

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of April 28, 2024 -

Sunday School	-----	19
Sunday Morning Service	-----	36
Sunday Evening Service	-----	31
Wednesday Eve., 05/01/24 Service	-----	15

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of April 28, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 455.22
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/28/24:		\$ 455.22

- Week of April 21, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,724.10
Children's SS Missionary Offering	-----	\$ 10.26
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/21/24:		\$ 1,734.36

- Week of April 14, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,736.14
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/14/24:		\$ 1,736.14

- Week of April 7, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,496.17
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/07/24:		\$ 1,496.17

- Week of March 31, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 2,262.35
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/31/24:		\$ 2,262.35

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.

NEXT SUNDAY IS -



M other's D ay

We Will Have A Special Gift For Every Mother Present Next Sunday!

Church Directory

Todd W. White	-----	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	-----	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly	-----	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Keith Shufelt	-----	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars	-----	Outreach
Keith Shufelt	-----	Men's Prayer Group
GinaMarie Shufelt	-----	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White	-----	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, David Smith	-----	Trustees

REMINDER



THREE WAYS GOD IS WORKING THROUGH YOUR SUFFERING

On November 7, 2018, a Marine Corps veteran dressed in black and armed with a .45 caliber handgun entered a popular hangout for college students and young adults. He opened fire, killing twelve before turning the gun on himself. The Borderline Bar and Grill was two miles from my house.

The next morning, I was interviewed on radio about the tragedy. While driving home, exhausted from the discussion, I saw smoke rising from the fields near my home. The Woolsey fire had started just a few hours after the Borderline shooting, eventually burning 95,000 acres, destroying 1,643 structures, killing three people, and causing the evacuation of more than 295,000—my family included.

One question was on the minds of many that week: *Why would God allow all this pain, grief, and suffering?* It's a question we all wrestle with eventually.

Suffering is a part of reality that we generally try to avoid. However, I've learned three important things about embracing suffering that have completely changed how I relate to God and deepened my relationship with him.

First, God uses our suffering for the good of His people. Consider Joseph's life. After being left for dead by his brothers, he was sold into slavery, falsely accused of having an affair with Potiphar's wife, imprisoned, and forgotten. In the final analysis, though, when he looked back on his trials and saw what God had done through them, he said, *"But as for you [his brothers], ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."* (Gen. 50:20).

Without suffering, Joseph wouldn't have been able to eventually save his people from famine. God uses suffering in the same way in our own lives. He takes the bad things we've been through and redeems them for something good in his plans for his people.

Second, God uses our suffering to transform us. Paul says, *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* and he defines that good as *"[conforming us] to the image of his Son"* (Rom. 8:28-29). "All things" includes suffering.

He also says, *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"* (II Cor. 4:17). In this verse, Paul tells us two important things about suffering. First, the sorrow and distress we endure is "but for a moment". It will eventually fade. Second, suffering produces in us something that wouldn't otherwise be there. God ultimately uses suffering to prepare us to rule and reign in glory with King Jesus forever.

Third, God is with us in our suffering. Jesus said, *"...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."* (Matt. 28:20). He said this to His disciples as He appointed them to risk their lives as agents of the Gospel. Jesus chose to end His Great Commission with comforting words because He knew the disciples would face misunderstanding, rejection, imprisonment, and—for some—death. Jesus wasn't going to let them suffer alone, though. He promised to be with them.

When suffering comes, God doesn't leave us to cope with it in our own strength. He is with us in our suffering just as He was with

(continued inside)

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

Peter, James, and John. You can be sure God is with you through all your ups and downs, good days and bad. There is no struggle that will ever drive Him away from you. In His presence, you will find everything you need to persevere.

These three things changed how I looked at suffering. Instead of asking God to deliver me from my trials, I started asking God to show me what he was doing in me through them. I now pray God would deliver me only after I've learned what He has for me in the trial. While I don't seek out suffering, I do try to embrace it since I know God is working through it, is using it to transform me, and is with me in the midst of it.

- Pastor Jonathan Noyes

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

□ **LEVITES TUNE UP FOR THE THIRD TEMPLE** - "Levites Tune up for the Third Temple" is the title of a report in Israel365News for May 3, 2024. Following is an excerpt:

"On Thursday, the third intermediary day of Passover, Levites gathered in Jerusalem to reenact their musical role in the Temple. A group of about two dozen Levites gathered in the Old City to practice their singing while wearing garments designed for use by the Temple musicians in the Third Temple. ... The Gaon of Vilna (an 18th-century Torah sage) said that the Temple music would be the last secret to be revealed before the Messiah."

We know from Bible prophecy that the Third Temple will be built, and it will be occupied by the Antichrist, who will declare himself to be God and demand the worship of the entire world (II Thessalonians 2:3-9; Revelation 13:4-8, 16-17). His entrance into the temple will mark the beginning of the great tribulation (Matthew 24:15-22). The preparations for the Third Temple is a major sign of the times. The hour is very, very late, and if the redeemed saints are going to serve Christ, we must do it now and not allow ourselves to be sidetracked to lesser things.

□ **CECIL WILLIAMS - THE EPITOME OF APOSTASY** - Cecil Williams, who died April 22 at age 94, was the epitome of apostasy. He pastored Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco for nearly six decades. Aligned with the United Methodist Church, Glide Memorial traded biblical Christianity for fables in fulfillment of **II Timothy 4:3-4**, "**For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**"

The PBS documentary on Williams, This Far by Faith, said, "He opened the church to jazz music, gays, hippies, addicts, the poor, poets, and anyone else who wanted to come. He hosted political rallies and services, including a Hooker Convention, speeches by Angela Davis, and the Black Panthers." Under Williams' leadership, Glide Memorial's "celebrations" included dancing and nudity. Speaking at a meeting connected with the 1972 United Methodist Quadrennial Conference, Williams said, "I don't want to go to no heaven ... I don't believe in that stuff." In 1965, Williams began performing homosexual "weddings." Bono of the rock band U2 said he attended Glide Memorial frequently

(Flanagan, U2 at the End of the World, p. 99). U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris, who formerly served as district attorney of San Francisco, said in her eulogy of Williams that she has "many fond memories over the years of attending GLIDE's morning sermon on Thanksgiving" and "our country is more just, more compassionate, and stronger for the leadership of Reverend Cecil Williams." Williams was a good fit for the United Methodist Church. As early as 1927, Methodist Bishop Francis McConnell denied the deity of Jesus Christ in his book The Christlike God. McConnell said, "Is not this tendency to deify Jesus more heathen than Christian?"

□ **SBC CONGREGATION IS A PERFECT DEFINITION OF "EMERGING CHURCH"** - Woodmont Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee, is the perfect definition of an "emerging church." Jonathan Howe, CEO of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, is a member of Woodmont, and the church gives generously to the SBC Cooperative Program. Note the following statement the church posted this year to justchurchjobs.com,

"Woodmont is affiliated with both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Currently, the church is pastor and deacon-led and congregationally ruled. Women serve in all levels of leadership according to their gifts and calling. Our neighborhood and our city have changed drastically over the past eight decades, and it is vital that the candidate fit with both the culture of our congregation and of Nashville."

This is a clear statement of the fundamental aspect of the emerging church philosophy, which is that churches must adapt to the times and the predominant culture. This church is aligned both with the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). The latter is the ultra-liberal denomination that formed in reaction to the Southern Baptist's more conservative direction in the 1980s. In 1990, 1,900 churches broke away from the SBC to form the CBF. The 1994 CBF Pre-Assembly Institute featured Mercer University professor of New Testament and preaching, Paul Duke. He stated, "Scripture is not our ultimate authority ... Homosexuality is not a major concern of the Bible. ... I cannot with confidence say that the Bible condemns all forms of homosexual behavior..." (Calvary Contender, June 1, 1999). At the 2000 CBF annual assembly, which included auxiliary organization Baptist Women in Ministry, treasurer Sally Burgess said, "God is good, and She knows what She's doing." The women were encouraged to use "Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer" instead of "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." The bookstore featured the United Methodist inclusive language hymnal that addresses God as "mother" and "womb of creation." One hymn calls the earth "your Mother." The 2001 CBF general assembly sang a hymn entitled "Mother God," which depicts God as "strong Mother" and "old aching God." At the 2002 CBF's annual assembly, the book The Wisdom of Daughters was sold, advocating lesbianism, abortion, worship of a female Sophia goddess, and the practice of Wicca. One essay in this book described the doctrine of Christ's substitutionary death for man's sin as an example of "divine child abuse." This perverted book was commended in materials distributed at the conference by

Baptist Women in Ministry. Speaking at the 2003 CBF general assembly, Tony Campolo said anyone who resists women pastors is an "instrument of the devil." He said every Christian should support homosexuals as they "struggle for dignity." He said Harry Potter, which is filled with witchcraft, is "good for kids to hear." He said preachers should warn about dispensational theology and the doctrine of an imminent rapture. Many churches are dually aligned with both the SBC and the CBF.

□ **REPORTS ON FREEMASONRY AND THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION** - The Southern Baptist Convention has long been tied in closely with Freemasonry in spite of its clear pagan beliefs and false gospel. The Scottish Rite Journal in February 1993 stated that "Masons believe in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man..." In the 1990s, 14 percent of SBC pastors and 18 percent of deacons were Masons (Calvary Contender, June 1, 1993). We don't know the statistics today, but Freemasonry remains well entrenched. In 1992, an attempt to root Freemasonry out of the Convention failed decidedly. The chairman of the Home Mission Board, Ron Phillips, stated that he did not agree with the conclusion that Masonry is incompatible with Christianity and that he knew many "dedicated Christian men" who are Masons (Christian News, March 15, 1993). It quickly became obvious that the Southern Baptist Convention was more concerned with retaining members and maintaining harmony than in dealing with false gospels and spiritual compromise. Southern Baptist physician Dr. James Holly, who led the attempt to root out Freemasonry, said, "Southern Baptists have become the first Christian denomination that essentially blesses the Masonic Lodge" (Christian News, Dec. 20, 1993). Following is a link to current reports about the Southern Baptist Convention and Freemasonry - <https://pulpitandpen.org/series/freemasonry/>
□ **SBC's ERLC HEAD LOBBIES CONGRESS FOR UNCONSTITUTIONAL BILL THAT MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO QUOTE SCRIPTURE, "WE ARE IN FULL SUPPORT..."** - This past week, the U.S. House passed a bill that would challenge the freedom to express certain biblical truths regarding the Jews and their historical actions. The bill, known as the "Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2023" (H.R. 6090), proposes to adopt a definition of antisemitism that potentially categorizes traditional biblical teachings as discriminatory.

Specifically, texts such as First Thessalonians 2:14-15, where the Apostle Paul, himself a Jew, states that the Jews "killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets," would be illegal. This biblical fact is not rooted in antisemitism but reflects a historical biblical account, which acknowledges that the Jews were responsible for handing Jesus over to the authorities to carry out His crucifixion.

This portrayal is consistent with John 1, which describes Jesus as coming to His own people who did not accept Him. If the Senate passes this bill and it is signed into law, articulating such biblical views would technically be illegal under new guidelines meant to combat supposed "antisemitism."

Brent Leatherwood, the head of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) lobbying on behalf of Southern Baptists for the passage of this

bill, said,

"Later today in Congress, the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act is expected to pass the U.S. House. We're in full support of this legislation and we urge the U.S. Senate to take it up not a place where harassment and intimidation and evil will persist. And so we stand with our friends from Israel. We stand with Jewish citizens here in America. And we want to make sure that we are constantly being a voice for the vulnerable in these types of situations."

Of course, we believe that Israel has a "right to exist," but we also have the freedom in the United States to say what we want, no matter how offensive it may be to others. It's called the First Amendment. We literally have a Southern Baptist leader lobbying for anti-First Amendment legislation that would make quoting Scripture under certain circumstances illegal.

□ **MAJOR VIRGINIA SBC CHURCH TO HOLD VOTE TO LEAVE DENOMINATION OVER LAW AMENDMENT** - In Richmond, Virginia, a local Southern Baptist church makes headlines not for its doctrinal integrity, service to the community, or even its centuries of history, but for its decision to hold a vote to sever ties with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). According to a special announcement on the church's website, the special business meeting will be held on May 19, 2024:"

"The Board of Deacons recommends that Richmond's First Baptist Church withdraw as a cooperating church in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in response to the SBC's proposed constitutional amendment requiring pastors and elders of its cooperating churches to be men. The Board of Deacons invites the congregation to a church-wide conversation and vote on this decision. This special called business meeting will be held in Flaming Hall from 9:45-10:30 a.m. on May 19, 2024, in lieu of normally scheduled adult Sunday School classes. The Deacon Chair will provide members of the congregation with background information to enable an informed conversation on the decision. That information will be disseminated through the church's Communications office starting on or around May 5."

Richmond's First Baptist Church, with several women on pastoral staff and by advocating for the ordination of women to pastoral roles, has clearly positioned itself outside the biblical doctrinal boundaries that the SBC seems to be attempting to uphold. This church's departure is not a loss but a reaffirmation of a commitment to scriptural truths that a surprising majority in the SBC still seem to support—at least on this front."

The so-called "Law Amendment," which stands to be reaffirmed by the SBC in June, affirms the fundamental biblical principle that pastoral leadership is reserved for men, as ordained by Scripture. This isn't about intolerance or divisiveness, it's about fidelity to God's non-negotiable Word."

But the SBC's surprising stand against the ordination of women as pastors is not a stand against women. It is a stand for God's Word, respecting the distinct roles He has created for men and women within His church. ■