

# SBAOC Weekly Update

## NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Reformation Weekend conference will be hosted by Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas, on October 26-28. The annual SBAOC business meeting will be on Saturday morning (October 27) at 8:00 am. See page 3 for more information.

*If you have any news, prayer requests, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to [spurgeonassociation@gmail.com](mailto:spurgeonassociation@gmail.com) or call us at 785-456-8513.*

## HE LEADS ME IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

By John MacArthur

Psalm 23 is full of action words. It describes a journey, not a standstill. Even when the sheep lie down in green pastures, it is a temporary rest for the weary. From that point on in the psalm, the sheep are moving. The Shepherd leads them beside still waters and through the valley of the shadow of death. All the days of their lives He leads them in the paths of righteousness, with goodness and mercy constantly following them.

I can't read Psalm 23 without thinking of Luke 15. That chapter is all about how God in Christ seeks and saves the lost. The most memorable part of the chapter is, of course, the story of the Prodigal Son. But that comes at the end of an extended discourse that begins with a much shorter parable using the well-known pastoral imagery of Psalm 23. Here a shepherd leaves his large flock in the open country in order to seek and rescue a lone lost sheep. "When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing" (Luke 15:5)—and he carries it home.

Christ, of course, said that He Himself is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). It was one of His most shocking public claims because it was so clearly a declaration of His deity. The one true "Shepherd of Israel" is and always has been Yahweh. Throughout the Old Testament, Yahweh is repeatedly identified as the Shepherd of His own people.

*(Continued on page 2)*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| He Leads Me in Paths of Righteousness for His Name's Sake..... | 2-3 |
| Comments on our Purpose Statement .....                        | 2   |
| Upcoming Events .....  | 3   |
| Reformation Weekend Schedule .....                             | 3   |
| Contact Us .....   | 3   |
| Pulpit Supply .....  | 3   |
| Prayer Meetings .....  | 3   |

### PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

*"If there is no church... should you not commence one?" C. H. Spurgeon*

## COMMENTS ON OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

*“The matter of our preaching must be the Word of God. Woe to him who willingly keeps back any part of the counsel of God. The man of God must unfold doctrines and enforce duties; must present promises and denounce threatenings; must hold forth encouragements without concealing responsibilities; must preach the law and the Gospel distinctly, and not a mixture of both; yet he must not forget that mercy triumphs over judgment, and that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”*

*William S. Plumer*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Yet Jesus not only called Himself “the good shepherd,” but He also referred to all believers as “my flock” (John 10:11). For Christ to claim that role was tantamount to saying He is Yahweh. The New Testament also calls Him “the great shepherd of the sheep” and “the chief Shepherd” (Heb. 13:20; 1 Peter 5:4).

As Psalm 23 stresses from start to finish, the Great Shepherd’s gentle leading is always focused, purposeful, and filled with goodness and mercy. He is intent on bringing His lambs away from evil, out of peril, through the valley of the shadow of death, and into safety and blessing. All of that is encompassed in the statement, “He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

The sheep represent fallen creatures who on their own would never be able to find or successfully travel the paths of righteousness. “The gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life” (Matt. 7:14). But where else could the Great Shepherd lead? Yahweh “is righteous in all his ways” (Ps. 145:17).

These facts further highlight a truth we often stress, namely, God’s sovereignty in the salvation of sinners. The divine Shepherd seeks and saves the lost. He is not only the restorer of their souls; He is also the One who guards them, cares for them, keeps them in the faith, brings them back when they wander, and leads them in paths of righteousness. God’s work in salvation is comprehensive. The rescued sheep has no accomplishment of his own worth boasting about.

Many passages of Scripture stress this fact. Romans 8:29–30 traces the salvation of the elect from their predestination in eternity past to their glorification in eternity future, and God is the One who accomplishes all of it. Ephesians 2:8–9 reminds us that our redemption from sin is not our own doing: “It is the gift of God . . . so that no one may boast.”

“What becomes of our boasting? It is excluded” (Rom. 3:27). Every aspect of our salvation is wrought by divine grace—so much so that even the good things we do as redeemed people are works that “God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). Thus, the Great Shepherd sovereignly leads us in paths of righteousness.

However, while Scripture places much emphasis on God’s absolute sovereignty in the work of salvation, it never excludes or downplays human responsibility. The Shepherd leads, but the sheep are not passive. They follow Him, as is their duty. They may stumble or meander at times, but they know the true Shepherd and are known by Him, so they will never depart from Him completely. In Jesus’ words, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). Their own righteous walk is one of the key evidences that they belong to the Good Shepherd. They are not saved by their righteous walk, but their righteous walk proves that God has saved them.

And here’s the ultimate proof that their faith in the Great Shepherd is authentic: they persevere. Those who depart from the paths of righteousness never to return did not belong to the Shepherd in the first place.

Yet because God is sovereign, His sheep are secure. They do persevere in the paths of righteousness. Moreover, the Shepherd Himself said: “I give

*(Continued on page 3)*

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

**KNCSB Annual Meeting**—October 8-9 at First Southern Baptist Church in Pratt, KS. Messengers must preregister by Sept. 7. Website: [kncsb.org/annual-meeting/](http://kncsb.org/annual-meeting/)

**2018 Springfield Bible Conference**—October 19-21. Faith Bible Church, Springfield, IL. Theme: Thy Word is Truth (John 17:17). Speakers: Ian Hamilton, Iaian Wright, Curt Daniel. There is no charge for this conference. For more information visit the website: <http://www.faithbibleonline.net/event-items/2018-springfield-bible-conference/>.

**Reformation Weekend**—October 26-28. Trinity Baptist Church, Wamego, Kansas. The SBAOC annual meeting will be held on Saturday, October 27, in conjunction with this conference. Speakers for this conference will be announced soon. For more information email Tony Mattia at [spurgeonassociation@gmail.com](mailto:spurgeonassociation@gmail.com).



**THE SPURGEON CENTER**  
for Biblical Preaching at Midwestern Seminary

Making visible the *life, legacy and library* of  
Charles Haddon Spurgeon

[www.spurgeon.org](http://www.spurgeon.org)

5001 North Oak Trafficway  
Kansas City, Missouri 64118

(Continued from page 2)

them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand" (John 10:28-29).

Dr. John MacArthur (@JohnMacArthur) is pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif., and president of The Master's University and Seminary. He is author of *The Murder of Jesus* and *The Gospel according to Jesus*.

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2018/08/he-leads-me-in-paths-of-righteousness-for-his-names-sake/>

From Pastor Ray Stewart of Grace and Truth Baptist Church...

On September 8th, Grace and Truth Baptist Church will be having a fundraiser (Carwash/Garage Sale), to support our October missions trip to Malawi Africa. We appreciate your support for this effort, as well as any financial support that you might be able to provide. The fundraiser will be held at: 15904 E. 23rd St. S., Independence, MO 64055, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Please send any donations to:  
Grace and Truth Church (Missions),  
4000 SW Kamryn Drive  
Lee's Summit, MO 64082

### REFORMATION WEEKEND

October 26-28, 2018

Trinity Baptist Church, 16655 W Hwy 24, Wamego, KS

Speakers will include:

Gabriel Hughes (First Southern Baptist Church, Junction City KS)

Josh Eaton (Cross Point Baptist Church, Caney KS)

Kyle Stachewicz (First Baptist Church, St. Francis KS)

Lyn Hansen (North Park Church, Columbus NE)

Stephen Atkinson (Christian Witness to Israel USA)

#### Tentative Schedule:

Friday 7:00 pm—session 1

Saturday 8:00 am—SBAOC Annual Meeting

10:30 am—session 2

12:00 pm—Lunch (provided)

1:30 pm—session 3

3:00 pm—break

7:00 pm—session 4

Sunday 10:30 am—session 5

Recommended lodging in Wamego:

Wamego Inn & Suites—888-978-1944 or [www.wamegoinn.com](http://www.wamegoinn.com)

Questions? Contact Tony Mattia at 785-456-3796

**SPURGEON  
BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION  
OF CHURCHES**

**PO Box 155  
Wamego KS 66547**

Phone: (785) 456-8513

Email:  
spurgeonassociation@gmail.com

**Contact Us:**

**Administrative Council:**

J.W. Glidewell,  
Moderator  
Phone: (785) 772-1176  
jwglidewell@gmail.com

Tony Mattia  
Corresponding Secretary  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Wamego, Kansas  
Phone: (785) 456-3796  
spurgeonassociation@gmail.com

Ken Jorgenson, At Large  
kjorg@hotmail.com

Robin Jackson, At Large  
jacksonrobin@gmail.com

Bill Ascol, At Large  
bascol@sbcglobal.net

Paul Walker, At Large  
pastorpaul@elmavenuebaptist.org



[WWW.SBAOC.ORG](http://WWW.SBAOC.ORG)

## MEN AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY

Kevin Berens  
Colby, Kansas  
Email: berens.kevin@gmail.com  
Cell Phone: 785-332-7184

Nathaniel Penland  
Lawrenceville, Georgia  
Email: n8penland@gmail.com  
Phone: 678-925-7024

Tim Lambert  
Lindsborg, Kansas  
Email: tlambert@smokyvalley.org  
Phone: 785-614-3651

Bake Ottogy  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Email: bakeottogy@gmail.com  
Phone: 636-467-7446

Brad Richardson  
Lawrence, Kansas  
Email: richbud@hotmail.com  
Phone: 785-766-7268

John Grove  
Ocala, FL  
Email: trsjwg@gmail.com  
Phone: 352-286-5494

## PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

*The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.*

*We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.*



Baptist Association of Churches