



Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

February 2024

From Your Director of Missions (D.O.M.):

February is the month of LOVE! Did you know that you are our Father's and Christ's LOVE? They love you so much that our Father gave His Only Begotten Son for you and our Lord Jesus loves you so much that He willingly went to the cross to die for you. But as Paul Harvey would say, "Now the rest of the story." Our Lord not only died for you but He conquered death, hell and the grave for you. What a LOVE Story! If you have placed your faith in Christ Jesus, that is your LOVE STORY and it was WRITTEN IN RED! Can I expound on that precious love story? I believe that my Father and my Lord Loves you and me so much that if we were the only one that needed Jesus to save us that our Father would have sent him just for you and me. That Brothers and sisters is TRUE LOVE!

When our Lord returned to the Father, He left His ministry to we that are Born Again Believers. We are Christ to the world. One question that I have for each of you is; do you love as Christ loves? Before you answer, remember how much He first loved you. Do you love unconditionally? Do you love God with everything that you are and do you love your neighbor as yourself? If you do, then you are continuing the LOVE STORY that Christ has written upon your heart.

I challenge each of you to share the love of Christ with someone that is a stranger to you; someone that does not know Jesus as their Savior and to someone that just needs someone to be a brother or sister.

I ask you to begin now praying for our Senior Saint revival in March and our Simultaneous Revival in October. Pray also for our churches without pastors that God will send someone to love, lead and pastor them. Presently we have four (4) churches without pastors.

As always, it is my joy and privilege to serve you and our church families within the Richland Baptist Association. If your church does not support the Kingdom Work of our association financially, I pray that you seek God's will and give accordingly as He leads you.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny

Upcoming Events for the month of February 2024

- Feb. 02-03: College Evangelism Conference, Louisiana Christian University
Feb. 08: Pastor's/Staff Conference @ Big John's 11AM
Feb. 09-10: Pastors/Wives Pause Retreat @ Tall Timbers
Feb. 19: Presidents' Day
Feb. 25: Richland Association Pulpit Exchange
Feb, 29: Richland Men's Retreat @ Ranch Place

Upcoming Events for the month of March 2024

- Mar. 01-02 Richland's Men's Retreat @ Ranch Place
Mar. 02: KidMin EXPO
Mar. 03-10: Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Offering
Mar. 07: Pastor/Staff Conference @ Big John's 11AM
Mar. 10: Church Bible Drill
Mar. 15-16: Teen Girl Retreat @ Clara Springs Encampment
Mar. 18-20: Richland Association Senior Saint Revival
Mar. 22-23: RA Congress @ Tall Timbers
Mar. 23: The New Testament Deacon @ LBC Building
Mar. 24: Palm Sunday
Mar. 29: Good Friday
Mar. 31: Easter Sunday HE AROSE!

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Opportunities to Serve

Pastor: Bethel Baptist
Lone Cherry Baptist
Newton Baptist
Westside Baptist

Music Minister: First Baptist Archibald

**If you have a need in your church, please let us know and we will post it in the Monthly Newsletter.*

Something to Think About...

The Holy Spirit shined a light on something I had not noticed about a passage I had been wrestling with recently. We are most all familiar with the parable of the ten virgins (bridesmaids). Probably most of us instantly think back to the old Bible School tune "Give Me Oil in My Lamp, Keep Me Burning...". However, I was looking at something entirely different and ran across **Luke 12:35-48** (I won't post it all here because it is a fairly long passage.) Verses 35-38 seem to be just Luke's synopsis of the fuller parable as told in **Matthew 25:1-13**. Verse 39-40 look to be the "moral of the story" for the parable which amounts to something akin to the old Boy Scout motto of "Be Prepared" albeit with stronger emphasis because the impetus for our preparedness is that we don't know when the Master returns.

But then there is verse 41:

"Lord," Peter asked, "are You telling this parable to us or to everyone?"

- **Luke 12:41**

Good 'ol Peter was not afraid to ask the tough questions. Did you catch it? He literally asks is this parable (The Parable of the Ten Virgins/Bridegroom) a universal for everybody parable or is this more targeted to us your disciples (and ultimately his apostles).

Jesus "answer" is just as intriguing:

The Lord said: "Who then is the faithful and sensible manager his master will put in charge of his household servants to give them their allotted food at the proper time? That slave whose master finds him working when he comes will be rewarded. I tell you the truth: He will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and starts to beat the male and female slaves, and to eat and drink and get drunk, that slave's master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers. And that slave who knew his master's will and didn't prepare himself or do it will be severely beaten. But the one who did not know and did things deserving of blows will be beaten lightly. Much will be required of everyone who has been given much. And even more will be expected of the one who has been entrusted with more.

- **Luke 12:42-48**

Verse 42 foreshadows Christ's later to come restoration of Peter by asking who will the Master put in charge of [feeding his sheep]. The slave of Christ whose hand is to the plow will be the one that is given authority and management over the Master's other slaves and possessions. Then we are given three bad examples: the abusive authority, the understanding unprepared, and the witless wrongdoer. Finally, the sobering conclusion is that while the parable concerning preparedness is for whosoever will anticipate coming to the wedding feast, expectation and requirement for those that have been given much/more is greater. The "reap what you sow" principle here is applied to eschatology. But notice there is no "getting off the hook" when it comes to this as even the unknowing trespasser will reap the reward for what they have sown toward. There is no neutral ground, we are either advancing the Kingdom of God, or we are working against it.

- Jonathan Young

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