

The Crier



The State of the Convention: Pray Attention (Part 1)

Everything old becomes new again. That seems to be the case. In politics, in fashion, and in faith cultures, a rebranding and “new” approach steps up to the spotlight. Socialism and fascism are nothing new, but that appears where the governments of the world are headed (and mostly already there). The 70’s and 80’s called and want their clothes styles back. And alas, in the church community, the same battle for the inspiration and sufficiency of scripture is once again rising to the surface.

Over 100 years ago, textual criticism eroded many believers’ confidence in the inerrancy, infallibility, and inspiration of the scriptures as it robbed scripture of the miraculous and divine. The door was slung wide open for attacks on the divinity of Christ. Neo-orthodoxy traded solid biblical interpretation for an anything-goes approach to biblical truth and resulted in a relative truth vs. absolute truth. I’m convinced that much of the societal slide we see today was born out of the “truth is relative” mantra that came from theological towers where the liberal views were embraced and echoed. If there are no absolutes, including scripture, then to what do you anchor for certainty? That was the slippery slope that theological thoughts began sliding down, and now, “man” and “woman” are relative terms in society (as well as in some churches).

Motions at recent annual meetings of the SBC affirmed a drift away from solid biblical stances towards a worldview more compatible with a woke, corporate company. At the SBC Nashville Annual Meeting in 2021, the hot item was to empower Guidepost Solutions, a non-Christian, non-SBC entity, to scrutinize independent SBC churches and entities in the area of sexual abuses. From the audit, Guidepost Solutions was to recommend policies and responses for the SBC to take up in Anaheim at the 2022 SBC Annual meeting. What can be wrong with protecting abuse victims? Nothing. We are commanded to do just that. But in creating a hierarchy within the SBC through this measure, it moved us from our moorings and exposed us cooperatively to adjoined culpability and suit.

Our moorings are fiercely independent. Each church is an autonomous and an independent body of Christ. We chose to cooperate with like-minded churches to further the gospel. In so doing, the cooperative program was created to pool funding to send missions around the world and to train pastors and missionaries. We believe biblically that all churches in the New Testament operated as the Spirit of God moved each one within their own context. But we also see cooperation as pastors and workers were sent from one church to another and as monies were shared to help each other. But THERE WAS NO HIERACHY over each church. The Apostles were God’s instruments to give instruction to the churches, but each church would apply it as it was led by God. This autonomy of the local church is evident throughout the New Testament up until the state got involved in ecclesiology (but that’s a different tale).

The decision to tie all SBC churches to a collective system of reporting and culpability may prove to erode autonomy and independence as it visits a top-down governance upon all SBC churches. How is this tied to a liberal drift? It was born out of the current socio-political elements of society and not biblical faith. It was born out of the “me too” movement and the reparations mindset that permeates CRT and other vain philosophies of man rather than a view of the sovereign hand of God. It was born out of fear rather than a confidence in God and a call to apply sound truth to a wicked and wayward situation.

<https://sovereignhope.church/articles/20th-century-theology>

<https://americanreformer.org/2022/06/the-sbc-sexual-abuse-report-and-its-consequences/>

March 3, we will kick off Annie Armstrong Easter Giving with a special guest speaker, John Paul Hasick. There will be a Mission Committee sponsored luncheon after Services.

Annie Armstrong Prayer Week will begin March 3rd through March 10th. We will collect for this Mission through April 14th.



There will be a Business Meeting on March 3 after the Luncheon for Annie Armstrong Mission.

FAMILY FIRST PICNIC AND EASTER EGG HUNT will be held on Sunday, March 24 at 1:00 pm at Camp Crosspoint. Join us for Family fun and good food. Camp Crosspoint, 3574 Spence Rd, Pelham, GA 31779



From the Youth Pastor, Harold Smith

In youth, we have been walking through the book of James in our Bible studies. James shows us a very practical side of a life that follows Jesus. James writes from the perspective of a servant of Jesus the Christ even though he grew up in the same house with Jesus as his earthly brother and he is writing to the Hebrew believers who are now scattered from their homes due to the persecution of the “Jesus followers”, the church!

One of the things that stands out in James is the way he calls out the believers then and calls us out today. James is a “show me” kind of guy. James addresses two characteristics that should be evident in our lives as believers!

FAITH and WISDOM!

In chapter 2:18 it reads, “But some will say, you have faith and I have works. Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works.” James is not saying we are saved by our works but that our works are the evidence of our faith! The only way faith is evident in our lives is when we take steps or make decisions solely based on God’s leading and we cannot see how it is possible or what exactly will be the outcome or where it may lead us to! James is telling us that it is impossible to show our faith in Christ to the world around us if we don’t step out of what we do know into what we don’t know other than that’s what God wants from us!

In chapter 3:13 it reads, “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.” Again James brings to our attention that wisdom is only wisdom when it is shown. He adds the qualifier of meekness to the subject of wisdom. Wisdom on display with arrogance does not further the gospel to the world, but wisdom done in meekness (strength under control) has great power in showing the world that this wisdom comes from our relationship with Christ.

So, are we showing the world our Faith in Christ and our Wisdom from God? Is it evident that this is something totally outside what’s humanly possible? I pray we are a people and a church that is known in our community of great faith and wisdom that only can be “a God thing”!

In Christ, Harold

Seen and Not Heard

*Too many black sheep in the family
Too many stones from a house of glass
They've heard the stories, they've heard the lines
But talk is too cheap to change their minds
They want to see some vital signs*

*Convictions- in the way we live
Convictions- not a narrative
Actions speak a little louder than words*

*Commitment- no more alibis
Commitment- not a compromise
Actions speak a little louder than words*

*Seen and not heard, seen and not heard
Sometimes God's children should be
Seen and not heard
There's too much talk and not enough walk
Sometimes God's children should be
Seen and not heard*

(Lyrics from the Song "Seen and Not Heard" by Petra, Word Records, 1990)

"Seen And Not Heard" by Petra, a standout song from their album *Beyond Belief*, unfolds a narrative that echoes the challenges faced by believers in a world filled with skepticism, scrutiny, and condemnation. The song's lyrics delve into the importance of living out one's faith through actions rather than mere words. Our Christian walk is not just a personal journey of faith but a profound calling to be witnesses of God's love and grace (**Deut 8:6**) Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Christian walk and witness are inseparable aspects of a believer's life and are intricately connected to our call to be witnesses, a shining light in the world (**John 8:12**), and in sharing the transforming power of faith (**2 Cor 5:7**).

"There's too much talk and not enough walk. Sometimes God's children should be Seen and not heard"

Our walk with Christ is a daily commitment to living out the principles of love, compassion, and righteousness taught by Jesus. Believers are called to embody these principles in their actions, interactions, and decisions (**1 Thess 2:12**). Our "walk" becomes a testament to the transformative power of faith, serving as a living example for others to witness. Central to that witness is our responsibility to share the Good News of salvation and reconciliation through Jesus Christ. This involves not only proclaiming the gospel through words but also demonstrating its impact through a life characterized by love, forgiveness, service, and redemption found in a relationship with God (**Gal 5:25**).

An authentic Christian walk is a powerful witness in itself (**1 John 1:6-7**). Others are drawn to genuine faith expressed through humility, transparency, and a willingness to admit imperfections. Authenticity opens doors for meaningful connections and conversations, creating opportunities to share personal testimonies. Believers are tested in the face of challenges and adversity, and in navigating difficulties, hardships, and conflicts, which becomes a significant part of our witness. The ability to respond with grace, forgiveness, and unwavering faith in the midst of trials showcases the resilience that comes from a deep relationship with God. It is not about isolation but about engaging with the world in a way that builds bridges and demonstrates Christ's love even in the midst of our differences (**Gal 5:16**).

Our Christian walk and witness go hand in hand. It is a journey that extends beyond the individual, inviting others to witness the power of God's love through the life of the believer (**Eph 4:1-3**). As Christians faithfully live out their belief, they become beacons of hope, reflecting the light of Christ in a world that desperately needs us to be seen and not heard.

"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28)

Bro. Andrew

**Our Members Birthdays
in the Month of February**



Mar. 1 Pat Connell	Mar. 14 . Amy Mejia
Mar. 1 Roberta Lock	Mar. 14 Sue Taylor
Mar. 2 Sean Lauderdale	Mar. 15 Robin Presley
Mar. 4 Reed Bentley	Mar. 16 Rebecca Anderson
Mar. 4 Rickey Carter	Mar. 18 Travis Carlton
Mar. 4 Tina Hornsby	Mar. 19 Roberta Barfield
Mar. 5 Grace Drury	Mat. 19 Buddy Cooper
Mar. 5 Gabriel Potter	Mar. 19 Monika Maloy
Mar. 6 Edalyn Hilliard	Mar. 20 Carol Whigham
Mar. 6 Misty Ramon	Mar. 21 Stephen Hornsby
Mar. 7 Addilyn Norman	Mar. 21 Janice James
Mar. 9 Luke Barfield	Mar. 21 Margaret Norman
Mar. 9 Jean Walters	Mar. 23 Duane Bentley
Mar. 11 Wesley Palmer	Mar. 24 Susan Long
Mar. 12 Carl Long	Mar. 27 Kenny Hurst
Mar. 13 Jovi Humphries	Mar. 27 Jenny Marshall
Mar. 14 Ruby Lodge	Mar. 29 Alicia Westcott
	Mar. 30 Sonny Gilbreath

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed on Friday

Activate The Prayer Chain



Tina Sellers 294-8443
Helen Schmidt 294-2818
Sandra Peck 294-8073

Deacons of the Month:

Wesley Palmer (229) 403-2340

Rick Winters (229) 224-7329

Staff at Home

Rev. Leroy Williams Pastor	321-292-9650 leroy.j.williams43@gmail.com
Rev. Harold Smith Minister of Youth	229-221-1565 harold@pelhamfbc.org
Rev. Andrew Chaffer Minister of Music	229-319-0472 revchaffer@gmail.com
Sandra Peck Ministry Assistant	229-327-6026 eshiver@pelhamfbc.org
Wesley Palmer Deacon Chairman	229-403-2340 wesdawg02@yahoo.com

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“In God We Trust”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
P. O. Box 287
Pelham, GA 31779

Prayer List

MEMBERS

Don & Jean Bodin	medical
Larry Frosteg	medical
Bette Frosteg	medical
Mary Grant	medical
Shirley Humphries	medical
Janice James	medical
RayJean Leggett	medical
Amy Lock	medical
Carl Long	medical
Susan Long	medical
Ken Newton	medical

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Mark Bodin	medical
MaryHelen Bostwick & babies	medical
David Chapman (Nan)	medical
Sharon Dixon (Maloy)	medical Heart
Carrie Evans (Smith)	Thyroid cancer stage 5
Alton Harper (White)	medical
Ken Harper (V Thomas)	cancer
Randy Harris (James)	cancer
Travis Hussey (Theressia)	Hospital (Moultrie)
Harley Johnson (Fenn)	melanoma
WC Kinard	cancer
Chris Leggett (Feagin)	medical
Chris Mobley (Campbell)	cancer
John & Jean Murphy (Monday)	medical
David Parr (Anderson)	medical
Gay Radney (Hilliard)	breast cancer
John Rich	medical
Lincoln Rogers (Strickland)	cancer
Curt Sadler	colon cancer
Dorothy Sizemore	medical
Rick Strickland (Earlean)	Passed away 2/28/29
Dorothy Sizemore	medical
Debboe Spencer (Godwin)	personal
Rick Strickland (Earlene)	lung cancer
Brenda Taylor (Lenora Butler)	cancer
Sonny Thompson (JT)	medical
Candace Trimble (Monday)	medical
Rick Walker (Monday)	medical
Cindy Warren (Bishop)	cancer
Eddie Wilson	needs liver transplant
Walt Younkin (Godwin)	cancer

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Lane Butler, Mitchell County Convalescent Center
 Buddy Campbell, Magnolia Manor, Moultrie
 June Carter, Legacy Village, Rm 208, Thomasville
 Leon Davis, Parkway
 Eunice Hatcher, Parkway
 Gary Hurst, Bainbridge Healthcare
 Carl & Susan Long, Savannah Court, Camilla
 Lula Scott, Savannah Court, Camilla
 Joyce Walton, Southern Pines
 Bill Willis, Parkway

First Baptist Church - Pelham

SUNDAY

9:15 am	Morning Mingle - Breakfast
9:40 am	Children's Sunday School Opening Rally
9:45 am	Adult & Teen Sunday School Classes meet
10:00 am	Children's Sunday School Classes meet
11:00 am	Morning Worship Service and on Facebook @First Baptist Church Pelham
5:00 pm	Ladies Bible Study Resumes on TBA

Monday

6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study
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Tuesday

12:00 Noon	Men's Lunch/Bible Study Resumes 1/9/24 <i>Call church office to order lunch</i>
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Wednesday

7:00 pm	Men's Prison Ministry
5:00- 5:30 pm	Kid's Choir
5:00- 6:00 pm	Supper
6:45- 7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
5:00- 7:30 pm	Children Program
5:45 -7:30 pm	Youth Meeting
6:00 - 6:45 pm	Choir

Staff Meeting
Tuesday, March 5
Tuesday, March 19

Deacon's Meeting
Sunday, March 10, at 8:30 am

COUNCIL MEETING
March 14 at 5:00 pm

Nursery Volunteers

Mar. 3	Andrea Feagin, Barbara Feagin
Mar. 10	Lori Williams, Lydia, Karen Moltz
Mar. 17	Kimberly & Jamie NeSmith, Melodie Chaffer
Mar. 24	Melea & Duane Bentley, Lynn Aldridge
Mar. 31	Nichole & Neal Hilliard, Amy & Donnie Palmer

This month we will be **going Digital with the Crier!** It will be on our web page and you will be able to access it there at:

Pelhamfbc.org

When you get to the web page, click on the top, click on Bulletin/Crier, then scroll to the bottom and click on what month you would like to see.

It will also be sent out through a bulk email. Some will be at the Church and in the office. If you have any questions, please call the office.

Golden Age will meet in the Church's Parking lot on Monday, March 4 at 10:00 am to take the Church bus to eat lunch at The Palace in Sylvester and possible tour of a flower nursery. Please let the office know if you will be able to attend.

I'm sure Godly men and women wrestled in the Executive Committee of the SBC to discern God in all of this. I'm certain that sincere believers raised their hands in affirmation of these steps, trusting they were choosing the right path. I don't mean to disparage anyone. Since this decision at the SBC Annual Meeting in New Orleans, over \$6 Million dollars has been spent on the implementation and response to sex abuse crisis. A simple search of *"how much has been paid out of the southern baptist convention as a result of Guidepost Solutions"* brings law firms soliciting for suits against the SBC. That tells me that much more giving will be diverted from a centralized entity, the SBC, to pay for the sins of local congregations that were supposed to be independent and autonomous. Now we have all become collectively guilty of the sins of the few.

No, this is not a normal newsletter article. Nor do I mean to start a departure from a convention we love. But I do desire to make you aware. The convention made decisions that do not reflect our history and heritage. Those decisions need to be undone. That is why messengers need to Go to the SBC Conventions from sound churches. We still have a stand to make. We still have truth to stand upon.

Follow the links in the footnotes to know more. I'm going to write a couple more articles to raise your awareness. By no means do we throw the baby out with the bathwater. But we cannot keep operating the convention like the world runs their businesses. At the 2021 Annual Meeting in Nashville, the statement kept being made, "the world is watching". My question is, what did we show the world through the decisions we made? I think we showed them fear, not faith.

I'm convinced the bible has the answer for how 13 million plus Southern Baptist should respond to sexual abuse. I'm even more convinced that the bible has the answer for how an independent congregation is to respond to sin in the camp, and I hold that was God's intention to deal with sin on the individual level. I'm concerned about where we are headed. But God has not stepped off of His throne. He still reigns. Perhaps it's time to pray attention to God's way over ours.

<https://religionnews.com/2023/02/28/who-will-pay-for-the-sbcs-abuse-reforms-over-the-long-term-no-one-knows/>

Pastor Leroy