

Times That Try Men's Souls

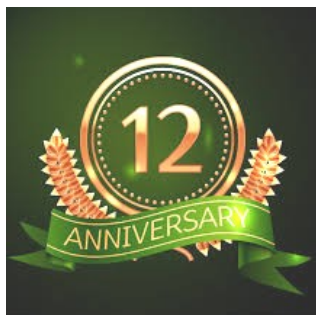
Thomas L. Waters

In August 1776, shortly after America had declared its independence from Great Britain, the Continental Army led by George Washington engaged the British Army in the New York Campaign, a series of battles fought between August 1776 and November 1776. The Campaign was one of the lowest points in Washington's military career as his army suffered one humiliating defeat after another.

Between September and December of 1776, eleven thousand (11,000) American volunteer soldiers who once believed in the cause, gave up the fight, left the army, and returned home. These losses in battle and subsequent desertions were depressing and disheartening to the remaining men and when their contracts expired on December 31, they might very well return home. One does not have to be clairvoyant to see the eventual outcome of such actions. The revolution without an army, or even with a disheartened army, would soon be lost, and the great American experiment in liberty would fail. If this happened, no doubt Patrick Henry would hang from the gallows and his famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech would never have known the applause of history because he would not have known liberty, but death.

General Washington knew his troops needed improved morale and a significant victory or else the American Revolution would soon come to a meaningless, sputtering end. Of course, Washington was not alone in this knowledge. Anyone paying any attention at all could see this plain truth. Anyone who could add or subtract basic numbers would reach the same conclusion. For anyone who really cared, the dire situation was obvious. At least, that is what Thomas Paine declared in December 1776 when he wrote, "This is our situation, and who will may know it."

Well, that was how Paine ended his article, but he began with these words, "These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman(December 23, 1776). These famous words are the beginning of series of articles known as "The American Crisis" which were written and published to defend and support

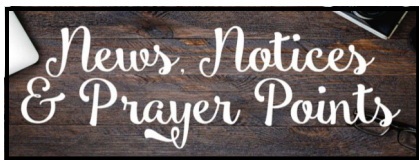


2020 EBC *Reaffirmation*

**Emmanuel Baptist Church
12th Anniversary Celebration
10:30 AM - September 20**


No Bible Study or Afternoon Service
Uncertain about dinner at the church -
a decision will be made closer to the time

Refresh your heart and mind
with our EBC Covenant



On the first Sunday in September,

Pastor Thomas is scheduled to preach at Eureka Baptist Church near Tifton, GA. Eureka is an Old Line Church, and the last pastor they had was 6 years ago, Jamie Tucker. He used to come to EBC for classes and is now with *Heart Cry* (Paul Washer) over the Southeast Asia District. All that is left at Eureka is about 20 folks, and they have been reforming. Terry, Jamie's brother asked me to recommend men who they might get to supply because they have no association with the PB anymore and only know a couple of preachers. Regardless, they are still an Old Line PB church, but they are reaching out and seeking fellowship and guidance.



**Be sure to get a container
from the vestibule
and fill it with items
listed on the instruction pages.
Also, \$9.00 money donations
will help with the postage.
Bless a needy child this Christmas!
Deadline is October 25.
Thank you!**

EBC

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America as a free and independent nation during the American Revolutionary War.

These articles, however, were not just polemic

or didactic, but inspirational. George Washington was so moved by the words of the first article that he had it read to his demoralized troops at Valley Forge. Apparently the words found a home in the hearts and minds of those freezing, starving men in their winter camp because they crossed the treacherous, icy waters of the Delaware River and defeated a Hessian garrison on Christmas night. Then, on January 2, 1777, they defeated the British army's best general, Earl Cornwallis, at the Battle of Princeton. The war raged on, but a turning point had occurred, and as they say, "the rest is history."

We, like those times described by Thomas Paine, live in "Times that try men's souls." Crises do not create trouble - they just reveal what is inside. Before the virus ravaged our nation, we had serious moral and social issues. As a nation we have legalized and given our imprimatur to all forms of immorality. Now, many in high offices, positions that were once revered places of public trust (news, educators, litigators) thrust an immoral, ungodly, atheistic world view upon us. Like a perfect storm, many and varied issues have been ignited in the midst of a pandemic.

Meanwhile, the church in America is anemic. Thankfully, there are points of light here and there, but by and large, the church is as useless as a light under a basket and salt that has no taste. Many churches are heavy on "praise & worship" but light on "Bible & godliness." We are adept at waving our hands, but pretty lame at getting on our knees. We know how to hold raffles, wildlife dinners, and eat fried chicken, but not



so much how to make disciples, do the work of ministry and take up our cross and follow Christ.

Once again, one need not be clairvoyant to see the trajectory and realize the conclusion. Now like then, the summer Christian soldier and the sunshine believer will, in this crisis, shrink from their service of the Lord and His church. Now like then, words of encouragement have been spoken, in fact, greater words than those of Paine.

Joshua 24:14-15: "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

1 Kings 18:21: "And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God,

follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word."

1 Corinthians

16:13: "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

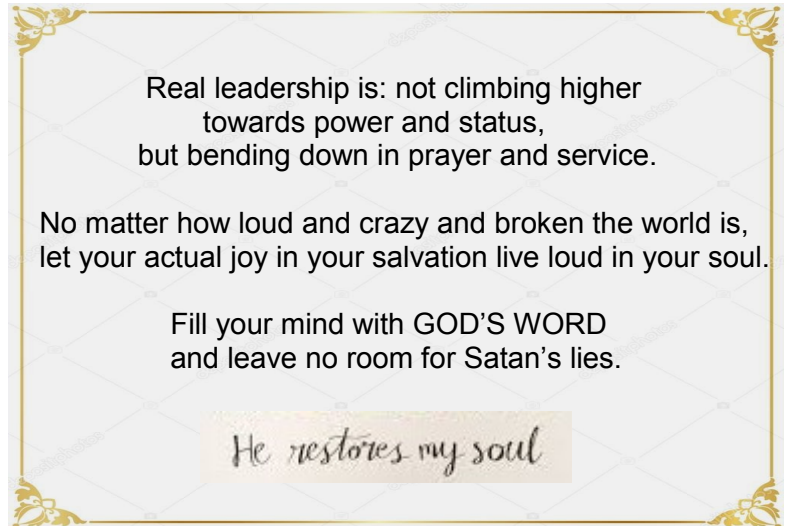
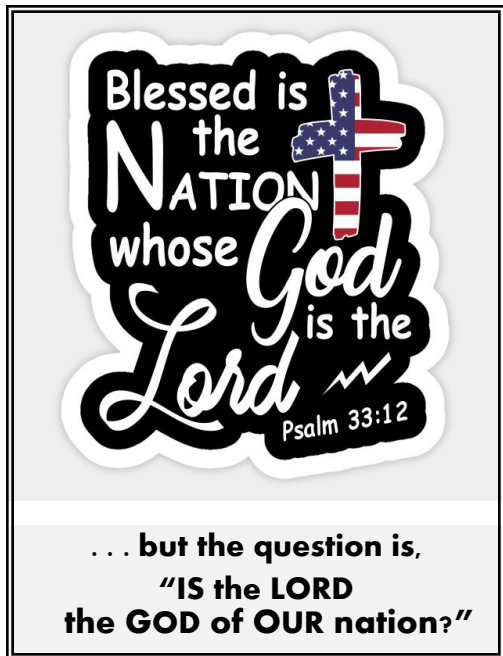
Ezekiel 22:30: "And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none."

Eph 5:14-17: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Roman 5:6-11: "For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for peradventure for the good man some one would even dare to die. But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled

to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by his life; and

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not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation."

Although these words are greater than Paine's words and although they have been read, prayed, pleaded, and preached - they seem to have little power and less effect on our actions than Paine's did in 1776. Why is that do you suppose?

By God's grace, we (EBC) plan to celebrate our twelfth (12th) anniversary on Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 10:30 A.M. . This is our annual REAFFIRMATION SUNDAY.

Re - means - again &/or anew

Affirmation - an act of saying or showing that something is true; A statement or sign that something is true: The act of saying yes or of showing that you mean yes. Notice carefully that word, REAFFIRMATION. Years ago, we chose that word deliberately. Instead of "Homecoming" we chose Reaffirmation because we did not want the day to be all


about the past, but the present, the now. We did not want our Church Covenant to become a forgotten relic that no one ever thought about, but a living document that was an essential guiding factor in church life.

In preparation for Reaffirmation Sunday, I encourage every member and friend of EBC to read again the Covenant of EBC. Read it prayerfully. Read it and ask yourself, am I a covenant keeper or a covenant breaker? Read it and remind yourself, "I've given my word before God and witnesses to the promises made in this covenant." Read it and ask yourself, "What does our nation need? What does the world need? What does my church need?" Read it and realize the outcome is clear. There are two paths ahead. In the words of Paine, "By perseverance and fortitude we have the prospect of a glorious issue; by cowardice and submission, the sad choice of a variety of evils - a ravaged country" or in our case, no EBC, no reformed voice or light in southeast Georgia.





LORD'S DAY
BIBLE STUDY 9:30 AM
MORNING WORSHIP 10:40 AM
(EBC SANCTUARY-ZOOM-FACEBOOK)
PRAYER MEETING 4:30 PM
(ZOOM-FACEBOOK)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
Christ is made the sure Foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone.						
6 Lord's Supper	7 <i>Happy Labor Day</i>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 GACB General Assembly Trinity RBC, Jackson, GA	19
20 Reaffirmation Sunday	21	22	23	24	25	26
O Church, arise and put your armor on, Hear the call of Christ your Captain.						
27	28	29	30			
Built on the Rock the Church shall stand, even when steeples are falling.						



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 06 JoAnn Lewis
- 24 Gary Shepherd
- 24 Liam Brooks
- 26 Nancy Brooks
- 28 Tyler Melton
- 29 Mary Yarbrough
- 30 Kell Brantley

WEDNESDAY
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 6:00 PM
EBC-ZOOM-FACEBOOK

THURSDAY & SATURDAY
VESPERS 6:00 PM
FACEBOOK

I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. - Matthew 16:18



All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. ∞ 2 Timothy 3:16

EBC Emmanuel Baptist Church
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