

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of November 21, 2021 -

Sunday Morning Service -----	50
Sunday Evening Service -----	21
(No Wed. Evening Service, 11/24/21)	

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of November 21, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,747.00
Love Offering, Dr. Ray Meier -----	\$ 350.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/21/21:	\$ 2,097.00

- Week of November 14, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,185.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/14/21:	\$ 1,185.00

- Week of November 7, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,315.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/07/21:	\$ 1,315.00

- Week of October 31, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 4,542.04
Love Offering -----	\$ 50.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/31/21:	\$ 4,592.04

- Week of October 24, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 820.04
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/24/21:	\$ 820.04

- Week of October 17, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 480.54
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/17/21:	\$ 480.54

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

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM



CHURCH INSURANCE FUND

Monthly Premium, Due 12/05/21----- \$ 537.92
Amount Received For Dec. ----- \$ 0.00

AMOUNT STILL NEEDED FOR DEC., 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, and Harrison White -----	Outreach
Bertha Segebarr -----	Custodian
Shirley & Brenda White -----	Flowers
Seth White -----	Sound/Video

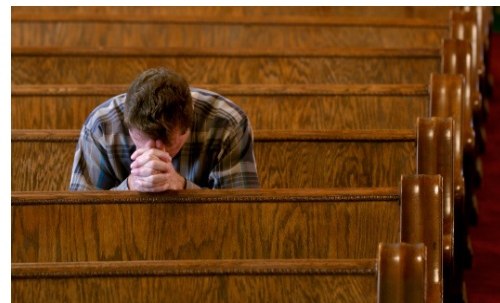
SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XXVII

November 28, 2021

Number 45



The Bible's Strong Emphasis On Prayer

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

Nothing is more important in the Christian life and ministry than effectual prayer.

In light of the following Bible facts about prayer, it has rightly been said, "**No prayer, no power; little prayer, little power; much prayer, much power.**"

☐ Prayer is mentioned at least 550 times in the Bible, 174 times in the New Testament, 35 times in Acts, 48 times in Paul's epistles. Paul taught something about prayer in practically every one of his epistles.

☐ James, Peter, John, and Jude mention prayer 11 times.

☐ Prayer is a major emphasis of Christ's teaching (Matthew 5:44; 6:5-15; 9:38; 17:21; 21:22; 26:41; Mark 13:33; Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-6).

☐ The prominent saints in the Bible were praying people (e.g., Enoch, Abraham, Hannah, Deborah, Samuel, David, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Nehemiah, Paul, Lydia).

☐ Prayer is one of the four foundational characteristics of the first church in Jerusalem ("**they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and breaking of bread and prayers,**" Acts 2:42).

☐ Prayer is the first ministry of church leaders ("**But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word,**" Acts 6:4). Note that prayer is to be continual. And note that prayer is put first, and that is because prayer is necessary for the ministry of the word to be most effectual. This is God's plan. Paul plainly taught this.

☐ Prayer is to be "first of all" in the churches (I Timothy 2:1-2).

☐ God's people are to pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17), to continue instant or steadfast in prayer (Rom. 12:12), to pray always (Eph. 6:18), to continue in prayer (Col. 4:2).

☐ The prayers of the saints are kept before the throne of God as sweet odors before Him and are effectual in producing His great works on earth. Prayers are mentioned at the opening of the seven-sealed book which contains God's plan for overthrowing the rebellion on earth and establishing Christ's eternal kingdom (Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4). These are not the selfish prayers of nominal believers; these are not the prayers of those who pray for comfort and help while they live lukewarm, worldly lives; these are the prayers of the saints who are living according to God's will and praying according to God's will, like the saints recorded in Scripture.

☐ Prayer is a major part of spiritual warfare in the battle for truth and righteousness in this present world. Paul mentioned prayer prominently in his description of the whole armor of God. "**Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints**" (Eph. 6:18). The devil does everything he can to stop or hinder effectual prayer. He tries to make the saint think that his prayers won't change anything, that it doesn't matter whether or not he prays, or how much he prays. He tries to focus the saint's attention on his sin and failings and cause him to become too discouraged to pray. ■

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ **SYNAGOGUES CLOSING** - The Jews are returning to their land, and many synagogues have closed. Since the first decade of the 21st century, there have been no functioning synagogues in Calcutta, a city that once hosted a thriving Jewish community and five synagogues. The first Jew, Shalom Aharon Obadiah Cohen, arrived from Aleppo, Syria, in 1792. He led in the building of the first synagogue, Neveh Shalome, in 1831. Beth El synagogue followed in 1856; Magen David, 1884; Magen Aboth, 1897; Shaare Rasson, 1933. The Calcutta Jews were led by merchants trading in cotton, jute, spices, and opium. By the mid-20th century there were 6,000 Jews, but they are gone now. They began leaving after the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. In 2019 there were only 30 Jews left in the city, all 70 or older. A report in the New York Times for Oct. 24, 2013, was entitled “The Last Jews of Calcutta.” Muslims are now caretakers of the defunct synagogues.

In 2021, the last Jew left Afghanistan and the last synagogue closed. Jews had lived in Afghanistan since at least AD 500. At one time the Jewish population was thought to number 50,000. In 1948 the population was 5,000. By 1996, there were only 10 Jews in the one remaining synagogue in Kabul. The synagogue’s Torah was stolen by the Taliban. By 2001, there were thought to be only two Jews left, Zablon Simintov and Ishaq Levin. (Actually there was a third, Tova Moradi, as has been recently reported). “They were famous for being arch-rivals, and repeatedly turned each other into the Taliban. This feud was the plot-line for a New York City play entitled ‘The Last Two Jews of Kabul.’ In 2005, the feud ended when Levin died of natural causes, leaving Simintov as the only remaining Jew in all of Afghanistan” (“The Last Operating Synagogue,” atlasobscure.com). Simintov, who has long been estranged from his wife and two daughters in Israel, left Afghanistan in September 2001 after the American military departure.

Where are the Jews going? Large numbers of them are going home in preparation for the final fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

“Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel” (Ezekiel 37:11-12).

❑ **KID ROCK: “DON’T TELL ME HOW TO LIVE”** - Kid Rock’s filthy new song “Don’t Tell Me How to Live” is a flashback to two 1965 hits, the Rolling Stones’, “I’m free to do what I want any old time,” and the Animals’ “It’s my life and I’ll do what I want.”

This has been rock’s theme from its inception. Rock is not just music and innocent entertainment; it is a moral revolution. An advertisement for Rolling Stone magazine proclaimed, “Rock ‘n’ roll is more than just music--it is the energy center of a new

culture and youth revolution.”

Indeed, it changed the world. We live in a society created by rock & roll. You can see the effect everywhere: in attitude, in fashion, in the generation gap, in the obsession with sex, in the idolization of pop stars, in the love for fantasy, in the glorification of entertainment. Above all, you can see the effect in focus on self and in the “judge not” philosophy that has become a cultural law. Nothing is absolutely wrong; everything is relative.

At the heart of rock music is sexual liberty, which is brazen rebellion against God’s holy law of marriage. John Oats of Hall & Oats said, “Rock ‘n’ roll is 99% SEX” (Circus, Jan. 31, 1976). Gene Simmons of KISS said, “That’s what rock is all about—SEX with a 100 megaton bomb, THE BEAT!” (Entertainment Tonight, ABC, Dec. 10, 1987). Tina Turner said, “Rock and roll is fun ... It’s NAUGHTY” (Rock Facts, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum). Debbie Harry of Blondie said, “Rock ‘n’ roll is all sex. One hundred percent SEX” (The Age of Communication, p. 398). Adam Ant said, “Pop music revolves around SEXUALITY” (From Rock to Rock, p. 93).

The Bible, which will be around long after the global pop culture has passed away, says, **“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4).**

❑ **CHRISTIAN FLORIST SETTLES HOMOSEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE** - A 77-year-old great grandmother has settled an eight-year-old legal battle over supposed discrimination against homosexuals. Barronelle Stutzman, owner of Arlene’s Flowers, Bellevue, Washington, was sued in 2013 after refusing to serve a same-sex couple’s wedding on the grounds of her religious convictions. They could have gone to practically any other florist, but they wanted to make the point that they are proud of their homosexuality and everyone should be required to celebrate their lifestyle. As a Baptist and a Bible-believer, Stutzman is opposed to same-sex marriage and refuses to participate in it.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) took the side of the couple and has been hounding Stutzman ever since, even going after her personal assets. Her appeals were twice rejected by the Washington Supreme Court, which obviously resonates to a different law than the U.S. Constitution and its Bill of Rights. In the settlement, Stutzman will pay \$5,000 to the homosexual men and sell the business to her employees. She told Fox News that Christ had “walked with me every step of the way.” She said, “I am willing to turn the legal struggle for freedom over to others. At age 77, it’s time to retire and give my business to someone else. I wish the culmination of all that I’ve been through could result in a new respect, culturally and legally, for freedom of conscience in our country. From the beginning, I have asked no more than the freedom to act in accordance with my religious beliefs and personal convictions. I have treated those who persecuted me with respect, and with the assurance that I want for them the same freedom that I ask for myself. ... We’re all in trouble--whether we’re religious or not--when we don’t have the

freedom to live consistent with our faith and our beliefs, when I don’t have the freedom to run my business according to my beliefs, live my life according to my beliefs.”

When asked what she would tell others facing similar lawsuits, she said, “God’s just asking us to be obedient and He’ll take care of the rest.” Her legal counsel is Alliance Defending Freedom, which has also defended two Christian businesses in Colorado that have been targeted by homosexuals.

❑ **BJU TO COMPETE IN BEACH VOLLEYBALL** - Bob Jones University has long been on a slide away from its founding principles, and this slide increased with the appointment in 2014 of Steve Pettit as president.

In October 2021, Bob Jones announced the addition of beach volleyball to its intercollegiate sports lineup. The Bruins will play their inaugural season in the spring of 2022, competing against schools such as Erskine College, Truett-McConnell University, St. Andrews University, and Spartanburg Methodist College. These are extremely liberal, secularized Christian schools. Neil Ring, BJU’s director of athletics, says, “This addition allows us to be on the front edge of an emerging sport while staying aligned with our mission” (BJU Today, Oct. 21, 2021).

Obviously this “mission” is not that of the school’s founding. The announcement was accompanied by a photo of five smiling BJU female athletes dressed in tights, thus conforming to the world’s corrupt sense of “modesty.” One reader commented, “How long before the tights conform to the same skimpy bikinis that some of their competitors will more than likely be wearing?”

❑ **70% OF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA DO NOT BELIEVE JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD** - According to a new survey from Probe Ministries, nearly 70% of “evangelical Christians” disagree with the Bible’s teaching that Jesus Christ is the only way to God.

After affirming the following two statements - “I made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ” and “I will go to Heaven because I confessed my sins and accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior” - these same people said they would not try to convert someone to their religion. The top three reasons are: “They can get to Heaven through their different religious beliefs”; “We shouldn’t impose our ideas on others”; “The Bible tells us not to judge others.”

This is a reflection of the gross biblical ignorance that exists in the vast majority of churches in America. Instead of serious Bible study and effectual prayer and holy pilgrim Christian living, there is rock & roll, conformity to the pop culture, an emphasis on self-esteem, a wholesale rejection of biblical separatism. Even in James’ day, there were Christians who were friends of the world, and he gave the following recipe for revival: **“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (James 4:8-10).**

America’s most desperate need is for pastors of James’ spiritual caliber and courage.

❑ **FORMER SBC PRESIDENT DOUBLES DOWN ON GAY PREACHING BY ATTACKING DONALD TRUMP** - Recently, former Southern Baptist Convention president and current Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary professor, James Merritt, endorsed the preaching of his openly gay son, Jonathan. Since then, there have been calls from numerous concerned Southern Baptists – both lay and leaders – calling on James to retract his endorsement and calling on those who employ him in conservative Christian institutions to take action against him.

So far, the effort has proven futile. So futile, in fact, that James Merritt has now doubled down on endorsing his son by watering down his son’s homosexuality and ramping up the attacks on Donald Trump and his supporters. Classic deflection.

❑ **THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA DEPICTS GEORGE FLOYD AS JESUS IN TWO NEW CAMPUS PAINTINGS** - The Catholic University of America has replaced two images of Jesus with an image of George Floyd - who is depicted as a Black Jesus dying in the hands of his mother, who is depicted as a Black Mary - and placed them in two locations on its campus.

According to a report by the Daily Signal, the artist, Kelly Latimore, meant for the paintings to depict a type of merging between Floyd and Jesus that depicts them both. Of course, the paintings are blasphemous as they compare Floyd, a drug abuser who had a long criminal history and resisted arrest leading to his death, to Jesus Christ, the perfect, sinless God who came to Earth as a man and served as a propitiation for the sins of the world.

While all paintings of God are a breach of the Second Commandment, the Catholic Church has historically displayed images of Jesus, Mary, and the saints in their places of worship. And while these images are blasphemous - and the Roman Catholic Church is already idolatrous - to add to it such a blatant disregard for the divinity of God and Christ is astonishingly grotesque. ■

