



The *Spirit* of Strawberry Baptist Association

David Timma- Moderator

Vernon DeLong – Interim Secretary

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The Bible

In conversation this week a disagreement about the Bible came up. I know, a rarity amongst Baptist, there were two opinions about what the Bible meant. We all have opinions about what the Bible intends, but how we resolve those differences matters deeply. Baptists have often referred to themselves as people of the Book. I've heard the phrase *'no creed but the Bible'*. Both ideas point to a very, VERY important point. Our theology is supposed to have one primary source. God is the source, revealed through Scripture, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Yet when people disagree it often degenerates into a war of opinions. So, when disagreements come up it is important to remember that we are not supposed to be a people who argue to be right, but a people who are seeking truth in God's Word. When we have disagreements and questions, instead of arguing over what we think, open it up and read it for what it says. In Second Timothy we are given some guidelines as to how we should read God's Word: *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."* 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Here are some guidelines for reading the Bible well. Whether it is motivated by a disagreement or not, approach God's Word with humility. We come to God for salvation, but we also come daily for correction, reproof, and teaching. Know that God's Word has something to teach you, and when you hit those passages that offend you, or challenge what you know, have the wisdom and humility to consider that God might actually be right, and we might be wrong!

Approach God's Word with hope. Understand that God intends the Word to equip us for good! We can understand and learn from it, so read with the intention to be better equipped and trained to be righteous in life. God's Word is not simply devotional material to make us feel better about difficulties, it is meant to equip us to live well in every circumstance, especially the difficult ones.

And finally, when you wrestle with hard subjects, let the clear instruct the unclear. Even Peter acknowledged that some of Paul's writings were difficult to understand! There are passages that can be taken out of context and abused...Snake handling comes to mind but is by no means the only one! When you are unsure of what a passage may mean – let verses that are clear guide your understanding. This does not mean pit one verse against another seeking to create contradictions, but to resolve them. It is not whether you like what a verse says, but whether it is comprehensible. God's Word is meant for a correction to us, we should conform to it, not the Bible conforming to us.

Understand that the Word of God is given to reveal His nature, our story, His solution, and our hope in Christ. It is meant to do all that Paul wrote to Timothy, resulting in a people that are *"complete, equipped for every good work"*. So evaluate how you approach God's Word on the basis of God's intent for it – not man's!

David

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Strawberry Baptist Association
Financial Report - Jan - Dec 2023

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Beginning Checkbook Balance	\$69,219.04	\$69,251.71	\$69,967.05	\$70,032.53	\$69,241.92	\$69,814.80	\$71,453.87	\$71,524.91	\$72,390.27	\$71,545.87	\$72,013.45	\$71,809.30	\$71,809.30
General Fund													
Undesignated Receipts	\$795.29	\$1,512.56	\$1,057.44	\$1,239.31	\$1,410.82	\$2,588.61	\$887.92	\$1,294.95	\$911.80	\$1,185.34	\$963.39	\$745.39	\$14,592.82
Designated Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
Total Receipts	\$795.29	\$1,512.56	\$1,057.44	\$1,239.31	\$1,410.82	\$2,588.61	\$887.92	\$1,744.95	\$911.80	\$1,185.34	\$963.39	\$745.39	\$15,042.82
Balance (Ckbook Bal + Receipts)	\$70,014.33	\$70,764.27	\$71,024.49	\$71,271.84	\$70,652.74	\$72,403.41	\$72,341.79	\$73,269.86	\$73,302.07	\$72,731.21	\$72,976.84	\$72,554.69	\$72,554.69
Total Expenses													
	-\$762.62	-\$797.22	-\$991.96	-\$2,029.92	-\$857.94	-\$949.54	-\$816.88	-\$879.59	-\$1,756.20	-\$717.76	-\$1,167.54	-\$709.15	-\$12,416.32
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$69,251.71	\$69,967.05	\$70,032.53	\$69,241.92	\$69,814.80	\$71,453.87	\$71,524.91	\$72,390.27	\$71,545.87	\$72,013.45	\$71,809.30	\$71,845.54	\$72,626.50
CD's	\$53,734.11	\$53,734.11	\$53,734.11	\$53,734.11	\$53,734.11	\$53,734.11	\$53,734.11	\$53,734.11	\$53,734.11	\$53,734.11	\$53,734.11	\$53,814.77	\$53,814.77
BGAV Foundation	\$31,405.06	\$31,405.06	\$33,080.03	\$33,080.03	\$33,080.03	\$33,991.86	\$31,405.06	\$31,405.06	\$32,698.60	\$31,405.06	\$31,405.06	\$31,405.06	\$35,805.57
Total - All Accounts	\$154,390.88	\$155,106.22	\$156,846.67	\$156,056.06	\$156,628.94	\$159,179.84	\$156,664.08	\$157,529.44	\$157,978.58	\$157,152.62	\$156,948.47	\$161,465.88	\$161,465.88
Ministries													
CenterFest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Missions Coordinator	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Woman's Missionary Union	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Quilting Camp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Event	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Personnel													
Clerk's Expense Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Secretary's Salary	154.87	273.01	381.92	347.30	280.86	183.85	240.96	275.91	255.88	251.90	179.87	191.94	3,018.27
Secretary's Social Security	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Treasurer's Mileage Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	51.09	0.00	0.00	68.12	0.00	0.00	63.86	0.00	0.00	59.60	242.67
Subtotal	154.87	273.01	433.01	347.30	280.86	251.97	240.96	275.91	319.74	251.90	179.87	251.54	3,260.94
Associational Office													
Office Supplies	195.68	34.17	143.91	67.58	139.55	273.37	151.72	179.44	67.18	40.78	162.17	32.11	1,487.66
Website	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Computer Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SBA Office Rent	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	3,600.00
Property and Grounds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SBA Renters Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	945.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	945.00
Internet	112.07	115.04	115.04	115.04	117.53	124.20	124.20	124.24	124.28	125.08	125.50	125.50	1,447.72
Subtotal	607.75	524.21	558.95	482.62	557.08	697.57	575.92	603.68	1,436.46	465.86	587.67	457.61	7,555.38
Other													
Associational Annuals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual Meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
Eagle Eyrie	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
Subtotal	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	1,600.00
Total Disbursements	\$762.62	\$797.22	\$991.96	\$2,029.92	\$837.94	\$949.54	\$816.88	\$879.59	\$1,756.20	\$717.76	\$1,167.54	\$709.15	\$12,416.32
Total	\$154,390.88	\$155,106.22	\$156,846.67	\$156,056.06	\$156,628.94	\$159,179.84	\$156,664.08	\$157,529.44	\$157,978.58	\$157,152.62	\$156,948.47	\$161,465.88	\$161,465.88

Around the Association

Bethlehem

*Welcome our New Pastor, Rev. Anthony (Andy) W. Saul.

Andy and his wife Cheryl have been married for almost 16 years, with two beautiful daughters, Abby 14, and Hannah 12. Originally from VA, he has been in ministry over 25 years. Andy has a Master of Arts in theology from Newburgh Theological Seminary in Newburgh IN, and is currently finishing his Master's of Divinity through the same school. If the Lord so leads and provides, He plans to complete my Th.D. through them as well. I love to preach and teach the Word of God and am grateful that God has given me the opportunity to serve Him in this capacity. I am an avid outdoorsman and I love to work with my hands and build things. *Blessings in Christ, Rev. Anthony W. Saul. Senior Pastor, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Evington, VA. Andy started his Ministry at Bethlehem in January.*

Bedford

*February is the month of Love and Bedford Baptist is starting the month with our *Valentine's Banquet and Talent Show* on Sunday, February 4th after morning worship. Our meal will be spaghetti along with lots of Baptist's favorites, "desserts".

*Karen May began an *8-week Bible Study* on Thursday, January 25th, which will continue through March 14th. There are two sessions; the morning session begins at 10:00 am and the evening session at 6:30 pm. The Study is "Matchless" by Angie Smith and the cost is \$10 for the class which includes the book. You can pick up your book on the day of your class.

*Rev. Phil Bailey is conducting sessions on "*A Christian Understanding of Islam*". The group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 3:00 PM. There are no books to purchase and no need to sign up.

*We continue our *Wednesday evening Bible Study* with an overview of the 66 books of the Bible. Pastor Michael reviews a different book each week, along with an outline of the major points. The sessions begin at 6:45 pm and usually end at 7:30 pm.

*Our Lottie Moon Offering was \$2,905.00.

Pecks

*A country-style *Men's Breakfast* was held on Saturday, Jan 27th, with ham, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs and lot's of coffee. Afterwards breakfast the men cut wood for some families in our community.

**Men's Sunday* was held on Sunday, Jan 28th, with the men leading the Worship Service, along with Special Music provided by the Men's Choir.

*We are planning a "*Soup & Sandwich*" meal for Family Night on Wednesday, Jan 7th, at 6:00 pm.

*We are having a *Steak & Baked Potato Supper* for the Ladies on Saturday, Feb 17th, at 6:00 pm. This meal is being provided by the Men of Pecks.

Timber Ridge

*Pastor Dwayne Carson, founder of "*Date the Word*" ministry, recently joined us in a Worship service that focused on living out the Christian life according to Psalm 1. Pastor Carson also spoke on the importance of not just memorizing Scripture, but hiding it in our hearts as well. If you would like more information about this ministry you can visit www.datetheword.com.

*Our Youth recently enjoyed a lock in activity. They enjoyed food, fellowship, games and, most importantly, time in the Word.

*Our WMU kicked off the *Baby Bottle Campaign* ministry that will go to help meet the needs of the Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center.

*Pastor Phil is continuing his series in the *Book of Revelation* during our Sunday morning Worship services. This has been enjoyable as we are able to see the signs that are pointing towards the return of Christ.

*We recently installed two *Elders* and two new *Deacons* to fulfill leadership roles within the church.

*AWANAS enjoyed "*Bring a Friend Night*", and we were happy to see many new faces.

*Timber Ridge WMU will have a *Workshop in the Fellowship Hall, Saturday, Feb 24th, from 10am-2pm to share how the hygiene pads for Haiti are cut, sewed, packed and shipped. Anyone interested in taking part in this Mission Project is invited to stop by and take part in what they would like to do. Everything you need to work with will be furnished so you can have hands on and decide the part you enjoy doing. Come on out, bring a friend for good fellowship, and find satisfaction in serving God through helping others through this mission project. Light refreshments will be served. Any questions call Shirley Witt 540-875-7568 or Hazel Burnett 540-312-0011.*

Strawberry Baptist Association
P.O. Box 91
Bedford, VA 24523

February

2/6 Pastor's Conference
2/14 Valentine's Day

