

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XX

September 6, 2015

Number 35

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebarr
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 Sun. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of August 30, 2015

Sunday School ----- 17
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 42
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 36
 Wed. Eve. Service, 09/02/15 ----- 34

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of August 30, 2015

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 851.15
 Auditorium Air Conditioner Fund ----- \$ 3.00
Total Received for Week of 08/30/15: \$ 854.15

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

AUDITORIUM AIR CONDITIONER FUND -

Amount For Entire Project ----- \$5,000.00
 Amount Received So Far ----- \$ 28.00
Total STILL NEEDED to pay off: \$4,972.00

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

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
 ----- Greeter
 Shayne Hooper, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Ella Allen ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford

STARTING TODAY! -



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Starting TODAY, we have started two new Sunday School classes for children ages four through 12. Included in each class session will be music, games, Bible stories, crafts, take home crafts, and a Bible memory verse to work on during the following week. Each month, the children from the classes will present at least one memory verse or song to the congregation during the morning church service.

This is an excellent opportunity to present the Bible and the Gospel to our children - we encourage all of our parents to bring their children to Sunday School again NEXT SUNDAY!

BIBLICAL SEPARATION

by Dr. Freeman Weems III, Pastor
First Baptist Church - Atoka, Tennessee

When considering the *Doctrine of Separation*, it is imperative that we strike the balance that Christ would want in our life. Getting out of balance on these issues will either make us a legalist, on one side, or an antinomian, on the other. The issue that we will be struggling with is, “*How can I walk closer to the Lord?*” This is very well expressed in *Hebrews 12:1* - “*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us ...*” Separation deals both with weights and with sins. The word for **weight** in this text implies a burden or a hindrance in the race. As we sharpen our senses by reason of use (Hebrews 5:14), we will begin to apply principles that cut across all times and cultures that will enable us to be separated unto our Saviour.

Separation must be looked at as much as a positive as a negative. When a man marries, he separates himself *unto* his wife. As a believer, we can choose to separate *from* the world and *unto* the Lord. So, we are considering somewhat of the depth of the commitment that a person is willing to make in their faith in Christ.

Romans 12:1 - 2 deal with this exact principle: “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*”

When we conformed to this world, we are not allowing the Spirit of God to transform us into the image of Christ. Based upon what He has done for us, our love to Him should motivate us to deny our own lusts and desires to serve and love Him completely.

Further proof of this aspect of separation can be found in Colossians 3. In the first two verses, we are told that we are to seek those things that are above and to set our affection on those things. All of this is positive. Then, Paul begins to give us some negatives - mortify your members, put off some things, and lie not one to another.

A proper definition of **Separation** is essential to an effective lesson plan. Separation is that practical doctrine based upon what the Bible teaches about cleaving unto the Lord and leaving or ignoring anything that would hinder our personal walk with Him. The text in Hebrews 12 gives emphasis to “us.” The Greek word used here is used as an emphatic pronoun. The word for “lay aside” means to cast away or to put off. This is what Christ

expects from us.

Consider this text - “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord...*” (*Psalms 1:1-2a*), or this text - “*Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them...meddle not with them that are given to change*” (*Proverbs 24:1 & 21b*). Separation will include a hatred of that which is evil and a delight in that which is good in the eyes of the Lord. Properly exercised, it will enable us to choose between good and best.

It is possible to define Separation by its types. Most conservatives would hold to at least two types of Separation: *Personal and Ecclesiastical*.

The former, *Personal*, would include the realm of our job, our public, and our private life. The Word of God sets a standard for what kind of jobs a Christian can hold without giving offence to the Lord. It has not been that long ago that dancing was such a taboo to Baptists as to be an object of ridicule by the community. We would do well to remember the reasons that such activities were considered “off limits.”

Ecclesiastical Separation deals with the fellowship of one church with another. There are good reasons to avoid the yoking together that is so typical of denominational America today.

First, the Bible indicates that the local assemblies were to be run independent of each other. You will note that the epistles of Paul were addressed to local churches, not to associations or some hierarchy. The only exception is in the Book of Galatians where Paul addresses the “churches of Galatia...” Even there an emphasis is evident on their distinction one from another. In the Book of Revelation John addresses the seven churches of Asia Minor individually not as a group.

Second, I can find no historical evidence for a hierarchy among the early church. It was not until the fourth century that the hierarchy of bishops over groups of pastors began to develop. The spiritual heritage that you and I enjoy denies the authority of men over the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Third, the tendency of denominational control has been negative. The inclusiveness of the Neo-Evangelicals and the deadening effect of the Liberals is enough to cause us to be Independent. (*A word of warning is necessary here - We must not become the judge and jury of all other churches. The very essence of the Independent Movement is that each church is individually responsible to the Lord for their doctrine and their activities. Just because we do not agree with someone else does not give us the right to condemn him or her as apostates. We must be very careful not to develop an air of superiority. Avoid unnecessary sectarianism. Baptists are not the only people going to heaven.*)

Fourth, the testimony of the local church is at stake through denominational ties. What happens at the headquarters will echo through the local churches. The battles that we have seen in the

last few years over ordaining women and sodomites, same-sex marriages, the Bible ordered home, support for America’s enemies during the Vietnam War, and even prayer in school make it imperative the local church sound forth a clear battle cry that cannot be confused by some denominational spokesperson.

There are two basic reasons to separate from another local church in this matter of fellowship: false doctrine and questionable worship. The former is easily recognized, but it is not so easy with the latter. The Bible does not endorse one style of worship over another; i.e., emotional or non-emotional. So, when we find that a body of professed believers is worshipping in a style that we do not have common ground with then we must separate for conscience sake.

Separation defines some of the major issues of our Christian life. These would cover three areas: *convictions, standards,* and *preferences*.

Convictions are those unchangeable positions that we have a “thus saith the Lord” to support. These are things that we would die before we would change.

Standards - these are based upon our convictions, but we do not have a direct reference or doctrine that addresses the issue. (*A good example would be smoking - though we have many texts about honoring the Lord and taking care of our body, there is not text that says, “Thou shalt not smoke!” Our church has consistently held that those who use tobacco must not hold elected office in the church.*)

Preferences are desires for godly living predicated upon our standards and convictions. These are things that we feel strongly about, but can only show some implied reference to in the Word of God. They may vary greatly among believers and must not be used to judge another’s spirituality or lack thereof.

Separation is to be unto God. While we are doing His commands, we are automatically not doing the works of the flesh. Consider these verses:

Joshua 22:5 - “*But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.*”

Joshua 23:5-8 - “*And the LORD your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the LORD your God hath promised unto you. Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left; That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them: But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day.*”

- continued next week

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☐ **MACARTHUR PROMOTES CULTURAL LIBERALISM** - The influential John MacArthur of Grace Community Church in southern California is facing two ways in regard to the heresy of “cultural liberalism.” On one hand, he has reproved the emerging “new Calvinists” for their worldliness, while on the other hand he is engaging in that very thing. In an interview with Alex Crain of Christianity.com, which was posted on YouTube, Aug. 18, 2011, MacArthur said, “*The fear is that the power of the world’s attraction is going to suck these guys and every generation after them, more and more into the culture, and we’re going to see a reversal of the Reformed revival. ... My fear is that the further this thing goes in trying to accommodate the culture, the less it’s going to be able to hang on to that core doctrine*”. MacArthur was warning about what Mark Driscoll called being “theologically conservative and culturally liberal.”

It is not a new thing, as it has long been a major element of New Evangelicalism. It entails such things as Christian rock, drinking, champagne dance parties, beer brewing lessons, gambling nights, hula “worship,” analyzing R-rated movies for “edification,” and performing secular rock in the context of “worship.” What MacArthur says about the danger of cultural liberalism is true, but his condemnation of it is grossly ineffective and hypocritical because he is guilty of it. Camp Regeneration, a youth camp hosted by MacArthur for “churches throughout the nation each July,” is rife with cultural liberalism. High school boys and girls dress immodestly, engage in questionable activities (such as girls getting covered with wet mud in the presence of boys), and rock out to rap music performed by ear-ringed, tattooed hip-hop artists in an atmosphere of darkened auditoriums, flashing lights, and smoke. The Master’s College, which is headed by MacArthur, hosted a hip-hop concert in December 2011 featuring Lecrae, Trip Lee, Tadashii, Sho Baraka, DJ Official, and THI’S L. Master’s College students produce pop/rap/country rock videos with full blown dance routines and covers of secular rock songs. They host a Fall Thing event that is extremely worldly. In 2011 the theme was “Unrestricted Reality,” with the students donning costumes imitating characters from Star Wars, sci-fi fantasy, super heroes, and the pop culture in general.

This plays right into the hands of the culture’s fascination with fantasy and the devil’s use of it to corrupt men’s minds. The young people wouldn’t want to dress this way unless their minds and hearts were already in love with Hollywood.

MacArthur is correct in observing that cultural liberalism will ruin the youth and eventually destroy sound doctrine, and his own flock will be the proof of it, as will the flocks of every foolish pastor that follows in his footsteps. Many fundamental Baptists are on the same destructive path, as Evangelist David W. Cloud has documented in the free eBook “*Biblical Separatism and Its Collapse among Fundamental Baptists.*”

See www.wayoflife.org/freebooks.