



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.

UNTO NON-ELITE PEOPLE IS BORN A SAVIOR

Steve Burchett

It was to “shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8) that the angel of the Lord first announced, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (2:11). Why did the angel go to the shepherds first? Was it to make the point that Jesus came to save the worst of society?



According to Andreas J. Kostenberger and Alexander E. Stewart, attributing wickedness to shepherds as a class is found in Jewish texts, but these were written after New Testament times (*The First Days of Jesus: The Story of the Incarnation*, 147). Additionally, the New Testament uses shepherd imagery in a positive way, even describing Jesus as a shepherd (Mark 6:34) and likening elders of a church to shepherds (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11). Therefore, it is unlikely that the reason why the angel of the Lord went to the shepherds first was to reveal God’s heart for the vilest of sinners.

Why, then, did the angel of the Lord go to the shepherds first?

Most likely, the revelation to the shepherds parallels and

(Continued on page 2)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Unto Non-Elite People is Born A Savior 2-3
- Comments on Our Purpose Statement 2
- Conferences 3
- Contact Us 4
- Pulpit Supply 4
- Prayer Meetings 4

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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There are Sabbaths that we observe from week to week, and then there are those Sabbaths in metaphor—Sabbaths when we are granted rest and renewal. They are the gift of God. And when we are among family or friends in treasured places, God helps us to find rest from our busy lives—to slow down or to stop—and to savour the moments he gives when we do.

Kevin Belmonte

(Continued from page 1)

reinforces the lowly circumstances of the birth and the manger with no room in normal human habitation. The angel appeared not to the rich and powerful or to the particularly righteous and religious, but to lowly shepherds, to average people who would be receptive to the message... (T)he message to the shepherds points forward to an accessibility that depends not upon one's status (religious or socioeconomic), position, wealth, or prestige. The birth of this child was good news for *all!* (147-8)

The angel could have first made the announcement to prominent religious leaders or wealthy inhabitants of Jerusalem (some of whom *were* eventually saved—such as Joseph of Arimathea [Luke 23:50] and Zacchaeus [Luke 19:1-10]). Instead, the angel of the Lord went to “insignificant” shepherds who were going about their ordinary lives.

Unto You!

If you fall into the “normal, non-elite” category of people, here's “good news of great joy” (v. 10): Jesus came to save sinners just like you! While remaining fully God, he became fully man—that's the only way he could be our “Savior” (v. 11). Like any human baby, he was born bloody, crying, squirming, needing regular feedings and plenty of sleep. Three decades later, he died for sinners and rose victoriously over the grave. Peter wrote, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

Have you been delivered from sin's grip on your life? What you need this Christmas isn't a sentimental experience highlighted by a family gathering, sugary treats, and the giving of presents. You don't even need an angel to tell you about Jesus, nor countless angels flooding the sky around you, “praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with home he is

(Continued on page 3)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

True Church Conference—

February 20-23, 2020.

Speakers: Justin Peters, Tom Nettles, Tom Ascol, David Miller, Jono Sims, & Jeff Noblit. “The Pretenders: Unmasking the Tragedy of Unregenerate Church Membership.”

truechurchconference.com

Midwest Founders Conference

25th Anniversary—“Union with Christ”. February 25 & 26, 2020. First Baptist Church of Fenton. Speakers: Dr. Greg Gilbert, Dr. Curtis McClain, Dr. Terry Chrisope, Dr. Bob Curtis. Register online at: <http://sbfcmw.com>

**2020 Saved By Faith Youth
Camp—**June 15-19. Webster Conference Center, Salina, Kansas. <https://www.sbfyckansas.com/>



Check out the “SBFYC Official” YouTube channel to watch the 2019 sessions.

(Continued from page 2)

pleased!” (Luke 2:13-14). You only need Jesus, this one who came to save farmers, teachers, factory workers, fast-food employees, tellers, the unemployed, even pastors—normal people like you and me.

Unto Others?

Luke tells us what happened once the angels departed:

(T)he shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. (vv.15-16).

When they found Jesus and his parents, the shepherds “made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child” (v. 17). Who did they tell? Not only Mary and Joseph, but other people as well (v. 18). They couldn’t keep to themselves the truth about the identity of the baby in the manger.

Here’s what I’ve noticed about the Christmas season: opportunities to share the truth about Jesus increase. Think about it—what neighbor wouldn’t like a batch of chocolate treats? You could give them a New Testament (or other evangelistic resource) on top of the package as you deliver it. And have you noticed that stores *still* play Christmas carols? As you are waiting in line, you might start a conversation with the person next to you by asking, “What do you think about this song? Are you okay that it’s about Jesus?” Be courageous! The Lord is with you.

And here’s a motivating reality: Jesus came to save non-elite people. Like your neighbors. Like that person next to you in line. Tell them about him. They might be more interested than you would have imagined to hear about the “Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (v. 11).

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**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 & Western Coordinator

Phone: (785) 772-1176

jwglidewell@gmail.com

Terry Coker

Vice Moderator

& Eastern Coordinator

Terry.Coker@fbcfenton.com

Tony Mattia

Corresponding Secretary

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

Lyn Hansen, At Large

pastorlyn@insidenp.com

Anthony Harwell, At Large

anthonyharwell@gmail.com



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 Ottofy

St. Louis, Missouri

Email: bakeottofy@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

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