

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXIII

April 8, 2018

Number 14

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of April 1, 2018

Sunday School ----- 17
Sunday Morning Service ----- 50
Sunday Evening Service ----- 33
Wed. Eve. Service, 04/04/18 ----- 12

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of April 1, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,401.42
Total Received for Week of 04/01/18: \$ 1,401.42

- Week of March 25, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 904.35
Total Received for Week of 03/25/18: \$ 904.35

- Week of March 18, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,040.48
Total Received for Week of 03/18/18: \$ 1,040.48

- Week of March 11, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 736.00
Total Received for Week of 03/11/18: \$ 736.00

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

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!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist
Rana Crawford ----- Greeter
Shayne Hooper, Brian Crawford, Charity Crawford, LeAnna White -- S.S. Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars, ----- Outreach
Bertha Segebarrt ----- Custodian
Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford

ATTENTION ALL MEN! PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE - 2018 MEN'S ADVANCE



**Friday, April 27,
at 7:00 p.m.
and Saturday,
April 28,
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

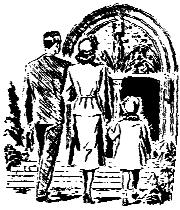
The Men's Advance has been hosted by Bible Baptist Church of Stillwater for over ten years and is attended by men from all across the Midwest. The goal of the Men's Advance is to impact the lives of men spiritually to make a difference in their homes, churches, relationships and community.

The meeting runs on a two-day format, beginning this year at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, April 27, 2017, and concluding at approximately 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 28. Again this year, we will again meet at the Payne County Expo Center, just east of Stillwater. Meals are provided on-site to allow the men more time to fellowship with one another, and include a full smoked meat dinner Friday night, complete breakfast Saturday morning, and a great lunch Saturday afternoon. In addition to the Advance, a golf tournament is open to all attendees and precede the Advance earlier on Friday.

The service times and break-out sessions are the focus of the event. Here, the men are challenged to examine their lives in the light of God's Word. Both humorous and contemplative skits are interspersed to reinforce the truths presented. Special music provided by the Bible Baptist Church Men's Group and others adds to the wonderful congregational hymns, including the traditional "It Is Well With My Soul" finale.

***DON'T MISS THIS!
REGISTER IN FOYER THIS WEEK!***





The Importance of Sundays: Sunday Services

by Wayne Hardy, Pastor
Bible Baptist Church - Stillwater, Oklahoma

One of the great joys of pastoring Bible Baptist Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma, is being able to pick a service, any service, and walk into a thriving, bustling sanctuary full of expectant people. It is especially comforting to realize they are not there because I have beaten them over the head to attend church faithfully. They seem to be there because they *want* to be, because they enjoy being there. It seems to run fairly deep in our church's DNA since the overwhelming majority of members attend all the services on Sunday, as well as on Wednesday night. It makes it difficult to pick a favorite service because they're all so full of life.

It's not that way everywhere I go, whether preaching in an independent Baptist church or attending someplace different on vacation. Our family was vacationing in Colorado recently, and I was reminded that finding a church to attend is not always easy. The independent Baptist church we sought to attend was 45 minutes away and having Sunday morning services at the lake, requiring us to bring food and lawn chairs to fellowship with brothers in Christ from other congregations. They cancel Sunday night services through the summer, evidently due to lack of participation. Another church in town that was having a Sunday morning service had canceled Sunday night because the leadership would be working on a project and wouldn't be there to conduct the service.

Plenty of churches are capable of attracting large Sunday morning crowds, but the fact that they are nearly empty for most other services seems to imply that the grand production on Sunday morning is more responsible for bringing them in than a real commitment to the Lord's Day and a hunger to hear God's Word. I've noticed a few characteristics about churches that have a healthy attendance for all their services, and many stem from the church's view of Sunday and services in general. I will list these as challenges by which readers may measure their view of Sunday services.

Treat Sunday as the First Fruits of Your Time - Give God the first and your best. The early church clearly gathered on the first day of the week and served as a testimony that honoring Christ for His work at Calvary was a priority for them. We get to spend the other six days divided up among our careers, homes, and hobbies. It seems fitting and right to give the Lord His own day.

Also Consider Giving Him the Whole Day, Just Not Part of It - The practice of honoring the Lord for a whole day had precedent in the Sabbath law from creation before evolving into the first day of the week after the resurrection. In both cases, the

emphasis was on the whole day. It is healthy and strengthening for a church to offer members the opportunity to honor the Lord corporately the entire day. It is a great witness to a busy culture when Christians take a whole day out of their just-as-busy schedules and submit it to a kingdom much larger than their own little culture.

Make the Decision Once, Not Every Week - The family who has to decide every week whether to go to church has already lost half the battle. Every church has those members that you know are going to be there every time you go. **That is because they made the decision once and that settled it.** The basic question is, "Are you going to be a faithful worshiper or not?" Answering "yes" to that question answers a thousand other questions at the same time. While it may not be easy, it really is simple.

Have a High Threshold for Missing - What will it take for you to miss? What level of discomfort or sickness? What relative or friend can displace your time with other believers worshiping Him? Be honest about whether His day gets the short end of the stick when the schedule gets tight. Who do you feel should give up their time when you need more? I am always thrilled at the testimony of our church when we have as many cars in the parking lot as Walmart does on snow days. I'm not advocating that there is innate spirituality in putting oneself in danger to go to church when it snows, but why should Walmart be worth the danger when church isn't? It's also humorous how many people are too sick on Sunday, but aren't on Monday. Decide to draw a threshold high enough that says God deserves your highest effort.

Don't Be Casual - It is trendy these days to treat church like any other place we go. Yet, it still makes a statement when we refuse to treat His presence too casually. I realize that our culture rarely dresses up for anything any more. What better way and time to make a statement than to exhibit outwardly what you should feel inwardly? This is a very special time. Any church dress code should be whatever comes to mind immediately after thinking, "I'm going into the presence of God." God doesn't give brownie points for ties and skirts. But, studies are numerous and undeniable that we treat something better the more effort we put into preparing for it. Consider this when it comes to food and drinks, as well. The focus is meant to be on feeding our souls, not our bodies. Our concentration and that of those around us can be hindered when we munch on snacks we bring to church. Another form of being casual is getting up and leaving. While there are viable reasons occasionally, anyone standing up in a crowd of people who are seated is obviously going to take the focus off of God and place it onto himself.

Be on Time - Are you habitually late? Excuses always exist to be late and there are always ways to be early. This can be a matter of prioritizing God's time. Being there ready and in your place when the first song starts is beneficial. It makes a statement to your family about what you find most important to be on time for. We have ladies with several children who constantly amaze

me by getting everyone ready and to church on time every time.

Be Open During Invitation - Every invitation is an opportunity to respond to something God wants in your life. Some messages will leave you needing to correct something, while others may leave you needing to strengthen something else. Some serve to confirm what is already living in your heart. Ask God directly what your response should be; assume that He will speak to you every service. James says that the danger of hearing without doing is, in effect, deceiving yourself. Enough invitations without some kind of response to God may make it hard to feel much conviction in the future.

Participate - Be a part of the service. When it's time to sing, join in. When it's time to give, do your part. When the preaching is going on, look at the one speaking and listen intently. I'm amused to go to an Oklahoma State University basketball game and see how much people paid to sit in the closest seats to the action, then go to the house of God and find people crowding around the furthest seats away. Make a statement and develop a mentality that fills in the front seats and says to visitors, "We want to get as close to what's going on as possible!"

On Sunday, your church needs to be the most coveted place to be in your community. It needs to be the center of truth and divine presence wherever your church meets. It's infectious and will spread whenever it is a reality in the pew. Let them see that an independent Baptist church might be more conservative, but we are anything but backward and boring. It's where the action is! ÷

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

POPE ALLEGEDLY SAYS THERE IS NO HELL - The following is excerpted from "Pope Francis," CNSNews.com, Mar. 29, 2018:

"In another interview with his longtime atheist friend, Eugenio Scalfari, Pope Francis claims that Hell does not exist and that condemned souls just 'disappear.' This is a denial of the 2,000-year-old teaching of the Catholic Church about the reality of Hell and the eternal existence of the soul. The interview between Scalfari and the Pope was published March 28, 2018 in La Repubblica. The relevant section on Hell was translated by the highly respected web log, Rorate Caeli. The interview is headlined, 'The Pope: It is an honor to be called revolutionary' ('Il Papa: È un onore essere chiamato rivoluzionario). Scalfari says to the Pope, 'Your Holiness, in our previous meeting you told me that our species will disappear in a certain moment and that God, still out of his creative force, will create new species. You have never spoken to me about the souls who died in sin and will go to

hell to suffer it for eternity. You have however spoken to me of good souls, admitted to the contemplation of God. But what about bad souls? Where are they punished?' Pope Francis says, 'They are not punished, those who repent obtain the forgiveness of God and enter the rank of souls who contemplate him, but those who do not repent and cannot therefore be forgiven disappear. There is no hell, there is the disappearance of sinful souls.'"

LONDON'S MURDER RATE EXCEEDS THAT OF NEW YORK CITY - The following is excerpted from "Knife Attacks Propel London to Outpace NYC's Murder Rate," DailyWire, Apr. 2, 2018: "London, lauded by the Left for its strict gun laws and embrace of multiculturalism, is not the haven it's cracked up to be. In February, the U.K. capital outpaced New York City's murder rate for the first time in modern history as London experienced a surge in knife attacks. Both cities have roughly the same population; in the month of February, 15 people were murdered in London, whereas NYC recorded 14 homicide deaths, reports The London Times. London is set to outpace NYC's murder rate for March as well. 'By late last night there had been 22 killings in the capital, according to the Metropolitan police, against 21 in the US city,' notes the Times. Eight of those murdered in March happened in a span of just seven days. Since 2014, excluding victims of terrorism, the number of London murders has risen by a stunning 38%. London has also seen an 'epidemic' of acid attacks in recent years." ÷

"I BELIEVE THAT MANY PROFESSING CHRISTIANS ARE COLD AND UNCOMFORTABLE BECAUSE THEY ARE DOING NOTHING FOR THEIR LORD; BUT IF THEY ACTIVELY SERVED HIM, THEIR BLOOD WOULD BEGIN TO CIRCULATE SPIRITUALLY, AND IT WOULD BE WELL WITH THEM."

C.H. SPURGEON

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