

BESSEMER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

• 1630 Powder Plant Rd., Bessemer, AL 35022 • (205)428-2451 • Fax (205)425-7699 • www.bessemerbaptist.org • admin@bessemerbaptist.org



Director of Missions
Dr. Barry F. Cospers
barry@bessemerbaptist.org

I ran across an interesting passage in Numbers 11:4 NASB, "The rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also, the sons of Israel wept again and said, 'Who will give us meat to eat?'"

It seems that every crowd has its share of rabble rousers! Someone described the motivation for rabble rousers as always the same monster: greed. The book of James in the New Testament also describes greed as a source of conflict among believers.

An interesting result of rabble among us is diminished faith. When the people were asking who was going to feed them, were they doubting that God could or would feed them? If faith had been an attribute that was practiced, the people would have asked God for food to eat instead of grumbling over their lack. It must be stated in this circumstance that grumbling is not a spiritual gift. The people could have asked God to supply food while on their journey to the Promised Land. God's supplying would have strengthened them for strength, sustenance, and service. They could have worshipped God and praised Him for His sovereignty over their lives and destiny.

The Bible also describes the heart as deceitful and desperately wicked in Jeremiah 17:9. Some have referred to this passage as a spiritual cardiogram that permits us to see into our own hearts. But it is also a backdrop against which we can appreciate David's prayer in Psalm 139:23-24. In this passage David asked God to take the lid off his heart and show him the motives that should not be there. He then asked God to take the lid off his mind and to reveal to him the thoughts that he should not have. The blessing in this passage is that David was so transparent with his expressions to God that he wanted to personally to be in alignment with God's eternal values.

As Christians, we live lives that give evidence that we belong to God. That is called God's presence in your life. One person described the following three scenarios:

We can do a lot of things. We can make a lot of motion and commotion apart from Jesus, but we cannot do anything that is of any eternal significance. We cannot do anything that counts. We cannot do anything that matters.

We dare not attempt to live the Christian life; to overcome the world, the flesh, or the devil; or to advance Christ's kingdom apart from the presence of God in and among us.

When you give words of counsel or encouragement, if it's just your words, there is no life there. There is no power to transform there.

But God still works miracles. He has the uncanny ability to draw people who are only accustomed to believe in what they can see to His invisible essence and love. It is a tremendous miracle that God can override, transform, and utterly change the machinery of our souls so that we can believe in Him, desire Him, love Him, and obey Him without ever seeing Him. God is sovereign over those operations that pertain to salvation. The Bible teaches us that

the Son of Man has come to seek and to save those who are lost!!! It is amazing to consider that Jesus died for every person. But only those who believe in Christ for salvation will ever go to Heaven. As Christians, we are responsible for sharing the Good News of Jesus to those around us.

Today, we can rejoice because Jesus is a Man of His Word. He is coming again. He will return for us and we will live with Him in Heaven throughout eternity!!! Amen and Amen!!!



Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10am-1pm

205-519-5402

To reach and touch lives with the Grace of God

Katy Wallace
Operations Manager
thegraceplacedirector@gmail.com

Carol Kepfer
Administrative Assistant
thegraceplacebba@gmail.com

Please take a moment and visit our

Website:

www.bessemerbaptist.org

The website has useful information and general information about the association. You can find a roster of the churches in our association and who pastors them.

Take a look!

2018 Annual Meeting

October 22—Hueytown Baptist Church

3:00PM

Please make a dinner reservation by contacting Paige at admin@bessemerbaptist.org or calling the office.