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The Coffee Baptist Vision
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Steve Tipton
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February 09, 2023

A MOMENT WITH THE MODERATOR

The dearest thing on earth to the Apostle Paul was the church. To all born again believers he said basically three things about the church of our Lord. He compared the church to a building, like a local New Testament church. This is dealing with the foundation of the church. Paul compared the church to our body, dealing with the function of the church. All members are important, and all members are needed. Paul also compared the church to the relationship of husband and wife to remind us of the love bonds that tie Christ to His church by speaking about the church as a bride. Paul was sold on the church! He had high regard for the church. And I believe that you and I need this same high regard for the church.

If we had as much regard for the church as Paul, we wouldn't have empty Sunday school rooms and empty pews. God's plan is to work through the church toward redemption of individual men and women. Paul *believed* in the church, and quite honestly so do I! But Paul warned that there would come times of tragedy for the church. He said men would speak perverse things, and savage wolves would come to devour God's people. With worldwide persecution on the rise, some people say that the church is on the way out. This is a lie from the depths of hell, and I want the world to know that the church is a great institution of God and I believe in it!

I admit there are some tragedies of the modern church, but every tragedy can be avoided or corrected. First, we have the tragedy of the unattended church. When we see our empty pews, where are our people? A large percentage of people who claim to be affiliated with one church or another never attend any church with any degree of regularity! We are not to forsake the assembling as the manner of some people do. Secondly, there is the tragedy of the unbowed knee. God's word says to pray without ceasing, but many professing Christians **pout** without ceasing. We need to understand that every good thing comes to us as a direct or indirect result of prayer. Jacob was a great man but he was not the man God wanted him to be until he learned to pray. A church body may do many things, but when we don't pray that is a tragedy!

Thirdly, there is the tragedy of the unread book. We say we believe the Bible but we don't read it. Is it because God's word convicts us? Fourthly, there is the tragedy of unconfessed sin in our life. Jesus was compassionate with the woman taken in adultery, but He was especially scathing, stern, and severe with the sins of disposition, attitude, and spirit! Finally, there is the tragedy of unexpressed love. We don't show love as we should. Our members sit in pews dry eyed with cold hearts while hearing truths from God's word that ought to make us wet the floor with tears of joy and shouts of praise!

We can avoid or correct any of the aforementioned tragedies of the modern church when we let revival begin in us. May it be so, beginning with me.

Trusting Jesus,
Rev. Leon Fortune

Calendar of Events

February

20 - President's Day - Office Closed

March

2 - Vineyard Work Day - 8:00 am

14 - Executive Committee Meeting - 7:00 pm

April

3 - Widow's Ministry Meeting - 6:00 pm

6 - Vineyard Work Day - 8:00 am

6 - Vineyard Committee Meeting - 2:00 pm

13 - WMU Banquet - 6:30 pm

25 - Senior Adult Luncheon - 11:00 am

29 - Boys Adventure Camp at the Vineyard

Scholarships

The Baptist Foundation of Alabama
Applications due March 31, 2023.

Applications must be
completed online at
tbfa.org/scholarships.

A.L. Strozier applications can be
picked up at our office..

WMU Banquet

April 13 at 6:30 pm

Ino Baptist Church

Boys Adventure Camp at the Vineyard

April 29, 2023

Call our office to register or
for more information.

GA Camp at the Vineyard

May 12-13, 2023

IncrediCamp

Build Your Life
Hebrews 3:4

July 17-19

\$120 per child if registered by
June 15. \$135 after June 15, 2023.

Find us on Facebook at:
Incredicamp@Vineyard Christian Retreat

Call the Vineyard at 334-762-2256
for more info.