

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—The ladies will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, **March 6, at 6:30 p.m.** for the Week 2 DVD and discussion of *The Book of Philippians—To Live is Christ*. Books are \$12.50 each but you can still participate without a book. All ladies are welcome to attend.

WOMEN ON MISSION—The quarterly meeting will be held at the Ministry Center on Tuesday, March 12. Refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. and the program begins at 10:00 a.m. Grace Smith, Co-Director for Camp David Children's Summer Camp is the guest speaker. A free will donation will be taken to help with the operation of the camp.

*...I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert, to give
drink to my chosen people...*

Isaiah 42:20, NRSV



AGAPE HOUSE—Please continue to bring food items to the foyer—macaroni and cheese, canned soup, canned fruit, canned vegetables, healthy cereals, quick snacks—and empty egg cartons.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—All men are invited to Burger King each Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m. for Bible study.

PRAYER—Everyone is welcome to join the prayer group each Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the Joyful Ladies room.

FIFTH SUNDAY SINGING—Our evening service will be moved to New Hope Baptist Church on Sunday, March 31, at 6:00 p.m. Final Authority will sing. A freewill offering will be taken.

Worship Schedule

Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:40 a.m. Morning Worship
& Children's Church
- 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Tuesday

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (Burger King)

Wednesday

- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Thursday

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer for Revival



**Time flies when you're
having fun!**

**Boys and girls,
set your watches for
Time Lab VBS**

July 28 - August 2, 2019

Answers VBS
TIME LAB
Discovering Jesus from Eternity
past to Eternity Future

St. Clair Southern Baptist Church

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William L. Savage, Pastor

"Sharing God's Life-Changing Love"

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For **Christ**

also suffered

for sins **once for all**, the

righteous for the **unrighteous**,

in order to

bring you

to **God.**

1 Peter 3:18, NRSV

From Your Pastor's Heart

GOD'S BLESSINGS—The Lord has raised up so many people who make such a difference at St. Clair Southern. I am thankful for all the ways they help. They truly are the “HIDDEN HEROES” I refer to in this column from time to time. These “heroes” include people like Nicki Ray cleaning the nursery, Jay Rice installing a new handrail in the stairway, Janet Hofer decorating the foyer table, all the folks who work in the sound booth and record sermons to send to the radio station, Myrna Turner for all her good work putting the Valentine Fellowship together, and all the faithful givers who have helped us pay down over 75% of our building loan. We are grateful for the way God has so richly blessed us.

TWO SERIOUS QUESTIONS—It certainly seems like this winter season has been a stubborn one. Due to an abundance of snow and ice, we and many other churches have had to cancel more than a few services over the past couple of months. On those Sundays we canceled, I watched several religious TV programs. As I watched and listened, I was shocked and saddened by how little of the gospel I heard. Most of the messages focused on how to make life in this world more enjoyable and comfortable. It was almost like watching Oprah or Dr. Phil!

Yes, the Bible does say a good bit about living in this world, but it always does so in connection with the gospel. It was a clear statement of the gospel that was so noticeably missing in many of the programs I watched. That made me think about two serious questions that most church attendees are not willing to ask themselves. The first is this: **Is what I am getting from my church real Christianity?** Christianity is not just a successful living technique. It is the proclamation of what God has done in and through Jesus to rescue sinners from their sins and the wrath to come. It also gives them right standing with God and eternal glory. There is NO Christianity without the gospel and if a church doesn't emphasize the gospel, it's not really a church at all.

The second question is: **If I am not getting real Christianity from my church, why am I supporting it?** Now some people would say it is because there's so much “energy and excitement” in the services. But the prophets of Baal had lots of energy and excitement, and they were terribly wrong (1 Kings 18:26-28).

Or some would say it is because the church offers so many activities for the children. The Bible says parents are to bring their children up in the teaching of the Lord. No parent can fulfill this responsibility if he has his children in a church that does not preach the gospel. Others would say it is because the crowd is so big, but the Bible tells us in Exodus 23:2 “*not to follow a crowd to do evil*”. The church is about Christ, NOT about crowds!

On those days as I sat at home, I thought about another day—the day of God's judgment. How horribly sad it will be for many so-called Christian pastors to stand in God's presence and face the reality that they never really preached Christianity at all! And how horribly sad it will be on that day for the multitudes of professing Christians to realize that they spent most of their lives going to churches where they never really heard the gospel at all! What a heartbreaking disaster that will be!

If you had asked me on those days if we needed such a flood of snow and ice, I would have said, “No way!” But if you asked me today if I can think of a flood we do need, I would answer with an emphatic, “Yes!” We need a spiritual flood, a flood of the gospel that would “rain down” from heaven and would sweep away all that is false and flimsy. We are in desperate need of the kind of flood that would restore the gospel to the position and priority it deserves. Will you pray with me as we seek the Lord together for St. Clair Southern Baptist Church to always be that kind of church?

Bro. Bill



**DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME BEGINS**

**Sunday, March 10
2:00 a.m.**

**Remember to turn your clocks
FORWARD one hour before you go
to bed on Saturday night!**

SATAN'S SUBVERSION OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

The New Testament program for the church is the Great Commission. The church which follows it will be a mighty redemptive instrument in the hands of God. Since Satan knows this better than we do, he has always tried to subvert the Great Commission. He does not deny its validity openly, but he seeks to distort and misrepresent it. He does this in five ways:

1. **He substitutes the good for the best.** He causes us to substitute attending, singing, giving and even praying for going. He is willing for us to be busy about many good things if we will forget the best—telling others about Jesus.
2. **He reduces its requirements.** There are four requirements in the Commission—going, winning, baptizing, and training. When Satan gets us to emphasize going to the neglect of baptizing those won and teaching them to win others, he wins a great victory.
3. **He limits its scope.** The scope of the Great Commission is worldwide. He fights to get us to neglect the world for our Jerusalem or to neglect personal witnessing for our collective mission task.
4. **He misrepresents the nature of Christian witness.** Witnessing is twofold—by life and by lip. It is not one or the other but both. The person who says “I don't talk to people about Christ, but I witness with my Life” is deceived.
5. **He professionalizes the Great Commission.** Satan has convinced many of us that the task of evangelism belongs to professionals—pastors and other church staff members. Since the church is made up mainly of laymen, this excuses most Christians from the important task of the Great Commission.

Has Satan pulled one of these tricks on you? He has been successful with multitudes of people and churches. So beware.