



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.

Founders Midwest Conference — February 27-28, 2024

First Baptist Church of Fenton, Missouri

Learning from the Puritans Today

See page 4 for details.

BAPTISM

The new birth, which brought the life of Christ to us, and with it that work of the Holy Spirit which places us in the body of Christ, comes with the preaching of the Word of God: *‘For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God’* (1 Peter 1:23).

We hear the Word of God; the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and of our need for salvation through Christ; and we, by God’s grace, are born anew into God’s kingdom. We are now citizens of the heavenly kingdom. We are babes in Christ. We, like infants, are not ready to speak with eloquence about the Lord. But through baptism we do speak; in fact we preach the Word of God.

Baptism is the individual’s profession of faith in Christ. Coming to Christ for salvation is an individual matter. Many people may have been praying for us. Many may have spoken to us about our need for the Saviour. But they cannot believe for us. You and I must go to Christ in the same way that the tax collector in the temple did long ago. We must cry out to the Lord for mercy and trust him to receive us. No one else can do that for us. Christian parents cannot do it. A pastor cannot do it. We must personally go to Christ. And when we believe, we must then obey the Lord’s commandment to be baptized in

(Continued on page 2)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Baptism..... 2-3

Upcoming Events 4

Contact Us 5

Pulpit Supply 5

Prayer Meetings..... 5

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

(Continued from page 1)

his name. Just before the Lord returned to heaven, he gave these words of instruction to his disciples: *'Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age'* (Matt. 28:19-20).

Baptism preaches Christ

There are many things that the Lord instructed his disciples to do while he was here on the earth. Why have Christians always recognized that two 'sacraments' or 'ordinances' stand alone in their significance? What is special about communion and baptism? It is this: both baptism and the Lord's Supper preach the gospel of Christ in a way that nothing else is designed to do.

Baptism gives the individual Christian, who has recently come to faith in Christ, an opportunity to preach Christ as his or her own Saviour. In the earliest days of the faith, believers made their way down into a pool or stream in order to say to the world, 'I believe that Jesus Christ died for me, and that he was buried, and that he was raised from the dead for me.' Thus they preached the gospel without ever audibly speaking a word. When this takes place today, we stand looking on as witnesses. We are able to testify that this person, who is being baptized, is now willing to identify publicly with Christ.

When I lived in the Orient, I soon discovered that pagans understand something of the significance of Christian baptism. They know that it is different from many other activities that Christians may engage in. A young person in the country where I lived could attend a Bible study, or a social gathering with Chris-

tians, without censure from the head of his or her family. But any such young people who were baptized would almost certainly be disowned. By baptism we say to the world that, from this point on, we belong to Jesus Christ. He will be our Lord and Master because he died to take our sins away.

When baptism is practiced in the ancient way, by the immersion of the person in water, it is very easy to see the gospel. The candidate for baptism goes down into the water as Christ went down into the grave. Thus we say to the world, 'He died for me.' Then the person being baptized comes up out of the water which reminds us visually of our Lord's resurrection from the dead. In this way the gospel is preached in a pictorial way (cf. Rom. 6:1-4). And this, appropriately enough, takes place at the very beginning of our pilgrimage with Christ.

The individual's public profession of faith in Christ

And, just as the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit places us in the body of Christ, which is the true church of the living God, so baptism in water places us in the local expression of the body of Christ. Through baptism we become a part of the people of God here on the earth. Baptism logically must come before anything else. We must identify with God's people by being baptized before we participate in the Lord's Supper. This is because baptism is the individual's profession of faith in Christ.

Churches today often substitute something else for baptism as the profession we must make. People are told to profess Christ by walking down an aisle, or by the act of offering their hand to the minister, or by holding up their hand in a service of worship. But none of these things can qualify as a true public profession of faith in Christ. Only baptism can do that

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

because only it portrays the gospel events of Christ's death, burial and resurrection from the dead.

Baptism does not save

We should never make the mistake of thinking that water baptism as a ritual observance washes our sins away. Peter said that we are 'saved' through baptism (the symbol of salvation is never far removed from the reality itself in Scripture) but is quick to add that he does not mean *'the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience towards God'* (1 Peter 3:21). It is the internal work of the Spirit that brings salvation. Baptism is the outward and visible sign of that internal work.

Elements of the church fell into this error in centuries past and it is still with us today. In the Middle Ages many people were taught that an infant's sin could be removed by the water baptism. The taint of original sin, inherited from Adam, would be taken away. Thus thousands of infants were baptized in order to guarantee that they did not go to hell. According to this view they would only have to fear purgatory. (They would perhaps be there for thousands of years!) But true baptism is not something that we do in order to be saved; it is something that we do because our trust is in the Saviour (Acts 8:35-39).

What about infants?

And what about the baptism of infants? This practice is widespread, and has been so historically. There are many sincere and godly Christians who believe that infant baptism is not only helpful but biblical. I take the opposing view. But let me be quick to say that, whatever our understanding of baptism is, we should embrace as brothers and sisters in Christ

those with whom we disagree, when we find that we are agreed concerning who Christ is and concerning what he has done for underserving sinners. If we agree that salvation is by the grace of God, and that we are justified by faith in Christ alone, we have a foundation for fellowship. When we agree on those things, we can, from that common ground, begin to have meaningful discussion concerning our differences. And that is what I will try to do now.

In one sense we should baptize only infants, I do not mean the little babes lying in their mothers' arms, but those who are truly new born in Christ. It is often said that, as Israel circumcised infants in Old Testament times, so the church should baptize the children of believers, thus bringing them into the family of God. But I believe that there is no biblical authority for this. It is a misunderstanding of the spiritual character of salvation. Just as physical infants were brought into the physical nation of Israel by circumcision, so today spiritual infants are brought into a spiritual kingdom (the church) by the water of baptism. To baptize a baby only leads to a false assurance of salvation. The person may think, 'I have my baptismal certificate; it is my passport to heaven.' Many years ago a friend of mine told me that he had always regarded his baptism as an infant in that way until his true conversion to Christ.

Summary

But whatever else we may say about baptism, it is first of all the individual's opportunity to preach Christ. To all the world he or she says, 'I belong to Jesus Christ. He died to take my sins away, was buried for me, and was raised on the third day for my justification!'

Be Sure What You Believe: The Christian Faith Simply Explained, by Joe Nesom

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

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.

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://ConferenceRegistrationForm-FoundersMidwest(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
16655 W Hwy 24
Wamego, KS 66547

**SPURGEON
BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION
OF CHURCHES**

**PO Box 155
Wamego KS 66547**

(785) 456-3796
spurgeonassociation@gmail.com

Contact Us:

Administrative Council:

Terry Coker, Moderator
Terry.Coker@fbcfenton.com

Brandon Rhea, Vice Moderator
brandon.m.rhea@gmail.com

Tony Mattia
Corresponding Secretary
Phone: (785) 456-3796
spurgeonassociation@gmail.com

Eugene Jennings, Treasurer
pastor@fbconaga.org

Bill Ascol
billo615@att.net

David Atkins
david@redeemersgracewichita.com

Kelly Gienger
kpgienger@gmail.com

Kyle Carlson
pastorkyle234@gmail.com



WWW.SBAOC.ORG

MEN AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY

Kevin Berens
Colby, Kansas
Email: berens.kevin@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 785-332-7184

John Grove
Canton, Ohio
Email: trsjwg@gmail.com
Phone: 352-286-5494

Tim Lambert
Lindsborg, Kansas
Email: tlambert@smokyvalley.org
Phone: 785-614-3651

J.W. Glidewell
Colby, Kansas
Email: jwglidewell@gmail.com
Phone: 785-772-1176

Terry Coker
Fenton, Missouri
Terry.Coker@fbcfenton.com

Stephen Atkinson
CWI (N America) - www.cwina.org
Director of Ministry
Rogers, Arkansas
Email: sgt.atkinson@gmail.com
Phone: 479-225-4269

Bake Ottofy
St. Louis, Missouri
Email: bakeottofy@gmail.com
Phone: 636-467-7446

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.

