



**BETHLEHEM
AND
PINE BARREN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS**

Partners in Missions and Ministry
www.bethlehempinebarren.com

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We offer professional Christian counseling at The Bethlehem Baptist Association office in Frisco City. For information and to set up an appointment, call 251-267-3875 or visit Pathway's website at www.pathwaysprofessional.org

Local Edition: Alabama Baptist

Director of Missions Email: john@bethlehempinebarren.com ~ Office Hours: 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00 ~ Monday-Thursday

February 2018



**A WORD FROM
YOUR DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS**

A SELF-EXAMINATION

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

Paul's statement was written to a people that boasted of being spiritual but were instead carnal. He said they needed to examine themselves to see if they were really saved. The apostle's admonition is as much justified in today's church as it was in the church at Corinth.

Ray Comfort, founder of *Living Waters Publications*, wrote, "In survey after survey, researchers find that the lifestyles of born-again Christians are virtually indistinguishable from those of non-believers. The divorce rate among Christians is identical to that of non-believers. Christian teens are almost as sexually active as non-Christian teens. Pornography, materialism, gluttony, lust, covetousness, and even disbelief are commonplace in many of our churches."

When the professing Christian is more at home with the things of the world than he is with the things of God, he clearly needs to examine himself.

Here are some proofs taken from the Word of God that will help determine the spiritual climate of the professing Christian:

- ◆ **There will be a new lifestyle**
2 Corinthians 5:17: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
- ◆ **There will be a desire for the things of God.**
Romans 8:5: "They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."
- ◆ **There will be a sincere desire to please God and obey Him in all we do.**
Colossians 1:10: "Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."
- ◆ **There will be a new perspective on what it means to follow Christ.**
Philippians 3:7 "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ...and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."

Simply stated, the character of the Christian that God expects is that which pleases Him. When a person truly knows Christ as Savior and has a genuine desire to please Him, his outlook on sin changes. Sinful places he once went to, he doesn't want to go anymore. Sinful things he once did, he doesn't want to do anymore. Sinful things he once said, he doesn't want to say anymore. Sinful people he once hung out with, he doesn't have anything in common with anymore.

A spiritual climate (lifestyle) is made possible for the Christian because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives confident assurance of our salvation. He gives us counsel when counsel is needed. He convicts us of our sins and calls us to repentance.

If you are reading this and not a believer in Christ, I plead with you to accept Him as your Savior. Only then can you have a new lifestyle and please Him in all you say and do.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bethlehem Pastor/Staff Fellowship and Lunch meets each Monday at 11:30am at the Bethlehem Associational Office.

- March 8**—Associational Senior Adult Fellowship—11:30am at Enon Baptist Church. *(See details below)*
- March 4-11**—North American Mission Board Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Offering
- March 10**—State Disaster Relief Admin Training, Disaster Relief Center, Prattville, Alabama
- March 11**—Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 18**—Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday
- March 24**—Child Care Disaster Relief Training, Disaster Relief Center, Prattville, Alabama
- March 30**—Good Friday

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- Camden First Baptist**—Rev. Chris Wells, Pastor
March 25-27—Revival—Each evening at 6:00—Evangelist: Dr. Ben Stubblefield, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Alabama
- Eastwood**—Dr. Steve Dunn, Pastor
March 23—*Faithful Men Night*—5:30-8:30 at Cherry Street BBQ—Preaching: Keith Pugh and Wes Dykes—Music by Chris Weide
- Bethsaida**—Rev. Don Bell, Pastor
March 25—Homecoming—11:00 am *(See Insert)*



Bethsaida Baptist Church

Bethsaida Baptist Church
"Historic" Homecoming
March 25. Worship starts at 11:00 with Dinner on the Grounds immediately following the worship. Bethsaida is located at 9025 County Road 59 (Corner of Hwy 59 and Bogan Rd.) For more information, contact 251-362-5169.

**BETHLEHEM SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP
MARCH 8TH.**

11:30

Enon Baptist Church

Theme: "The Fruit of the Spirit"

Please call Monica at 251-253-3818 with an approximate number for lunch reservations. Suggested donation \$4.00 per plate