



SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

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 or call us at 785-456-8513.

THE MANDATE OF DISCIPLESHIP

By Grant R. Castleberry

A few years ago, several evangelical churches in the county where I was serving as an assistant pastor decided to cooperate in sponsoring a series of evangelistic meetings. I helped lead the organizing committee for the meetings, and we decided early on to invite a well-known radio preacher to be the evangelist. When the night of the first meeting finally arrived, several thousand people came. I will never forget the preacher's invitation at the end of his sermon. First, he invited all those who had trusted in Christ as Savior to come forward. About thirty to forty people made their way to the front. Then he said something that astounded me. He invited all those who were Christians but who had never become disciples of Jesus Christ to come forward. To my astonishment, many believers, some of whom I knew well, made their way to the front, thinking that at this principal moment, they were becoming disciples of Jesus Christ for the first time.

This second invitation troubled me. The preacher was essentially teaching that there are two types of Christians: converts and disciples. According to his teaching, converts are those who trust Christ as Savior; disciples are those who take a later step to follow Christ as their Lord. Someone could technically be converted and a Christian, but not a disciple.

However, Jesus allows for no such distinction in the Gospels. To

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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

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John Wesley once wrote to a minister : "Your talent in preaching does not increase; it is about the same as it was seven years ago; it is lively, but not deep; there is little variety—there is no compass of thought. Reading alone can supply this, with daily meditation and daily prayer. You wrong yourself greatly by omitting this. You can never be a deep preacher without it, any more than a thorough Christian. Oh, begin! Fix some part of every day for private exercises. You may acquire the taste which you have not. What is tedious at first will afterward be pleasant. Whether you like it or not, read and pray daily. It is for your life; there is no other way; else you will be a trifler all your days, and a petty, superficial preacher. Do justice to your own soul; give it time and means to grow; do not starve yourself any longer."

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be a Christian is to be a disciple; to be a disciple is to be a Christian.

That is exactly what Jesus reminded His disciples of in the Great Commission at the end of Matthew's gospel. Notice what Jesus says: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). Jesus' imperative is not to make converts but to make disciples. In other words, following and obeying Christ is not optional for a Christian. John put it even more bluntly. He said, "Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4).

True, saving faith is the faith that compels us to follow and obey Christ as disciples. Our first baby steps as Christians, though often small and stumbling, are steps following after our Savior.

I am afraid that much of what we might call evangelical Christianity has lost this important truth. Many have been deceived into thinking that because they prayed a prayer or signed a card or walked an aisle that they are guaranteed eternity in heaven. But Jesus demands something more. Jesus demands that we trust Him with our very lives. Jesus demands that we follow hard after Him (Luke 9:23). In short, Jesus demands that we be His disciples.

Rev. Grant R. Castleberry is pastor of discipleship at Providence Church in Frisco, Tex., and a Ph.D. student in church history and systematic theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2018/06/the-mandate-of-discipleship/>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Southern Baptist Founders Conference Midwest—

February 26 & 27, 2019. First Baptist Church of Fenton in Fenton, MO. Theme: *Reformation in Today's Churches*. Speakers include Dr. Thomas Nettles & Dr. Owen Strachan. <https://sbfcmw.wordpress.com>

Saved By Faith Youth Camp—June 17-21, 2019. Webster Conference Center, Salina, Kansas. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. For more info go to www.sbfyckansas.com or send an email to trinitybaptistwamego@gmail.com.

Encouraged to Endure Conference—July 25-27, 2019. Second Baptist Church, West Frankfort, IL. Speakers: Joseph Mahlaola, Larry McCall, & John Snyder. Worship Leader: Tom Clay.

**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

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