

Sunday
 9:25 AM Adult Choir Practice
 10:00 AM Bible Teaching Hour
 11:00 AM Morning Service
 2:45 PM Adult Choir Practice
 3:00 PM Youth Choir Practice
 3:30 PM Adult Prayer Group
 4:00 PM Afternoon Service

Saturday 9:00 AM Men's Prayer Group

Wednesday 7:00 PM Prayer and Bible Study

For more information about Berean,

Please visit us online:



Services for Sunday, February 18, 2018

10:00 a.m. Celebration Assembly

This Is The Day
 I Will Sing Of My Redeemer
 Opening Prayer
 Shine Jesus, Shine
 Announcements
 Offertory
 In The Cross Of Christ I Glory

Brian Petro
 Pastor V. Mark Smith

Sunday Morning Forum Class

Dalton A. Abshire, Sr.

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service

Call to Worship: **2 Corinthians 4:8-18**
 Bless The Lord (10,000 Reasons)
 Satisfied
 BBC Adult Choir
 Announcements
 Scripture Reading: **Isaiah 16**
 Special Music
 O Great God
 Offertory
 He Will Hold Me Fast

Brian Petro

Gary Moline

Sermon: The Spirit Speaks to Seven Churches The Sickening Church, pt. 4

Pastor V. Mark Smith

Scripture: Revelation 3:14-22

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
 I Will Bless The Lord

4:00 p.m. Afternoon Worship Service

Make Me A Channel Of Blessing
 O How He Loves You And Me
 Opening Prayer
 BBC Adult Choir
 Jesus Draw Me Close
 Offertory
 There Is A Redeemer
 Announcements

Gary Moline

Sermon: Seeking the Saviour int the Sacrifices The Garments of the Priest, pt. 9

Pastor V. Mark Smith

Scripture: Exodus 28

Have Faith in God
 Bind Us Together

THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD

REVELATION 3:14

For the past few weeks, we have studied the seventh church of the seven churches of Asia. This is the Laodicean church that we have noted is the one that most closely represents the apostate churches of our time. I want to revisit for just a moment the salutation of this letter in which Jesus said He is *the beginning of the creation of God*. Because theologians tell us this phrase is ambiguous in the English translation, we were sent looking for clarification of its meaning. Was Jesus created or was He the creator?

Our examination may seem to be a non-starter as if we can easily dismiss the question by looking at a few other scriptures. Of course, we did, only taking time to look at two places that decipher the meaning. These were in Colossians and John 1. We know there are many other passages because in our study of the seven letters each begins with a statement of Christ's deity. If He is God, He is the creator. Additionally, I am careful to point out in each message every time we come across the teaching in scripture. There are so many I know I sometimes sound like a broken record!

If we lived in the first three centuries of the church, we would not have considered this question moot or easily dismissed. Around us would be many heretics claiming otherwise. We would be searching the scriptures everywhere and cataloguing each reference that clearly taught the nature of Christ and His claims to deity. In those three centuries, this was a constantly occupying doctrine. Why? Because understanding Christ is critical to our salvation. If Christ is not God, His claims are false, and He cannot be the Saviour. His claims fall under their weight because one of God's attributes is truthfulness. He cannot lie. It is no mystery that in the Laodicean letter Jesus claimed truthfulness before saying He is the beginning of the creation of God, which not coincidentally, is another affirmation of His deity.

With so many references to Christ's deity, why is there any longer a controversy? Contrary to widespread belief, Roman Catholics did not settle this with their declarations. The true churches of Christ never argued about it—at least not among themselves. They were apostolic, believing the words of Christ and the apostles in the New Testament. The issue was settled with the close of the New Testament canon. Only heathens argue such things, and this is the reason Paul immediately set the church straight. The dissenters are Laodiceans—defective and apostate. An error on Christ's deity never constitutes the faith of true believers.

However, the argument goes on, but not because the word of God is ambiguous. Carnal men without the leadership of the Holy Spirit choose not to believe it. Thus, we have writings of men that supplant the Bible to clarify according to their heretical doctrines. The Jehovah's Witnesses do it with their Watchtower magazine and their perverted New World Translation of the Bible. The Mormons have their Book of Mormon and their Doctrines and Covenants.

The New World Translation introduces an indefinite article in John 1:1 to make it read, "the word was 'a' god." We immediately reject this because it is denounced in the Shema of the Old Testament: "*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD*" (Deut. 6:4). Likewise, the New Testament in Ephesians 4:5-6: "*One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*" "...a god" introduces polytheism, a direct violation of the Ten Commandments.

My space is filled for now. The truth of Christ is and always shall remain the Solid Rock of our salvation.

Pastor V. Mark Smith

Romans Group Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Men's and women's groups separate for an in-depth study of the book of Romans.

Church Pictorial Directory

March 2-3, 2018

A new church directory is being organized with the help of Lifetouch. They will be taking professional photographs for us on Friday and Saturday, (Mar. 2 & 3).

Appointments for photography are required, and can be made on-line. To book on-line go to: bbaptist.com, where there is a link on the home page to the Lifetouch website.

Participating families will receive a free 8x10 portrait and the opportunity to purchase additional portraits. Everyone is encouraged to participate. We'd love to see your smile in the new directory!

If you have any questions see Gary Moline.

Berean Baptist Members

Happy Birthday and Anniversary!

February 18, 2018—February 24, 2018

George Widger	February 22
Mona Bianchini	February 24
Ricky Williams	February 24

Happy Belated Birthday to
 Pastor Smith February 16

Anniversaries

No Anniversaries

Prayer and Counseling

Prayer Room 9

For information on: salvation, baptism, membership in Berean Baptist Church, or to pray with someone concerning your specific needs, go to room 9 immediately following any of our preaching services.

Opportunities for Prayer

Adult Prayer Group

Sunday afternoon, 3:30 p.m., Room 9

Men's Prayer Group

Saturday mornings, 9:00 a.m.

Bake Sale

Saturday, March 17, 2018

This is a summer camp fundraising event. If you can help bake, sign-up for baking. If you can work the bake sale table sign up for helping there.

Let's help the kids raise the funds they need to attend summer camp this year.

Bible Trivia

Who said, "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews" ?

See the answer next week.

Last Week's Answer:

"Beware the false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" Matthew 7:15

Nursery Schedule

Sunday, February 18, 2018

10 am Infants/Toddlers Shelly Dudley
11 am Toddlers

Upcoming Sermon Titles

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

February 25—The Sickening Church, pt. 5
March 4—The Sickening Church, pt. 6
March 11—Dalton A. Abshire, Sr.
March 18—The Sickening Church, pt. 7
March 25—The Sickening Church, pt. 8

Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

February 25—The Garments of the Priest, pt. 10
March 4—The Garments of the Priest, pt. 11
March 11—Dalton A. Abshire, Sr.
March 18—The Day of Atonement, pt. 1
March 25—The Day of Atonement, pt. 2

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

February 21—Romans Bible Study
February 28—Romans Bible Study
March 7—Romans Bible Study
March 14—Romans Bible Study
March 21—Romans Bible Study
March 28—Romans Bible Study

Church Calendar

March 2 & 3—Directory Photos being taken
March 10—Teen Work Day
March 17—Bake Sale·Teen Camp Fundraiser
March 24—Teen Work Day
July 11-14—Campout at Van Damme State Park

Tithes and Offerings

Week of:

February 1, 2018—February 7, 2018

General Offering	\$ 5,156.50
Budget Surplus	\$ 2,042.08

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

Hebrews 9:24