

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

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Why I Am A Baptist

by the late Dr. Noel Smith

Baptists are a people. They have a historical identity. They have a historical image. Their continuity is the longest of any Christian group on earth. Their doctrines, principles, and practices are rooted in the apostolic age. I am not a Pharasaical sectarian, but I don't confuse Baptists with the Reformers. The Reformers wanted to reform the Roman Catholic Church; the Baptists were against the Roman Catholic Church, because it was not a New Testament church.

Protestantism originated in the Reformation. Protestantism is "protest-ism." That's a Negative. Negativism has within it the seed of its own disintegration. The Baptists were **not** reformers. They were not protestors. They were positive. Freedom of conscience is not a Reformation doctrine; *it is a Baptist doctrine*. Religious liberty is not a Reformation doctrine; *it is a Baptist doctrine*. Believer's baptism is not a Reformation doctrine; *it is a Baptist doctrine*. Baptism of the believer by immersion in water, symbolizing the believer's death, burial and resurrection with Christ is not a Reformation doctrine; *it is a Baptist doctrine*. The local, visible, autonomous assembly, with Christ as its only head and the Bible as its sole rule of faith and practice, is not a Reformation doctrine; *it is a Baptist doctrine*. Worldwide missions are not a Reformation doctrine; *it is a Baptist doctrine*. The Reformers had no missionary vision and no missionary spirit. For almost two hundred years after the Reformers, the Reformation churches felt no burden to implement the Great Commission.

What kind of world would the Western world have been had Protestantism became its master? Who but the Baptist kept Protestantism from becoming master? The general attitude today is that the truth is determined by the passing of time; that there aren't eternal, abiding truths. "You can't turn the clock back. Time invalidates all truth. Time invalidates one set of truth and fastens another set upon us." Baptist history repudiates this philosophy of fatalism. Baptists today are believing, teaching, preaching, and practicing the truths that they believed, taught, preached, and practiced two thousand years ago. It gives me a feeling of stability to reflect that I, as a Baptist, am in the stream of this long continuity of faith and practice. The Baptist people are a great continuity...a great essence...a great dignity. The world never needed them more than it needs them today. ■

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly
 Cradle Roll 2: Derek & Kayla Quinnelly
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
 Cradle Roll 2: Seth White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of August 5, 2012

Sunday School ----- 14
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 26
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 23
 Wednesday Evening Service, 08/08/12 ----- 19

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of August 8, 2012

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 758.62
 Insurance Fund----- \$ 53.00
 Total Received for Week of 08/08/12: \$ 811.62

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

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR AUGUST 2012:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received for August, 2012 ----- \$ 53.00
 Amount Still Needed by 09/05/12 ----- \$ 220.08

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
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Shayne Hooper, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English, Shayne Hooper ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Shirley White

LISTEN TO -



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NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ **IRANIAN PRESIDENT CALLS FOR ANNIHILATION OF ISRAEL** - The president of Iran has again called for the annihilation of Israel. Speaking to ambassadors from Islamic countries ahead of the annual anti-Israel Qods Day (Jerusalem Day), Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said **“the ultimate goal of world forces must be the annihilation of Israel”** (“Ahmadinejad,” Jerusalem Post, Aug. 2, 2012). He claims that “Zionists” have been controlling the world “for about 400 years,” which probably comes as a great surprise to the Jews themselves. He held forth the liberation of “Palestine” as the “key for solving the world’s problems.”

We don’t have to guess about how all of this will turn out. Iran is modern-day Persia and her fate is described plainly in Bible prophecy. She will join Gog and Magog in the ill-fated attack on Israel described in Ezekiel 38-39 and suffer a stunning, world-shaking defeat on Israel’s hills. **“...Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet. ... And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord”** (Ezekiel 38:3-5, 22-23).

❑ **HOLLYWOOD AND BIBLE-BELIEVING CHRISTIANS**
The following is by Buddy Smith -

“The influence of Hollywood upon the members of Bible believing Christians is greater than at any time in history. Its influence does enormous harm to our churches. It makes spectators out of our people, instead of participants. It makes them couch potatoes and recliner rhubarbs. It fills their minds with sensual imagery. It teaches them that beauty and image are worth more than character. It addicts them to a narcissistic perspective on life. It projects upon their hearts and minds the perverted morals and values of the wickedest men and women in our world. It teaches them the language of the gutter. (No - “gutter” is too polite. “Sewer” is more accurate.) It makes a mockery of sin, whether fornication, adultery, sorcery, altered states of consciousness through drugs, alcohol, and the occult. It deafens the ear and the heart through mega-decibels of trashy music. It indoctrinates them with New Age cultic philosophies. It creeps into our church members' homes via television, DVD's, iPods, and computers. It sets the scene for our people to be existentialists (focused entirely on experience), rather than realists who are focused on Truth. And it promotes violence. In fact, putting all these criticisms together, Hollywood's favourite means

of harvesting Christians' money is through violent movies that embody all its evils and encapsulates them into Yin/Yang, evil/good, lawless lawmen who answer to nobody.

More needs to be said, much more. We who know Christ must remember that the Holy Scriptures teach over and over this precept: It is the lawless man who makes his own laws, and then applies them with more ferocity and severity than the lawful man ever did the laws of God. It is the lawless Man who will be the ultimate tyrant, the Antichrist. If our eyes were not so blinded by Hollywood, we would see clearly that her darlings, the actors, script writers, producers and directors are a present incarnation of that Man of Sin that will come. The mystery of iniquity doth already work. Are we not subsidizing it in our perpetual infatuation with Hollywood?”

❑ **WHOLE WORLD GETTING CONNECTED** - In a dramatic fulfillment of Bible prophecy, the whole world is getting connected. There are nearly six **billion** connected mobile devices and two billion people on the Internet (“No Borders Mean Flatter World,” BBC News, June 29, 2012). Most people in developed and developing countries are already connected to the Internet, and the speed with which connectivity is spreading in poor nations is breathtaking. In Africa, for example, there are nearly 700 million mobile phone subscribers, “which has given Africans a simple and pervasive means of sharing information and conducting business” (“How Mobile Puts Business at the Tip of Africa’s Fingers,” BBC News, July 2, 2012). The same phenomenon is occurring in Asia, such as in India and Nepal.

By this means, the amazing prophecy of Revelation 11:7-10 will doubtless be fulfilled when the Two Witnesses are killed by the antichrist and the world observes their dead bodies lying in Jerusalem. The connectivity is also preparing the way for the antichrist’s control of the global economy. Some see global connectivity as the democratization of the economy, but when the Man of Sin sits on the throne of the world there will be no free elections or people’s power. **“And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name”** (Revelation 13:17).

❑ **BEWARE OF DARK FANTASY** - The heart is the source of one’s actions. God’s Word says, **“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life,”** and, **“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he”** (Proverbs 4:23; 23:7). The corruption of the imagination was one of the first steps in the downward slide to idolatry and moral perversion in man’s early history as described in Romans 1. **“... when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened”** (Romans 1:21). The same thing happens in the lives of individuals.

What the mind dwells on is what will eventually control the life. If the imagination becomes perverted, the life will reflect this. This is a loud warning in an age when individuals can connect 24/7 in the most private manner with any aspect of the

pop culture, and there are a great many dark and perverted things with which one can fill the imagination. In fact, **dark and perverted** is an apt description of much of today’s music, video games, novels, and movies. Science fiction and the superhero genre, for example, have grown ever darker, stranger, more sensual and godless, and many people are living a dark fantasy world.

Consider James Holmes, who murdered a dozen people and wounded nearly 60 more last week in a movie theater where Batman: The Dark Knight Rises was premiering. Jesus taught us that murder is an acting out of the impulses of the sin nature (Mark 7:21-23), but the fallen nature can be inflamed. Homes had dyed his hair red and said he was The Joker, the clownish, ultra-violent enemy of the superhero **Batman** (“NYC Police Commissioner Said Alleged Shooter Calls Himself The Joker,” Fox News, July 20, 2012). These are vile movies. In the 2008 movie **Batman: The Dark Night**, a man’s face is filleted by a knife, another’s is burned half off, a man’s eye is slammed into a pencil, a bomb is stitched inside of a man and exploded, a man is bound to a chair and set afire, a child is threatened by a man with a melted face, and clowns are shot point-blank in the head. In the comic book “Batman: The Dark Night” The Joker murders an entire television audience. Thirteen years earlier, not far from where Holmes acted out his perverted fantasies, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold murdered 13 and wounded 21. They, too, were acting out demonic fantasies that had been enflamed through violent music, video games, and dark movies.

❑ **FILM CRITIC WARNS ABOUT THE DARK VIOLENCE OF TODAY’S MOVIES** - In 2008, film critic Jenny McCartney warned about the growing darkness and violence of the movie industry and the fact that children are watching this soul-corrupting trash. The following is excerpted from **“Our Attitude to Violence Is Beyond a Joke,”** The London Telegraph, July 26, 2008: “But the greatest surprise of all—even for me, after eight years spent working as a film critic--has been the sustained level of intensely sadistic brutality throughout the film [Batman: The Dark Knight]. ... The Dark Knight, however, has been rated 12A by the British Board of Film Classification, which means that although the BBFC believes it is best suited to children aged 12 and over, any under-12 can see it provided he or she is accompanied by an adult. Cinemas are even holding parent-and-baby screenings. The 12A certificate, a relatively recent innovation, is a piece of fudge designed to deflect responsibility from the BBFC on to British parents. ...

In 2002, the BBFC took a stand on Spider-Man, a hugely hyped Hollywood release: it decided that it contained unsuitable levels of violence for under-12s, and therefore awarded it a ‘12’ certificate, meaning that under-12s should not be allowed into cinemas to see it. A public storm erupted; children and many parents were furious; and a number of councils announced their intention to defy the ban. At first the BBFC stoutly defended itself, saying that ‘Hollywood has carried out an aggressive worldwide marketing campaign aimed at young children when

the film is not suitable for them.’ And then, fed up with being everyone’s most hated Aunt Sally, it invented the 12A certificate, which translates as a fed-up, institutional shrug of the shoulders. It’s been busy shrugging ever since. Spider-Man now looks like Bambi when set next to The Dark Knight. ...

The intensity of violence in The Dark Knight is a grimly logical progression from the sort of distilled brutality that has rapidly become the norm in films rated 15 and 18: the only difference is that now small children are permitted to watch it, too. ... Increasingly, extreme screen violence is used not as a necessary adjunct to a greater point, but as the pleasurable point in itself.”

❑ **“CHRISTIAN” ROCK CONTINUES TO BUILD THE ONE-WORLD CHURCH** - So-called Christian rock’s one-world church building enterprise was in full steam at the recently concluded 14th annual Lifest in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. On hand were popular CCM groups such as Switchfoot, Newsboys, Underoath, Building 429, Norma Jean, Steven Curtis Chapman, Tammy Borden, Love & Death, Casting Crowns, and Disciple. 15,000 enthusiastic fans gathered to celebrate ecumenical unity through the sensual power of rock & roll.

Participants could choose from three worship services, including a Catholic Mass led by Bishop David Ricken, who officially approves of the “Marian Apparitions” at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in northern Wisconsin. The apparition appeared to Adele Brise in 1859 and said, “I am the Queen of Heaven, who prays for the conversion of sinners,” plainly identifying itself as a demon, since the only Queen of Heaven mentioned in Scripture is an idolatrous goddess that was condemned by the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 7:18).

The fact that Christian rock is intimately associated with such things is clear evidence of its apostasy. None of the aforementioned popular CCM groups and “artists” condemned Roman Catholic participation in the festival.

❑ **DEBATE AMONG SOUTHERN BAPTISTS ON CALVINISM** - The debate among Southern Baptists in regard to Calvinism has intensified in recent weeks with the publication of a document opposing it. The “Statement of the Traditional Southern Baptist Understanding of God’s Part in Salvation,” published May 30, has been signed by more than 650 Southern Baptists, including and six former SBC presidents and two SBC seminary presidents. The statement, which presents a non-Calvinistic view of salvation, is a reaction against the growth of “New Calvinism” within the Convention, referring to a Mark Driscoll-style rock & roll Calvinism that is “theologically conservative and culturally liberal.” In 2009 Time magazine listed “New Calvinism” as one of the “10 Ideas Changing the World Right Now.” A new survey by the SBC’s LifeWay Research finds that 30% of Southern Baptist congregations identify themselves as Calvinist/Reformed and more than 60% of Southern Baptists are concerned about Calvinism’s influence within the denomination. ■