



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 Tony Mattia at spurgeonassociation@gmail.com or call us at 785-456-8513.

SBAOC ANNUAL MEETING

The SBAOC Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday morning, October 23, at 9:00 a.m. (CST) via Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams is a free download for those who do not have it currently installed on any device (smartphone, tablet, or computer). This will allow the members of the Association to meet by video conference as we did last Fall. Handouts will be available to all participants in the Teams channel as well, so it will be imperative for all who desire to attend to submit their email address for registration. The registration should be sent to: Terry.coker@SBAOC.onmicrosoft.com. A confirmation email message will be sent to each person.

If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Terry Coker. He will be happy to help you connect to the Teams app, but he does request that you should not wait until the final 48 hours prior to the meeting! We hope to have a large number of our churches participating this year, and we look forward to adding new churches into the membership of the Association at our annual meeting!

THE VICTORIOUS WORD OF GOD

“Quick and powerful is the word;
Sharper than a two-edg’d sword.”
In the Lord Jehovah’s hand,
Nothing can its force withstand.

How its pow’r was felt of old,
They who felt its pow’r have told.
Many were the wonders wrought:
Multitudes were fed and taught.

Mighty God, whose word it is,
Hear our prayer, and grant us this:
What thy power has done before,
Now descend, and do once more.

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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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Oh, that power might come down upon us from the Spirit of truth and grace, and beams from the Sun of righteousness break in upon our minds as we contemplate the intrinsic glories of the Bible!

— Octavius Winslow

The whole Scripture is but one entire love letter, dispatched from the Lord Christ to His beloved spouse. —Thomas Brooks

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Give the word to those who speak,
Open hearts thy grace to seek,
Jesus make their theme of praise,
And instruct them in thy ways.

The Evangelist's Hymn Book (1860)

The Victorious Word of God

"So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." Acts 19:20

Certainly, the Word of God which has His almighty power behind it shall accomplish the purpose for which it was sent forth and thus be victorious. This is the Word that grew and prevailed in the early church. William Arnot commented, "Christianity was new in those days. The dew of its youth was on it; the experience of its disciples accordingly was fresh and tender.... The faith of those ancient believers excelled in directness and simplicity; when it had less of human attainment, it had more of Divine power." A bit later he noted, "The instrument which these primitive preachers wielded was 'the Word of God.' They had no confidence in the enticing words of man's wisdom. In simple faith they set forth Him who is the Word of life, and looked to the Spirit for the quickening power. This method was successful. Great results immediately appeared." The Word of God was and is powerful, alive and prevails. This was also declared in Hebrews 4:12. The Word of God should not be compromised!

God's Word is powerful. Acts 19:20 said, it "grew mightily." "Mightily" is a compound in Greek meaning "with the force of power for it was power in perpetual action." The Gospel Word operates with a powerful force from God the Holy Spirit. "For the word of God is ... powerful ... [over] ... the heart" (Heb. 4:12). It is with the heart that man believes unto righteousness (Rom. 10:10). Since this is "the Word of God" who is the Almighty; this is the very reason that it grows "mightily or by force of power" because the power of God never lags or runs low.

God's Word is alive which is why it "grew." The seed when it is sowed sprouts, grows, matures, and fruits. "For the word of God is quick [or habitually alive] and powerful..." Remember the small grain of mustard that was sowed in the field? Jesus said that seed grew into a tree, and on the branches of that tree the birds came to roost. Thus Jesus used the seed to portray the overwhelming growth of the His kingdom. This shows the power of the seed of God's Word though small in origin became massive at maturity and a resting place for birds. Acts 19:20 reminds us that by the force of power the Word of God grew and prevailed.

God's Word "prevails" because of the Divine power behind it. The sense from the Greek verbs in this verse is that the Word kept on growing and kept on gaining strength until it was triumphant. "Prevailed" means "For the word of God is quick [or habitually alive], and powerful ['energetical'

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Springfield Bible Conference — October 1-3. Faith Bible Church, Springfield, IL. Theme: *The Cost of Discipleship*. Speakers: Iain Wright, Mack Tomlinson, Curt Daniel, Josh Payne. faithbibleonline.net

Encouraged to Endure Conference—October 7-9. Second Baptist Church, West Frankfort, IL. Speakers: Brett Beasley, Roger Ellsworth, Geoffrey Kirkland, Tom Rush, Worship: Tom Clay. To register visit the website: secondbaptistwf.org.

Standing Firm Conference—October 8-10. First Baptist Church, St. Francis, KS. See page 4 for details.

2022 National Founders Conference—January 20-23, 2022. McGregor Baptist Church, Fort Myers, FL. Theme: *Militant & Triumphant: The Doctrine of the Church*. Speakers: Tom Ascol, Jared Longshore, Voddie Baucham, Conrad Mbewe, & James Coates. Early registration is open at founders.org/2022conference.

True Church Conference—February 17-20, 2022. Grace Life Church of the Shoals, Florence, AL. Registration will open October 1, 2021. Theme: "Healthy Body Life in the Local Church: Biblical Church Discipline, Biblical Counseling, Biblical Conflict Resolution / Protecting the Sheep from Savage Wolves." Speakers Richard Caldwell, Darrell Harrison, Barry King, David Miller, Jeff Noblit, Jonathan Sims, & Virgil Walker. www.anchoredintruth.org/true-church-conference

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said Trapp], and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

The Word of God that we preach shall prevail because it can never return void! We conquer through the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God (Eph. 6:17). This is our only offense weapon, but it is effectual for it is mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4).

What was the impact of the Word of God at Ephesus (Acts 19)? Many were hardened and believed not but spoke evil of Christianity. Fear fell on those with the evil spirit and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified; many that believed came and confessed their sins and burned their books on the black arts.

Pastor Don Fortner, who recently went home to glory, wrote that Acts 19:20 was given "... to encourage God's church and his servants to go on preaching the gospel. Luke is saying, 'Carry the gospel of Christ into the field of battle and make war against the gates of hell. As you preach the grace of God, the son of God rides forth on his white stallion, conquering and to conquer. Thus the mighty Word of God will prevail.'"

In 1852 a man named Innocenti was bathing in the Arno River and found a Bible. The binding was damaged, but not the leaves, as it had been tied together. The fact that it was a forbidden book caused many persons to read it secretly. The Prince of Tuscany was a bitter persecutor at that time, and it was supposed that the tide had brought it down from Florence, where someone had been forced to throw it into the river. Among others who read the Bible was a woodworker, who not only read for himself, but also read aloud to others. One of his hearers was a stonemason named Georgi, in whose soul a longing desire for peace was awakened, which for twenty years he could not get rid of. In his ignorance he once attended a meeting of the Freethinkers, but came away more unhappy than ever he was before. The Good Shepherd led him to the shop of one of the Bible Society's agents, where he told his story to Signor Fabbroni, who gave him a New Testament. He read it carefully, and became a diligent and earnest worker for the salvation of souls. Dr. Mazinghi, Ross, Francesco Madaia, and others were imprisoned or banished in 1852. The Bible was distributed under circumstances of great danger. The Arno River did, without doubt, what no colporter would have dared to do. It carried the Word to Signa, and we rejoice over its fruits.

"So mightily"—literally, 'thus, with overcoming power, the word of God' (the Gospel of Christ,) 'grew' (extended, spread,) 'and prevailed,' as where a citadel is taken by military force," Melancthon W. Jacobus.

A Lord's Day Snippet!, Sovereign Grace Baptist Church,
Pastor Ron Rumburg, SBSS, #212

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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