



Bigbee Baptist Association

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Brother Brad's Box...

Dear Friends,

What a summer it has been. Vacation Bible Schools have come and gone. All the kiddos are now back in school. Temperatures have set records for the heat. Lots of challenges have been a part of most of our lives for the past couple of months. So, where does that bring us?

As we look forward into the Fall, or Autumn, time of the year, we eagerly anticipate cooler temperatures, school activities, football games, cookouts, and even looking toward the coming Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. By the way, your local neighborhood stores are already stocked with halloween candy and fall decorations. The next aisle over probably already has some Christmas ornaments on display. We get through all that, and then it's New Year's Day all over again.

Wow! Doesn't time fly?! My Mom always told me that the older you get, the faster time flies. I just thought I'd be an awful lot older than this before time started flying by so quickly.

Speaking for myself, looking into the fast-coming future also brings to mind the not-so-distant past. Have I done all I could do, been all I could be, and shared with those who needed it?

Have I gone "ye therefore" and taught "all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost?" Have I taught them "to observe all things" the Lord has commanded me? Have I shared the Gospel as often as possible?

Those of us who are church-goers often get caught up in the things of the church that we forget to get caught up in the things of the Lord. Read that again.

Committees are important. Your church nominating committee has probably recently been hard at work helping to fill positions for the coming new church year. We all have important roles to play in the church. But are we taking those roles with us into our homes, work places, and streets?

I don't have anything greatly spiritual or philosophical to share with you in this newsletter. I just want to remind us to be busy about the Lord's work. Some of you might even need to question whether your work is the Lord's work.

A new church year begins September 1, unfortunately. That date used to be October 1, and we celebrated with "high attendance" Sundays and made a big to-do over it. Now, we've relegated ourselves to simply showing up on that first Sunday of September, if we've not left town for the Labor Day Holiday, and we want to be patted on the back for showing up.

Don't get me wrong. Again, we all have an important role to play in the church. We all belong, and we all belong there in worship together. But the harsh reality of the matter is this – God will get His work done with or without you. It's up to you to decide the role you will play.

Go. Teach. Share. Disciple. And teach your children to do the same. We owe it to ourselves. We owe it to one another and our churches. We owe it to the Lord. The autumn of this life is looming on the horizon. Relatively little time is left to "work the works of Him Who sent me." The kids have hit the ground running, learning, and participating. It's time we grown-ups did the same thing.

Yours and His.
Brad

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- 2 *Labor Day*
- 9 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 16 Clerks: ACP's (Church Letters) deadline is TODAY!
- 29 Praise Night, 5:30 p.m., Livingston First

OCTOBER

- 14 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 15 173rd Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Gainesville

NOVEMBER

- 3 *Daylight Savings Time ENDS*
- 4 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 28 *Thanksgiving Day*

PRAISE NIGHT
Sunday, September 29
5:30 p.m.
Livingston First Baptist Church

173rd Annual Meeting
Tuesday, October 15
6:30 p.m.
Gainesville Baptist Church



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
ENDS!

SUNDAY, November 3