

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

- Week of September 12, 2021 -

Sunday Morning Service -----	28
Sunday Evening Service -----	21
Wed. Evening Service, 09/15/21 -----	19

**AND THE PEOPLE "TUNED IN"...**

- Week of September 12, 2021 -

- Number of people who connected with our services on Facebook -

<b>Sunday Morning Service:</b>		
70 Views	64 Engagements	71 People Reached
<b>Sunday Evening Service:</b>		
47 Views	58 Engagements	57 People Reached
<b>Wednesday Evening Service:</b>		
36 Views	42 Engagements	42 People Reached

**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

- Week of September 12, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 860.94
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/12/21:</b>	<b>\$ 860.94</b>

- Week of September 5, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 2,084.25
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/05/21:</b>	<b>\$ 2,084.25</b>

- Week of August 29, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 841.37
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/29/21:</b>	<b>\$ 841.37</b>

- Week of August 22, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 613.46
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/22/21:</b>	<b>\$ 613.46</b>

- Week of August 15, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 877.09
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/15/21:</b>	<b>\$ 877.09</b>

- Week of August 8, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,082.38
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/08/21:</b>	<b>\$ 1,082.38</b>

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



**CHURCH INSURANCE FUND**

Monthly Premium, Due 10/05/21-----	\$ 537.92
Amount Received For Oct. -----	\$ 0.00

**AMOUNT STILL NEEDED FOR OCT., 2021: -- \$ 537.92**

*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.*



**THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!**

During the early part this pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, 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). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

**WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:**

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 GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE!**  
**YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

**Church Directory**

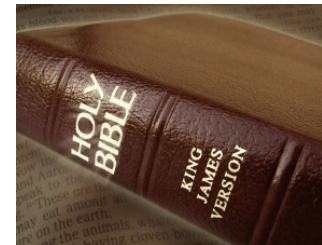
Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianist/ Organist
Mickie Shatwell -----	Evening Pianist
Derek Quinnelly -----	Greeter
Larry Byars -----	S.S. Teacher
Larry & Mary Byars, Chris Vance, Derek Quinnelly -----	Outreach
White Family -----	Custodians
Shirley & Brenda White -----	Flowers
Seth White -----	Sound/Video

**SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY**  
**REMINDER**

Volume XXVII

September 19, 2021

Number 36



**A Tale of Three Cities:  
 Where the Bible Versions Began**

by the late Dr. David F. Reagan, Pastor  
 Antioch Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee  
*(continued from last week)*

**A** *Tale Of Three Cities* begins in the Roman Empire during the time of Christ. The three cities (Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch) were the three largest and most influential cities in the Roman Empire. Yet, to the Christian, their influence concerning Bible corruption and preservation is of much greater importance.

As capital of the Roman Empire and the empire's largest city, **ROME** ruled the ancient world. Rome emphasized form, legalism, and tradition. Through tradition, Rome became the center of Biblical addition. The Apocrypha is one example of how Rome added to scripture. From Italy, Rome dominated the theology and spiritual life of southern Europe and northern Africa.

**Alexandria, Egypt**, the second largest city, was the world capital for science, education, and scholarship. Great minds gravitated to Alexandria. This home town of Philo and Origen dominated the theology of surrounding Egypt and Palestine. As is the practice of modern scholarship, Alexandria subtracted from the Word of God. *The Alexandrian Text is still the basis of modern Bible corruptions.*

The third largest city of the empire was **Antioch of Syria**. Located in the East, Antioch dominated the regions of Syria and Asia minor, the lands of early apostolic work. Antioch was known for her luxury and cosmopolitan flavor, but also for a literal interpretation of scripture. Although belittled by the scholarship of today, the Syrian Text was the underlying basis for the King James Version of 1611.

These three cities were located in three important countries on three different continents. They represented the three major races. Why are they so important? How did these cities become so influential in the historical transmission of the Biblical Text? These questions and more are to be answered in the following text. **But never forget that God promised to preserve His Word.** Our greatest concern should never be to judge or criticize the Word, but to find it, then read it, study it, memorize it, obey it, teach it, preach it, and if necessary, die for it.

Thusfar, we've looked at Alexandria and Rome. This week, we will look at the city of

**Antioch**

Antioch was located in Syria on the Asian continent. The native inhabitants of Antioch descended from Shem, one of the sons of Noah, through Aram (Gen. 10:22). Please notice that God did not use the Japhethites of Europe or the Hamites of Africa to preserve His Word. He used the Shemites of Asia of whom Noah prophesied, **"Blessed be the Lord God of Shem" (Gen. 9:26)**. This scripture shows that God is going to use the Shemites throughout history in a special way. He established His chosen nation, the nation of Israel, through Abraham who was a descendent of Shem. He offered salvation to mankind through the Jews, for Christ declared, **"salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22)**. He also revealed Himself to mankind in the Bible which was written by Jews and given to Jews (Rom. 3:1-2). If God's chosen people, His offer of salvation, and His written Word all came through the children of Shem in accordance with the prophecy of Noah, why then would God not use the children of Shem to preserve His book? The Syrians of Antioch were the Shemites which God used to preserve His New Testament during the first centuries after it was written.

*(continued inside)*

Antioch has a great influence in the area of Asia Minor as well as in Syria. These areas were the early locations of the greatest revivals and most extensive evangelism. Most of the New Testament books were either written or received in this part of the world. By His wonderful providence, God had placed Antioch in a special place of importance. Antioch became the early center for Bible-believing Christians and Bible preservation.

Much is revealed about a Bible teacher or Christian group by examining their approach in interpreting scripture. The same is true in the study of Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch. **Rome** took the approach of ecclesiastical interpretation. In other words, the past traditions of the church and church theologians determine the meaning of the passage. The approach of **Alexandria** was that of allegorical interpretation. Scripture was to be spiritualized by scholars in order to conform it to their philosophical beliefs. **Only Antioch took the literal approach to Biblical interpretation.** According to this approach, the Bible means what it says and says what it means. There is no need to change or manipulate scripture because the Word of God is already perfect. Now who do you want to copy your next Bible manuscript: the traditionalists from Rome, the scholars from Alexandria, or the literalists from Antioch?

## Biblical Mention

No matter how much we know about a place historically, the bottom line is still, “What saith the Scripture?” The city of Rome is mentioned nine times in the New Testament and is characterized as a place of persecution (II Tim. 1:15-17). Although only mentioned three times by name, Alexandria is clearly a place of false doctrine according to scripture (Acts 6:9; 18:24-26). But our greatest amount of Biblical information is reserved for the city of Antioch. It is mentioned by name **nineteen times** and has great importance for us today. In fact, the church at Antioch is the greatest example of Biblical Christianity in the entire New Testament.

The founding and early ministry of the church at Antioch are described in Acts 11:19-30. Acts 13:1-4 narrates the calling and sending of the first missionaries out of Antioch: Barnabas and Paul. From these two passages we learn seven basic characteristics of the church at Antioch. First, the church at Antioch was a preaching church (Acts 11:20,23). Second, it was a witnessing church (Acts 11:21,24). Third, it was a teaching church (Acts 11:26; 13:1). Fourth, the church at Antioch was a serving church: **“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch” (Acts 11:26).** Fifth, it was a giving church (Acts 11:29-10). Sixth, it was a praying church (Acts 13:2-3). And seventh, the church at Antioch was a missionary church (Acts 13:3-4).

Being founded on these principles, the church at Antioch continued in its Biblical ministry for several centuries. Why then should any one think it strange that God would use the influence of Antioch in the preservation of scripture? That is exactly what He did.

## New Testament Preservation

There are about 4,000 or 5,000 existing manuscripts of the New Testament. They have been classified according to their characteristic readings by various scholars and divided into families. Although all divisions of manuscripts are manmade and therefore subject to dispute, one of the most accepted divisions separates the manuscripts into three families. These families are called the **Western**, the **Alexandrian**, and the **Syrian**. The Western Text is related to Rome, the Alexandrian Text is related to Alexandria and the Syrian Text is related to Antioch. The Western and Alexandrian Texts are represented by a minority of manuscripts and corrupt the pure Word of God. The Syrian Text represents the great majority of manuscripts and, as a whole, preserves the pure Word of God. This pure text is still preserved for us today in the English of the King James Version.

Book after book has been written in the last hundred years on both sides of the issue of textual differences. **But the real question is whether God preserved His Word or not.** If He did, He could have used anyone in any way, although history definitely points to Antioch. If He did **not**, then our Bible is corrupted beyond repair, and we are left without any final authority for truth. We are left blind in a world blackened by sin and rebellion toward God. But we do have the pure and preserved words of God. Open up your King James Version and read, study, teach, and preach it. Its words are without error and without mistake. Therefore, we can proclaim its message without apology.■

## NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

◆ **EPISCOPALIAN BISHOP GOES TO HIS REWARD** - **“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (II Peter 2:1-2).**

Episcopal bishop John Shelby Spong died on Sept. 12, 2021 at the age of 90. He represents the apostasy that is described in Bible prophecy. John Spong is evidence that the Bible **IS** the infallible Word of God. He was ordained as a bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Newark, New Jersey, in 1976, even though he denied practically every doctrine of the Christian faith. In 1988, Spong published **“Living in Sin: A Bishop Rethinks Human Sexuality”**, stating, **“The time has surely come not just to tolerate, or even to accept, but to celebrate and welcome the presence among us of our gay and lesbian fellow human beings.”**

That year Spong visited a Buddhist temple and said, **“As the smell of incense filled the air, I knelt before three images of the Buddha, feeling that the smoke could carry my prayers heavenward”** (“A Dialogue in a Buddhist Temple,” John Spong, The Voice, Jan. 1989). In his 1991 book **“Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism”**, Spong wrote, **“Am I suggesting that**

**these stories of the virgin birth are not literally true? The answer is a simple and direct ‘Yes.’ Of course these narratives are not literally true. Stars do not wander, angels do not sing, virgins do not give birth, magi do not travel to a distant land to present gifts to a baby, and shepherds do not go in search of a newborn savior. ... To talk of a Father God who has a divine-human son by a virgin woman is a mythology.”** Spong also said the apostle Paul was **“a self hating, repressed homosexual.”** In 1998, Spong said, **“I would choose to loathe rather than to worship a deity who required the sacrifice of his son”** (Christianity Today, June 15, 1998). In 2000, Spong wrote in his diocesan newspaper, **“I do not believe that God is a Being sitting above the clouds pulling strings. ... I do not believe that human beings are born evil and that only those who come to God through the ‘blood of Jesus’ will be saved”** (“John Shelby Spong,” The Washington Times, Sept. 12, 2021).

◆ **HARVARD UNIVERSITY APPOINTS ATHEIST AS PRESIDENT OF CHAPLAINCY** - The following is excerpted from “Harvard Appoints,” Premier Christian News, Aug. 30, 2021:

“Harvard University in America has appointed its Atheist chaplain to be the President of its chaplaincy. Greg Epstein, 44, who already worked as a Humanist chaplain at the college, will organise the other 40 or so chaplains from the Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu and Sikh faith. He was voted for unanimously by his other chaplain colleagues. Mr. Epstein, who was raised Jewish, is the author of **“Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe”**, and wants to be there for those on campus who do not believe in God but still want to make good choices. He told the New York Times: ‘There is a rising group of people who no longer identify with any religious tradition but still experience a real need for conversation and support around what it means to be a good human and live an ethical life.’ ‘We don’t look to a god for answers,’ he added. ‘We are each other’s answers.’”

CONCLUSION: God’s Word says, **“The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?” (Jeremiah 8:9).**

◆ **PROMINENT SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH HOLDS CHARISMATIC-STYLE “HEALING” SERVICE** - On September 5, 2021, Steve Gaines, a former Southern Baptist Convention president, conducted charismatic-style “healing” services at Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee. The people came forward in mass “to be anointed with oil and prayed over for healing ... that God will heal and restore.” Some of the men on the platform held their hands out charismatic fashion over the people as if healing rays were emitting from their hands. Contemporary rock music was playing during the “anointing.”

Gaines preached from James, but he did not obey James, which says, **“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save**

**the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed” (Jas. 5:14-16).** James describes a private, individual anointing for physical healing, not a public mass anointing for vaguely defined “healings” and “restorations.” James describes prayer for saints that are known to the elders, known members of a church, but at Bellevue the people had to tell the anointers their first names, because many were complete strangers and casual visitors. James calls for confession of faults, but at Bellevue the pastor made it clear that they didn’t have enough time for such things.

Charismatic doctrine and practice has been leavening the Southern Baptist Convention since the 1980s.

◆ **MATT REDMAN, MICHAEL W. SMITH, JOIN GAY ACTIVISTS FOR 9/11 WORSHIP EVENT** - Ecumenism has been a growing problem in the Church for a long time as professing Evangelicals are becoming more prone to join hands with Roman Catholics, Mormons, and other apostate sub-Christian sects all for the sake of their false gospel of unity. But an even more subversive manifestation of this heresy is mainstream Evangelicals—the ones we would typically associate with conservative Baptist and Evangelical Christianity, for example – is the movement to unite with open rebels against God’s design for sexuality.

If you weren’t aware, the highly popular and esteemed gospel singer, Amy Grant, recently came out in an interview all in favor of homosexuality.

“Who loves us more than the one who made us?” Grant rhetorically asked Proud Radio host Hunter Kelly in a July 12 interview. “None of us are a surprise to God. Nothing about who we are or what we’ve done. That’s why, to me, it’s so important to set a welcome table. Because I was invited to a table where someone said ‘Don’t be afraid, you’re loved.’ ...Gay. Straight. It does not matter.”

“It doesn’t matter how we behave,” Grant continued. “It doesn’t matter how we’re wired. We’re all our best selves when we believe to our core, ‘I’m loved.’ And then our creativity flourishes. We’re like, ‘I’m gonna arrange flowers on your table and my table.’ When we’re loved, we’re brave enough to say yes to every good impulse that comes to us.”

