

The Messenger

Weekly Publication of First Baptist Church, Clanton, Alabama (205) 755-3840
"Leading others to know Jesus Christ"

Rev. Matthew DeBord, Pastor

April 5, 2018

Treasuring His Word...

From the Pastor's Heart:

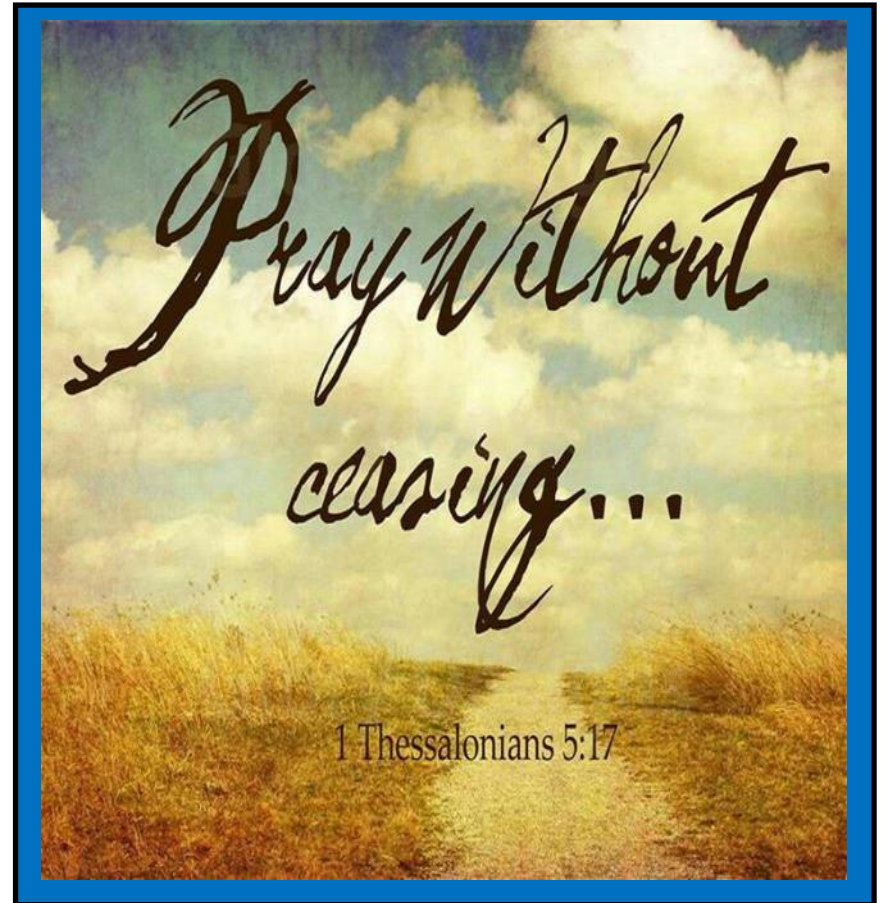
"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19).

Most of us have heard this passage of scripture all our life. The crucial point is whether or not we have applied it, or given thought as to why we would rejoice and give thanks "in everything." Certainly, the resurrection of our Lord should set us on our way to continual rejoicing, but often we rationalize reasons to be rightfully upset about circumstances, and then proceed to express our bitterness, anger, or discouragement. But the key to this passage is found in the phrases, "pray without ceasing" and "do not quench the Spirit." We are able to pray to our Lord indeed because He is alive! And the admonition to not quench the Spirit implies that He is actually desiring to do something in and through us.

When I used to go places with my father, I knew he had things in mind for the journey. We would talk and fellowship along the way, but occasionally "something would happen" that may not have been so pleasant, something unforeseen. But since I was with him, I would simply watch to see how he responded to the issue, what he did to handle the situation. I had no problem "staying out of his way" as he worked things out, knowing he could manage it. If he asked for my help, or directed me to do something in the midst of it, I would simply submit and immediately obey.

If we are "praying without ceasing," we are "with God." As we encounter circumstances along the way that are unforeseen, we can know that the situation did not surprise God at all. He knew what was going to happen. And because He is the Almighty Sovereign of the Universe, we should have no problem "staying out of His way" while He works things out. Nothing is too difficult for Him! And if He asks us to assist Him in any way, we should be overjoyed to serve Him immediately. Knowing that He said through James to "consider it all joy when you encounter trials," we are "quenching His Spirit" when we fail to rejoice and give thanks. We are failing to believe that He has some training and growth in mind for us as we encounter these things. We "quench" whatever it is that He desires to do in us, for us, and through us. If we are not walking with Him ("praying without ceasing"), we will not even recognize this process. Therefore, we will not only quench the working of His Spirit, but we will also miss out on the benefit of the spiritual growth He had in mind for us.

Therefore, walk with the Lord, giving thanks in everything, knowing that He will give you strength, victory, and a reason to rejoice always!



Deacons of the Week:

Gene Sorrell
Gordon Smelley

Church Security:

Joe Mims
David Moore

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 8, 2018

8:15 a.m. - Orchestra Practice
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. - Evening Service
7:00 p.m. - Youth Snack

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

4:30 p.m. - Handbells
5:00 p.m. - Family Supper
5:30 p.m. - AWANA
5:45 p.m. - Prayer Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Choir Practice
6:30 p.m. - E3 Student Ministries

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

6:30 p.m. - Stitch 'N Pray



1st Quarter Business Meeting

April 11, 2018 @ 5:45 p.m.

in Rm 210



Peace by Piece will meet every
1st and 3rd Friday @ 9:00 a.m.
in the Campbell Bldg.