



# SBAOC Weekly Update

## NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

*If you have any news, prayer requests, articles, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to Tony Mattia at [spurgeonassociation@gmail.com](mailto:spurgeonassociation@gmail.com).*

## THE MINISTER OF THE WORD

The true church is composed of all who have been born again by the miraculous power of God. Such people seek the fellowship of other believers and are quick to join with them in the worship of God. From the beginning worship has been corporate. We live in a day when individualism is often seen as the highest good. We must 'do it our way'. We must insist on our 'rights'. Such a spirit is not encouraged by the Word of God.

It is true that the Lord saves us as individuals and that as individuals we have every reason to give thanks to him for his mercy. But it is equally true that he saves us to be a part of his people. He expects us to work at this. Our natural tendency is to seek our own interests. The Lord calls us to seek the good of others. And so he places us in the local expression of the church. Here we are to discover what fellowship really means. Here we are to discover what service and love look like. Here we will struggle with the truth that, in a sinful world, not all who say they belong to the Lord really do. Here we will join our hearts and voices in praise to God with brothers and sisters in Christ. It is in the church that we will hear men, who have been chosen by the Lord for the task, teaching the great truths of his Word. We will feed on the Word of God in his church, and in the strength of that food we will go out to serve the cause of Christ.

The church of Christ arises and lives by the preached Word. This is true in three areas of its life. The first is the pastor's responsibility to use his teaching office to build up God's people in righteousness. The second is baptism and the third is communion, or the Lord's Supper. The gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in all three activities.

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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*

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## The Importance of the Teaching Ministry

After the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we are told that the church demonstrated certain characteristics that should be true of God's people in every age. First of all, 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching' (Acts 2:42). Without regular instruction from the Bible, God's people will grow weak and ineffective because of their ignorance of God's truth.

It is good to read the Bible at home. It is good to meditate on the things of God in the privacy of our own room. But there is a teaching office that has been set in the church by God. This pastoral office is essential to the well-being of God's church. It is not a vocation that is open to everyone. The apostle James said, 'Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brother, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly' (James 3:1).

Without the regular proclamation and explanation of the Word of God, by a man whom God has called, there can be no church. This great truth was reclaimed in a dark day (the sixteenth century) by the work of the great Reformers. Even church architecture came to reflect the recovery of the Word of God as foundational to the life of his church. Instead of the altar, the pulpit was placed at the centre of things, in a place of prominence, thus saying symbolically that the Word of God is central in the life of God's people.

Pastors are to be chosen by the church, when there is ample evidence that they are called by God to their task. They must meet certain qualifications that are found in the Word of God (1 Tim. 3:1-7). Unlike others who serve the church in various ways, they must be 'able to teach'. And they must teach the Word of God. They, in turn, are to be supported by God's people in a generous manner (1 Tim. 5:17-18). If that responsibility of the church is met, they will be

free to serve the interests of God's kingdom without distraction. It is a sad commentary on the priority that many congregations give to the ministry of God's Word that they do not provide well for their pastor, even though they find money for a myriad of other 'ministries'.

## Illustrations from Personal Experience

Many years ago I lived in southeast Asia, where I joined a church. It was very good to be with other Christians and to offer 'sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving' to the Lord with them. But something was missing. The preaching did not always ring out with the authority that comes from God's Word. I felt that the 'feast' had not been spread. I often went away with a hunger to understand more of what God had said.

My return to the United States and to the metropolitan Washington area brought me to another congregation. In the first service I attended, there was no effort made to excite people artificially. After prayer and praise, through the singing of several great old hymns of the faith, the pastor stood and called for us to open our Bibles to a chapter in the Gospel of Matthew. When he had finished his sermon, I knew that I had been fed good, nourishing food from the Bible. During the time that I was able to sit under that pastor's ministry my understanding of God, and of his Word, grew as it had not done before. In the past a part of my problem had been that I did not have ears to hear good sermons from God's Word. I had heard them with my physical ears, but not always with the illumination that comes by an obedient faith in Christ. But there were many times, in my life, when the preacher had nothing of value to say, because he only set before me his ideas, and not the words of God.

I now understand that what I was hearing was simply 'old-fashioned' preaching in the tradition of the

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apostles and their heirs in every age. I had, in the providence of God, been taken to a place where the Word of God was explained in a straight-forward way. There was no suggestion that the pastor or people believed that it needed to be enlivened by anything, or anyone other than the Holy Spirit of God. This is the ministry that the Levites had in the Old Testament times: 'They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read' (Neh. 8:8).

How different that experience was from one that my wife and I had when first married! We stopped to worship in a church where the pastor, to his credit, took a text and began to preach. But he only had one point and he illustrated it thirteen times! After the first illustration we were clear about what he had in mind. The remaining twelve just got in the way. Illustrations can be helpful, but the pastor's illustrative work can displace God's Word from the centre of our interest. Even well-intentioned efforts can keep us from having a well-rounded meal from the Word of God.

#### The Pastor's Responsibilities

The description of the pastor's work in the Bible is presented in paradoxical language. For example, the pastor is characterized as 'ruling', or directing affairs, in the body of Christ (1 Tim. 5:17). The writer of Hebrews taught, 'Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you' (Heb. 13:17).

The apostles were the first pastors to the New Testament church. They sought to free themselves from administrative work that would keep them from the ministry of the Word and from prayer (Acts 6:1-7).

They knew that the Lord had called them to a work that was first and foremost the proclamation of the Word of God to both the lost and the saved. As they taught the Word of God they 'ruled' the church. In other words, as a pastor teaches the Word of God correctly, all are obligated to obey God's Word and apply it to their lives.

But there have been pastors in every age who have wrongly sought to take powers to themselves that have not been granted to them by the Scriptures. This was a problem in the early church. Peter admonished his 'fellow elders' to 'Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away' (1 Peter 5:2-4).

The pastor must teach the doctrines of Christ accurately. He must not compromise the message or dilute it to please men. He must preach what God has given in his Word concerning man, sin, the cross of Christ, the new birth and justification by faith in Christ alone. He must not be a man with a dictatorial spirit, but one who has the Spirit of Christ and who therefore seeks to live as an example of self-sacrificing love on behalf of those for whom Christ died. Pastors are 'under-shepherds' with a derived authority. The Lord of the church is Christ. His will and words are our standard for belief and conduct. The pastor's work is to set before the people the things of Christ, in understandable language. It is to be hoped that they will obey, and thus bring great glory to the God who saved them.

*Be Sure What You Believe:*

*The Christian Faith Simply Explained*

by Joe Nesom

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**True Church Conference — February 15-18, 2024.** Theme: *9 Maxims of a True Church.* Anchored in truth/true-church-conference.

**Founders Midwest Conference — February 27-28, 2024.** First Baptist Church, Fenton, Missouri. Theme: *Learning from the Puritans Today.* Sbfcmw.com.

**Covenant Conference—March 14-16, 2024.** LaGrange, KY. *Conquering and to Conquer.* Speakers: Voddie Baucham, Joel Beeke, Sam Waldron, John Miller. Covcon.org

**Missions & Evangelism Conference — May 3-4, 2024.** Trinity Baptist Church, Wamego, KS. This conference is free to attend, but please register for planning purposes at [trinitybaptist-wamego.org](http://trinitybaptist-wamego.org).

**Saved By Faith Youth Camp—June 17-21, 2024.** Webster Conference Center, Salina, KS. For youth entering grade 7 through grade 12. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. Theme: Philippians: Pressing On. Cost: \$225 per person. Pre-registration deadline: March 1. Sbfyckansas.com

**Theology Camp—July 8-12, 2024.** Logan Valley Christian Retreat, Ellington, MO. For youth grades 7-12. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. Theme: Philippians: Pressing On. Contact Terry Coker for more information at Terry.Coker@fbcfenton.com.

**Leadership & Laity Conference—July 25-27.** Hosted by Mount Zion Community Church, Arkansas City, KS.

*If you have a conference or event that you would like listed here, please contact us by email: [spurgeonassociation@gmail.com](mailto:spurgeonassociation@gmail.com).*

## Founders Midwest Conference Schedule

February 27-28, 2024

First Baptist Church of Fenton, MO

### “LEARNING FROM THE PURITANS TODAY”

Main Speaker: Dr. Joel Beeke

### 2024 Conference Schedule

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

12:00 p.m. Registration

1:15 p.m. Introduction

1:30 p.m. “The Puritans and Prayer”

3:00 p.m. “The Puritans and Meditation on God’s Word”

4:30 p.m. “The Puritans and Life’s Afflictions”

5:30 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. “The Puritans and Assurance of Faith”

8:30 p.m. Q & A

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:15 a.m. “The Puritans and Spiritual Adoption into God’s Family”

11:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions

“Modern Challenges to Pastoral Faithfulness”-Dr. Beeke

“Laying Our Anxieties Before Christ”-Mary Beeke

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. “The Puritans and Biblically Raising Children”

2:00 p.m. Wrap Up

Register here:

[Conference Registration Form – Founders Midwest \(sbfcmw.com\)](http://Conference Registration Form – Founders Midwest (sbfcmw.com))

**the Triune God** in Missions and Evangelism  
*Conference*  
**May 3-4, 2024** **FREE**

**Dr. Glenn Butner**  
Asst. Professor of Theology and  
Christian Ministry  
Sterling College

**Lawson Harlow**  
Pastor  
Mercy Hill Church  
Olive Branch, MS

**Dr. Caleb Lenard**  
Equipping Pastor  
Grace Life Church  
Ankeny, IA

**Joshua Sommer**  
Pastor  
Victory Baptist Church  
Kansas City, MO

Hosted by:  
**TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

[trinitybaptist-wamego.org](http://trinitybaptist-wamego.org)  
16655 W Hwy 24  
Wamego, KS 66547

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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.*

