This Need!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



Please Remember To Be Faithful To Give!

During this pandemic, we are unable to meet in the church-house. But - that does not mean that the expenses of having a church-house are suspended. We still have bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, and more.

Some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing THEMSELVES of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10).

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE DURING THIS CRISIS:

1. **By mail** - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. **Drop it off** - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. **Online** - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING ABLE TO GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE SOON! UNTIL THEN, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO ASSURE THAT THERE IS A HOUSE TO HOUSE THE CHURCH IN ON THAT DAY!

Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Mickie Shatwell -----	Pianist
Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianist/ Organist
VOLUNTEER NEEDED! -----	Greeter
Larry Byars -----	S.S. Teacher
Larry & Mary Byars, Susan Strain -----	Outreach
Bertha Segebart -----	Custodian
Flowers -----	Shirley & Brenda White

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY
REMINDER

Volume XXVI

April 5, 2020

Number 14



Dr. Phil Stringer

Fifteen Reasons Why I Believe in the Doctrine of the Pre Tribulation Rapture of the Church

by Dr. Phil Stringer

Reason Number One: The Lord promises to deliver us from "The Wrath to Come", which is found in I Thessalonians :10; II Thessalonians 1:9-10: & Revelation 3:10. This is not a promise of deliverance from all wrath, or present wrath, or all persecution but a promise of deliverance from a specific time of wrath yet future - **The Tribulation.**

Reason Number Two: The doctrine of the Rapture is supposed to be a doctrine of Great Comfort - I Thessalonians 4:17-18, & 5:9-11. The idea of a Mid-Trib or Post Trib Rapture would be a doctrine of great terror not great comfort.

Reason Number Three: The Lord will come for His saints like a thief in the night - Luke 12:35-40. A thief does not schedule His coming seven years ahead of time. Revelation 19 is not a secret return but one that believers are well acquainted with.

Reason Number Four: The saints are commanded to look for Christ - not to look for the Tribulation - Titus 2:13-14; I Corinthians 1:7;16:22; Philippians 3:20-21 & 4:5; James 5:7-9; I John 2:28.

Reason Number Five: We are commanded to carry out the Great Commission - not to prepare **for** the Tribulation - Matthew 28:18-20.

Reason Number Six: The Lord promises to come for His saints (the return of Christ in Revelation 19 is a return with His saints) - John 14:1-3:2 & Thessalonians 1;10-11.

Reason Number Seven: The Lord promises a momentary time of transformation at the rapture (nothing like that happens in Revelation Chapter 19) - I Corinthians 15:51-53.

Reason Number Eight: The coming of Christ for His saints will be sudden (not prescheduled) - Revelation 3:11; & 22: 7, 12, & 22.

Reason Number Nine: The coming of Christ in the air is connected with the judgment of the saints - II Timothy 4:4-8; I Corinthians 4:5; II Corinthians 5:10; & Revelation 22:12. The second coming of Christ to the earth is connected with the judgment of the lost - Revelation Chapter 19; & Matthew Chapter 25.

Reason Number Ten: There is no mention of churches in Revelation Chapters 6 - 18 or any of the other passages which describe in detail the Tribulation period.

Reason Number Eleven: There is a clear contrast between the two parts of the return of Christ. He comes in the air FOR His saints and to the earth WITH His saints. Every doctrine has one clear place where it is spelled out in detail. The return in the air for the saints is spelled out clearly in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. The triumphant return of Christ to the earth to rule and reign is spelled

(continued inside)

out clearly in Revelation 19. They are different events.

Reason Number Twelve: A supernatural event is coming to the earth before the revelation of the antiChrist and the antiChrist is revealed before the return of Christ - II Thessalonians 2:1-8. That supernatural event is called a “falling away” - II Thessalonians 2:3. The rapture of the saints in the air to meet Christ would literally be a “falling away” from planet earth.

Reason Number Thirteen: The doctrine of the rapture is supposed to spur Christians to service, not to fear and hiding - I Timothy 4:1-5. Both “*the appearing*” and *the kingdom*” are referred to in this passage. Meditating on the rapture should lead to soulwinning and church building not hoarding toilet paper and seeking refuge.

Reason Number Fourteen: The rapture is a “mystery” (something not revealed in the Old Testament) - I Cor.15:51-54. The Second Coming of Christ to the earth with the saints was well known in the Old Testament and prophesied by Enoch - Jude 14; Daniel 12:1-3; & Zechariah 12:10 & 14:4.

Reason Number Fifteen: While it is clear that the majority of professing Christians throughout the ages believed in a post-tribulational rapture, it is also clear that a majority of professing Christians believed in salvation by works, infant baptism, and a state church. **Doctrinal truth is not determined by percentages but by accepting all of the clear, literal, statements of the Bible on a subject.** True doctrine is found when you have a doctrinal position that is in harmony with every statement of the Bible on a subject. Sound theology does not have to leave any statements of the Bible unaccounted for. While a majority of professing Christians throughout history were looking for the Tribulation (and often thought they were in it), there were always those looking for Christ to rapture them. Ephrem of Nisbis (306-371 A.D.) wrote: “*All the saints and elect of God are gathered together before the Tribulation which is to come and are taken to the Lord.*” ÷



**OUR FACEBOOK LIVE
STREAMING IS
GETTING NOTICED!**

With the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, we’ve had to suspend our “in the building” church services. To help our people “stay connected” and keep in the habit of getting ready for church on Sundays and Wednesdays, we began to do an internet broadcast during the normal times using FacebookLive. We’re even providing a pdf of the hymns we will be singing during those times so people can print them off, distribute them among their family members, who are all “hunkerin’ down” at home, and join in the singing. Following the music portion, our Pastor goes to the pulpit, opens his Bible, and continues to preach/teach verse-by-verse through the Bible as though everyone was present

in the auditorium.

The idea is to present something that is as close as we can to what we would be doing together if we were able to be present “in the building”. We want it to be more like “you are there”, rather than “I am watching a video.” So far, people have responded well to the format.

Not only that, but a LOT of people are “tuning in” live and later! Notice the numbers, as reported to us by Facebook (every individual who watches, even for a few minutes, is a “view”):

Week of 03/22/20 -

Sun. AM = 85 views Sun. PM = 91 views
Wed. PM = 89 views

Week of 03/29/20 -

Sun. AM = 142 views Sun. PM = 171 views
Wed. PM = 87 views

Needless to say, we’re all thrilled and blessed to know that God is using this simple video stream, which was originally put in place to help our own members stay connected and in the Word together during these trying times, as an outreach tool to minister to so many more than we ever thought about!

Not only that, but, a few weeks before the outbreak of the Coronavirus in the United States, our Pastor felt led of the Lord to announce that, beginning Sunday evening, April 5th, he would be preaching/teaching verse-by-verse through the Book of the Revelation, never realizing the calamity that would be engulfing the entire world just a few short days later. To help reach out to those in out to those in our community who might be interested in such a study, we placed an ad on Facebook announcing it. All told, TWO-THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED people within a 30-mile radius of our church have seen the ad! AND - 17 of them have “shared” the ad with folks who look at THEIR own personal Facebook page, and most of those who’ve done so ARE NOT MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH!

The interest is HIGH, even though we can no longer meet in person. In fact, the interest may be EVEN HIGHER because of the pandemic than it would have been otherwise!

Please pray for those who will be watching - that God will ave lost souls through these internet broadcasts, that He will move in the hearts of His people who watch, and for our Pastor, who is preparing and will be delivering the messages from God’s Word each time we go “Live” on Facebook!

OH - and if YOU would like to join in, here’s the link to copy and paste into your browser. We’ll be broadcasting Sundays at 11:00 AM (Pastor preaching verse-by-verse through 1st Corinthians) and 6:30 PM (Pastor preaching verse-by-verse through the Book of the Revelation), and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (Pastor preaching verse-by-verse through the Gospel of Mark). All times are Central Daylight Saving Time. Here’s the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/SouthHeightsBaptistChurchOfSapulpa/videos/>



THE SPANISH FLU EPIDEMIC OF 1918 AND CHURCH SERVICES

The Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 killed 50 to 100 million worldwide and 670,000 in

America.

It was the last year of World War I, and the war had created economic hardship. Gasoline and sugar were rationed. There was a shortage of doctors and nurses because so many were in Europe to assist the soldiers. Large bond drives across the country were raising money for the war effort.

Philadelphia was the hardest hit city. The flu reached “the city of brotherly love” in early September, and about 70 had died, but the Liberty Loan parade (to raise funds for the war effort) was allowed to proceed on Sept. 28, 1918, and the gathering of some 200,000 spread the flu like wildfire. By October 21, more than 4,500 had died. The city had to be shut down. All schools, theaters, and churches, bars, pool rooms, and dance halls were ordered shut. By the time the flu ran its course in November, more than 12,000 had died. At one point, bodies were stacked three and four deep in the city’s only morgue. The Commonwealth Brewing Company offered a cold storage plant as a temporary holding facility for 500 bodies. Bodies remained inside homes for days at a time. Trenches were dug for mass burials. Hundreds of children were orphaned. With so many employees out sick, Bell Telephone had to restrict its lines for emergency calls only. It was a strange flu. Young people 15-34 were 20 times more likely to die than by previous flu outbreaks, while only 1 percent of the deaths were those over 65. The flu attacked the lungs and caused viral and bacterial pneumonias, and antibiotics had not yet been discovered. By November 11, the flu had subsided in Philadelphia, just in time for the city to celebrate the end of the war by flooding the streets and congregating to hear speeches. More Americans died of the flu that year than died on the killing fields of Europe.

During the Spanish flu epidemic, cities across America banned public gatherings, including worship services. Christians were encouraged to engage in “home worship” and “read sermons in newspapers.”

In Milwaukee, church services were banned in October (while saloons remained open). The ban was not lifted until Christmas Eve.

In Washington D.C., an emergency meeting of “Protestant ministers” on October 5, 1918, decided unanimously to “place ourselves on record as cheerfully complying with the request of the Commissioners, which, we understand applies to all churches alike. We furthermore recommend that our people shall conduct in their own homes some form of religious worship remembering in prayer especially the sick, our allied nations at war and the

present canvass for the fourth liberty loan”. Representatives of 131 African-American churches responded the same way. Some churches obtained permits to gather outdoors, but those, too, were soon banned. When the number of deaths fell dramatically by the end of October, pastors were pressing the government for release from the ban. Pastor J. Milton Waldron, in an editorial in the Evening Star on October 29 in behalf of the 1,100 members of Shiloh Baptist Church, said, that the church was concerned that the city officials are carelessly “interfering with the freedom of religious worship” and “are woefully lacking in reverence to God and wanting in a correct knowledge of the character and mission of the church when they place it in the same class with poolrooms, dance halls, moving picture places, and theaters... The Christian church is not a luxury, but a necessity to the life and perpetuity of any nation.” The ban was lifted two days later, and churches in Washington D.C. immediately renewed their regular services.

In Los Angeles, Harry Hitchcock and four others were arrested for attending a Christian Scientist meeting “in violation of the city anti-flu ordinances.” Hitchcock argued that the order was “an unconstitutional ... unwarranted exercise of the police power.” Four weeks later, a local appeals court refused his release.

In Salt Lake City, the Mormon Tabernacle was closed, but “in a few instances pastors assembled groups of young people in front of their churches, and either held service there, or marched to some park or recreation grounds, and enjoyed the autumn sunshine as well as imparting religious instructions to the assemblage.”

In Indianapolis, ten black Christians were arrested for attempting to worship in defiance of the board of health, and when they were arrested and taken to the police headquarters, “they began talking in the ‘unknown tongue’ and it was some time before the turnkey and matron were able to learn their names.”

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, Christian Reformed pastors did not hold services, but they were “upset that churches are closed while schools remain open.”

In New Orleans, a Methodist pastor warned that the financial consequence of not having services “ranges from \$20,000 to \$25,000.”

In Detroit, when the Roman Catholic bishop pleaded for an end to the statewide ban on public gatherings, saying that “they were willing have their edifices fumigated between meetings, cut the services to 45 minutes, employ special ushers, who would eject persons who coughed or sneezed, and to require all worshipers entering a church to wear influenza masks,” state officials refused.

In St. Louis, the rabbi of the local synagogue said, “Due to his determined action, St. Louis has been spared the terrible fate of other cities of its size and larger... The price we are paying now is commensurately small compared with the gain and good we shall obtain in the end.” ÷