

The Messenger

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

Rev. Matthew DeBord, Pastor

October 19, 2017

Treasuring His Word...

From the Pastor's Heart:

"Behold, the Lord God will come with might, with His arm **ruling** for Him. Behold, His **reward** is with Him, and His **recompense** before Him" (Isaiah 40:10).

We serve an active God! He has been busy from the beginning of time revealing Himself to man, and responding to man as we relate to Him. Many times, in many ways, God has stepped into time to give impact to man's experience and to show man His will and ways. The above passage confirms "the Lord God will come!" What will He bring when He comes? Isaiah 40:10 says that He will bring a ruling, a reward, and a recompense.

Because God is the Ruler of all, His position, power, and kingship are such that whenever He makes a ruling, His judgment will stand! It doesn't matter what you may say about me, or vice versa. What **He** says about each of us will stand. "Therefore, do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God" (1 Corinthians 4:5). When He brings a reward, we are going to want something of eternal value. Therefore, "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20), by committing your life to Christ! "I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against (*until*) that day" (2 Timothy 1:12b). He also brings a recompense. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for His deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

So, in anticipation of His coming, we will want to examine the questions: "What are my motives in life?" "What have I committed to Christ that He is keeping?" What kind of deeds have I been doing? If we are truly following Jesus, He will be faithful to be our Shepherd. "Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will **gather** the lambs, and **carry** them in His bosom;

He will gently **lead** the nursing ewes" (Isaiah 40:11). Christ is responsible in His task to tend His sheep! What does he do as He tends us? He gathers us, carries us, and leads us! When we go astray, "does (*He*) not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it?" (Luke 15:4b). Then He carries us like a father carries his son, in the same way Deuteronomy 1:31 says "in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, in all the way which you have walked, until you came to this place." Our Shepherd also leads us. "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" (Psalm 23:3b). When we are walking in unrighteousness, we must ask, "I am really following Jesus Christ?"

Praise the Lord that our God will come with power to Shepherd His people to eternity! And in this temporal moment, we praise Him for Shepherding our Youth as they are being shaped by His Spirit to influence the next generations in the work of the kingdom of God. We are blessed to see the Youth Center renovated, and we look with great expectation to the future as we see the Youth Ministry grow. Many thanks go to Bro. Chris and all the Youth Leaders as they continue to invest into the lives of our young people.



Fall Festival

*We are excited to announce
we will be having our
Fall Festival on
October 25th. Please plan
to join us from 6:00 p.m. -
8:00 p.m. for food, candy,
and games.
We look forward to
seeing you!*



Deacons of the Week:

Bill Maddox
Jim Pitts

Church Security:

Jimmy Norman
Doug Powell

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 22nd

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

Tuesday, October 24th

5:30 p.m. - Exercise Class
6:30 p.m. - Stitch 'N Pray

Wednesday, October 25th

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Fall Festival

Monday, October 23rd

5:30 p.m. - Exercise Class



Dear Church Family,

I just wanted to say thank you for the prayers, cards, and calls during my recent illness.

Carroll Johnson