



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**I am sitting here trying to decide how I'm going to start this Monday Morning Missive because I have so many thoughts running through my mind. Everything from the joy I feel this morning to the nasty weather that is headed our way. But in spite of the approaching rain and possible thunderstorms, my joy is unaffected. That's the great thing about joy – it isn't dependent on what is going on around you. Joy is only dependent on what is going on inside of you. What I mean by that is exactly what I've been preaching about over the last several months. When you know that God is your Father because Jesus Christ has rescued you from your sins and that the Holy Spirit indwells and empowers you to live in the**

**knowledge that nothing touches you unless it first comes through God's hands – well, that is where joy comes from. And my joy is complete. When I add to that the blessings that God has poured out on Sonya and me by bringing us to First Baptist Church and making us part of this great family, then not only is my joy complete, but also happiness fills my heart. I was especially happy yesterday as I watched my church family worship with great joy and then come to the altar to pray and to pray with so many of our people in the second service. I cannot say this enough: God is up to something at First Baptist Church, and I can't wait to see what it is.**

**Speaking of that, we have some important business to take care of over the next two Wednesday nights. This Wednesday we will deal with two recommendations coming from our Building Committee and our Clyde Acree Property Committee. The Building Committee**

**will make a recommendation concerning flooring in the hallway around the fellowship hall and in the parlor. The Clyde Acree Committee will be reporting on their latest timber cutting and making a recommendation to purchase some much-needed equipment. On Wednesday March 11, the Strategic Planning Team will be reporting on the study that was completed by Visioneering Studios. I am excited about what the SPT has worked on for so long. This will be mostly an informational meeting so that you can know what we are recommending and then pray about it just as we have been praying. We believe that as we all pray, God will bring our hearts together to know exactly how we need to proceed into the future.**

**On that same note, I need to clarify some things that you may have read in the Dadeville Record last week. The reporter wrote about plans to expand and build a children's building**

**and space for our youth. Please know that is not exactly what I told her. I explained to her that we were out of space and that we desperately needed more room for our growing nursery/preschool/children/youth departments and that we were asking for a road closure because we knew in our long-range plans that we would need to build and our best location to build is where Eufala Street currently divides our property. While this will be part of the recommendation coming from the SPT, I also told her that all of this would have to be presented to and voted on by the church. Some of that information did not make it into the story, so I apologize to you for that misinformation getting out to the public.**

**Now, for my final thoughts. Don't forget that there are two things happening next Sunday. We spring forward in our time, and we ALL come to church for Faithful to the Father Day. I can't wait to see what happens on Sunday**

**because I know that if even the majority of the people who normally attend our church all come on the same day, our sanctuary will be full – maybe even in both of our services. You may wonder why I am stressing this, and I am more than happy to explain. I believe that the excitement of seeing our sanctuary full for a regular worship service will stir our hearts to be more Faithful to the Father, and the news of that spreading into our community will make more people want to see exactly what is going on at First Baptist Church. God is doing great things in our lives, and we all ought to want to share that in our community. I know that I do. So, know this. That is my motivation in doing this, and I believe that it comes from the Father. He is always so faithful to us, I just felt Him saying to me that I needed to encourage us to be faithful to Him.**

**Oops, one more thing. We need your help. Churches always need more volunteers, and**

**we need people who are willing to serve in several areas. Of course, our children and youth departments can always use help, but we also need help in our Greeters and Security ministries. There are dozens of other ways you can help, too. If you are interested, let me know.**

**I write this morning with a heart filled with love for you. Thank you for being the greatest church in the state of Alabama. Did I just sound a little bit like Dick Harrelson? He was a wise man!**

**Bro. Ben**

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