

## *The Pastor's Notes*

Greetings and grace to you in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My personal apologies for this newsletter being a week late arriving. I pray, though it is late, it will be beneficial for you. You have already noticed the new format. Why change? We hope this format is more readable, and we also eliminated a page of paper.

Ministry Fair kicks off this Sunday, March 8! Please take the time to review all the displays and sign the volunteer sheets for the ministries you are led of the Lord to participate with. East Highland, Fairview and ERBC joined together in January for a Men's Rally, and our next rally is March 24 @ 6:30pm here at ERBC. The rally is intended to encourage, equip and edify men, young men and boys from the Word of God concerning God's revealed purpose for them.

Much is said today about "unity." Some are saying "unity" not "uniformity." But what does God Word teach us about walking in unity with others? Is it unity at all costs? When the topic is addressed, Ephesians 4:3 is always emphasized.; which says **"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."** "Endeavoring" means to exert one's self, to give diligence in keeping the "unity of the Spirit." Unity is the Greek word, *henotes*, meaning unity, unanimity, agreement. Please be careful to notice the "unity", agreement, we are to keep is "the unity of the Spirit." Certainly Eph. 4:2 has to do with our relations with other, but it is still the "unity of the Spirit" we are instructed to maintain. This is done only with love and truth. We must first love God preeminently! Which will keep our steps in obedience to the truth of His Word (John 14:15). 1 John 4:20 reveals the man that says he loves God while hating his brother is a liar. We must conclude since he is not in truth that man is also not keeping "the unity of the Spirit." The Lord gives us instructions about our walk with others in Philippians 3:15-19. Consider this brief outline and other Scripture references and may the Lord grant the understanding that truth cannot be compromised if you and I keep "the unity of the Spirit."

The Charge for Unity—Philip. 3:15 **"Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."** The Lord through Paul is charging mature (perfect) believers to have the same mind. To be in agreement on the truth, but if their thoughts are differently (otherwise) minded, then it will be God which shall reveal the truth. God's Word is our source for the revealed truth of God today. The Bible is

truth without any mixture of error. God's Word is our sole source for faith and practice. When any of us are willing, God is always willing to reveal truth to us from His Word.

The Cause of Unity—Philp. 3:16 **"Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."** If we are a believer, a born-again child of God, that happened because we heard the Word of God and believed the Word of God concerning our sin and Jesus Christ, God's Son and our Savior (John 3; Rom. 3; 10:9-13, 17; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Peter 1:18-25). We "have already attained" to the truth of God's Word and it is the "same rule" to which we are to "walk" and to "mind." Remember unity is basically agreement, and it is only in truth that there is agreement. Untruth and partial truth causes division; truth unites!

The Characteristic of Unity—Philp. 3:17 **"Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample."** Remember Paul is writing under the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of Truth. Paul is not a braggart but a vessel fit for the Master's use (2 Tim. 2:21). He is a work of God's grace (1 cor. 15:10) and is God's example and instructor in truth (1 Cor. 4:14-17). Just God takes notice and makes distinction of those that walk in truth in Christ, so we too are to "mark them which walk" in the truth in Christ as Paul did. It is not enough to say we have fellowship with God, if in reality we do not walk in the truth in Christ; we lie, walking in darkness (1 John 1:6). We must walk in the light as He is in the light and as His other dear children walk in the light we will have fellowship with each other (1 John 1:7). Walking in the truth of the Word of God is the characteristic of unity.

The Compromise for a False Unity—Philp. 3:18-19 **"(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"** Though it might seem to be many compromising the truth for the sake of a "keeping unity," that which they are keeping is false, and will inevitably lead to the destruction of some. This is not new to our day, as Paul inspiringly wrote about in his day. Paul wept as he wrote knowing that those who compromised the truth of God's Word were actually the enemies of Christ. As we have seen truth is the cause for unity; therefore let us never compromise the truth for a false unity. Let us always be willing to speak the truth in love and exhort others to walk in truth, but let us not take one step outside of the truth to seek a broader fellowship (Matt. 7:13-14; Rom. 16:17-20; 2 Cor. 6:11-7:1)

By His grace,  
Toney

## *Music Ministry*

A couple of years ago I first heard the song "Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery". The song really caught my attention when I saw that it told the whole gospel story within its four verses. It was written in 2013 by Matt Papa, Matt Boswell and Michael Bleeker. When God lead me to this year's Easter musical, and after seeing this song was included in the musical; I knew this was the musical that God wanted us to do for this year. In just four short verses, Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery tells the entire gospel story, beginning with Christ's birth, moving to His life and death, and concluding triumphantly with the resurrection. Here are the verses to this new hymn that we will not only be hearing this Easter season, but we will be incorporating into our worship songs.

### *Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

#### *Verse 1*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King,  
He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come;  
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us*

#### *Verse 2*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery: He the perfect Son of Man,  
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin  
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man,  
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.*

#### *Verse 3*

*Come behold the wondrous mystery: Christ the Lord upon the tree;  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold,  
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold!*

#### *Verse 4*

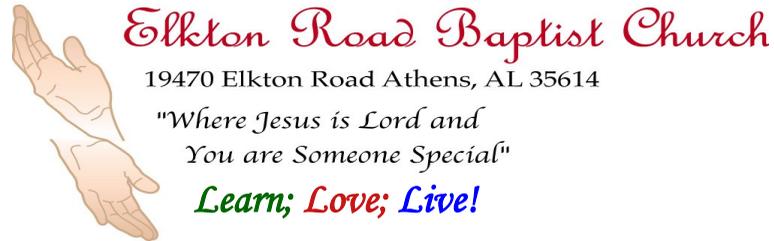
*Come behold the wondrous mystery: slain by death, the God of life;  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord, He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope:  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.*

David

# Learn, Love, Live!

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Church Council @ 4:30pm Children's Choir @ 5pm	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Ministry Fair Covered Dish Lunch	9	10 Sr. Adult B'fast @ 8am	11	12	13	14 Men's B'fast @ 8am
15 Heather Crutcher	16	17	18	19	20 Deela Hicklen	21
22	23 Mot Scott Jerry Gray	24 Men's Rally @ 6:30pm ERBC	25	26 Pat Parker	27	28
29 Children's Choir @ 5pm	30	31 Leah Daly Eli Hicks				



**Sunday School - 9:30am**  
**Sunday Worship—10:30am**  
**AWANA/Discipleship—5:30pm**  
**Wednesday Service—7:00pm**

## Youth Ministry

Praise The Lord ERBC!

I am thankful that as a child of God that our Heavenly Father is with us and will never leave or forsake us! Our God never changes and is the same yesterday, today and forever! How very important is it for us to make sure that we, His Church, stand on HIS Word during these days and every day. Below I just have a few verses that I would like to share this month.

I Peter 1:25 ***But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.***

Folks there is only ONE Gospel and it will endure forever...not any man's attempt to soften it or change it to fit the times we live in. The True Gospel will also fit in any time that we live.

II Peter 3:14- 18 ***Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. 18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.***

Did you notice verses 16, 17 & 18? Even though there may be some things that are hard to understand, which is no excuse for us to not study those out, it does not excuse bad teaching as that would lead to destruction. We are to stand on God's Word alone and to continue to grow in both grace & the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I Thessalonians 2:13 ***For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.***

Folks we are to stand on The Word we received from God and not a word from man.

I love you!  
Davy