



Zion Baptist Church

Beacon of Light

Newsletter for February, 2017

Welcome To
Zion Baptist Church
2437 South Propst Street
Gastonia, NC 28056
(704)867-2550

www.zionbc.gastonia@gmail.com

Leo Kuykendall, Pastor
Matthew Mills, Associate Pastor
John Fuller, Newsletter Editor

Sunday School
10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship
11:00AM
Sunday Night Prayer Room
5:45PM
Sunday Evening Worship
6:00PM
Wednesday Prayer Meeting
7:00PM
Thursday Night Visitation
Prayer at 6:00PM
Visitation at 6:30PM

Watch and Listen To Our Service

Television Broadcast
Wednesday Nights 9-10 PM
Time Warner Cable - Channel 18
Charter Cable - Channel 7
Comporium - Channel 124 & HD 1124
Compass -14 & 805
Antenna-Digital TV- 14.1-14.5
Dish Network & Direct TV- Channel 14

Radio Ministry
Tune In Every Saturday From
11:30 AM-12:00 PM
WCGC 1270AM—Belmont, NC



OUR PRESIDENT'S FAITH

"THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FREEDOM"



With the President's Day holiday upon us this month.....It is worthy to remember The United States of America is founded on Christian principles. Some might argue this, however our history is well documented to include the fact that our founding fathers believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ was the foundation of our freedom and the model for our constitutional republic. In this article are but a few of our Christian Presidents known for their faith.

George Washington

Best known as the first President of the United States, George Washington has a well documented life as an adult but not much has been written about his childhood. His Christian heritage is documented in The Writings of George Washington that was compiled and published in 1830 by Jared Sparks, a well respected writer and historian. Washington continually acknowledges the Hand of Providence and the Divine as the One in whom he owed thanksgiving for battles won and for this great nation. His inaugural addresses were laced with proof of his heritage. One of his most famous acknowledgements came at the end of the Revolutionary War, in his letter to the States on June 8, 1783 he is quoted as saying:

"...the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation."

John Adams

John Adams was schooled at Harvard and was a lawyer. John Adams is responsible for urging the United States to take a lead in the develop-

ment of the arts and sciences through the establishment of a national university, the financing of scientific expeditions, and the erection of an observatory. His critics declared such measures transcended constitutional limitations. John Adams is another man that never hid his Christian faith. He was actually the first President, in a letter to his wife, to ask a blessing on the White House - not only for himself, but for all who followed him as well, here is what he wrote:

"Before I end my letter, I pray Heaven to bestow the best of Blessings on this House and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise Men ever rule under this roof."

To support the claim that our nation was founded on Christian principles, read what he wrote here:

"The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God."

John Quincy Adams

John Quincy Adams is recorded in history as the first son of a President (John Adams). His presidency was said to have been much like that of his father's. He was also a Harvard graduate and a lawyer. John Quincy Adams is the first to propose national highways and canals.

His Christian heritage is also well documented and two of his great quotes include:

"My hopes of a future life are all founded upon the Gospel of Christ and I cannot cavil or quibble away [evade or object to]. . . the whole tenor of His conduct by which He sometimes positively asserted and at others countenances [permits] His disciples in asserting that He was God."

"In the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior. The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity."

Abraham Lincoln

"Yes, I do love Jesus"

President Lincoln is best known for his stance on the abolition of slavery. He was not a well educated man, but was willing to learn anything that he needed to be a great leader. He led the United States of America through one of the most dramatic changes in American history. Most biographers would say that Abraham Lincoln was not a Christian, but it has been proven that he became a Christian later in life. This was his testimony when he was asked if he loves Jesus by an Illinois Pastor whom was well known and trusted by Mr. Lincoln, he replied:

"When I left Springfield I asked the people to pray for me. I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg and saw the

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Easy Way to Heaven



Have you ever thought about all the rules and do's and don'ts the children of Israel were required to do for the atonement of sin?

Leviticus goes on and on with details of what to do with the parts of an animal sacrifice. Can you imagine trying to stick with the laws of doing everything a certain way without making a fatal mistake? If they erred, they would be held guilty and would have to make another extra offering for the error, and follow each stipulation over and over. Can you imagine women having to kill an animal, dip their finger in the blood and put the blood on the altar? Plus going through all manner of rituals in disposing or burning the parts of the animal, a certain way in a certain place, etc.

Enter Jesus!

Jesus took it upon himself to suffer torture, ridicule, beatings and being "staked" out on the cross. Staking was the cruelest torture for the lowest criminals. He shed His precious blood without opening His mouth to try to defend Himself, even unto death. His plan was to do away with Moses' law. His plan would make it easy and simple to get forgiveness. He had already done the work. He was the Lamb without blemish, the ultimate sacrifice. All a person had to do was believe on Him, and go directly to the Father, through Him, and simply ask forgiveness. How much easier could salvation be? Can you believe there are people today who feel they have to "do something" to earn their way to heaven? Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. The blood has been shed. It was a horrible and agonizing way to die. Can you comprehend His love for mankind?

The atonement for our sin was made when He said, "It is finished!" It is a free gift. All you have to do is accept it. "Believe on Him and be saved." Repent and ask forgiveness, not through a priest but go straight to the throne, through Jesus, our advocate.

—Mary Ball

Charles H. Spurgeon "The Prince of Preachers"



"There are times when solitude is better than society, and silence is wiser than speech. We should be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for labour in his service. We ought to muse upon the

things of God, because we thus get the real nutriment out of them. . . . Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make but slow advances in the divine life? Because they neglect their closets, and do not thoughtfully meditate on God's Word. They love the wheat, but they do not grind it; they would have the corn, but they will not go forth into the fields to gather it; the fruit hangs upon the tree, but they will not pluck it; the water flows at their feet, but they will not stoop to drink it. From such folly deliver us, O Lord."

—Charles H. Spurgeon

C.H. SPURGEON'S First Words at the Tabernacle

I WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE MINISTRY IN THIS HOUSE, AS LONG AS THIS PLATFORM SHALL STAND, & AS LONG AS THIS HOUSE SHALL BE FREQUENTED BY WORSHIPPERS, SHALL BE THE PERSON OF **JESUS CHRIST**. I AM NEVER ASHAMED TO AVOW MYSELF A CALVINIST; I DO NOT HESITATE TO TAKE THE NAME OF BAPTIST; BUT IF I AM ASKED WHAT IS MY CREED, I REPLY, IT IS **JESUS CHRIST**. MY VENERATED PREDECESSOR, DR. GILL, HAS LEFT A BODY OF DIVINITY, ADMIRABLE & EXCELLENT IN ITS WAY; BUT THE BODY OF DIVINITY TO WHICH I WOULD PIN & BIND MYSELF FOR EVER, GOD HELPING ME, IS NOT HIS SYSTEM, OR ANY OTHER HUMAN TREATISE; BUT CHRIST JESUS, WHO IS THE SUM & SUBSTANCE OF THE GOSPEL, WHO IS IN HIMSELF ALL THEOLOGY, THE INCARNATION OF EVERY PRECIOUS TRUTH, THE ALL-GLORIOUS PERSONAL EMBODIMENT OF THE WAY, THE TRUTH, & THE LIFE.

Preached from the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London England
where he pastored from 1854 to 1892.

Our President's Faith

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graves of thousands of our soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ. Yes, I do love Jesus."

Grover Cleveland

President Cleveland is the only man to serve one full term as President and return as President four years later. He was the first Democrat elected to the presidency after the Civil War. Mr. Cleveland was the son of a preacher and he is best known as a great leader due to his single-mindedness.

Here is a great quote from President Cleveland:

"I know there is a Supreme Being who rules the affairs of men and whose goodness and mercy have always followed the American people, and I know He will not turn from us now if we humbly and reverently seek His powerful aid."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Eisenhower was the president who pushed to have the "under God" added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954. He also adopted "In God We Trust" as the USA Motto in 1957. He was instrumental as paper currency was introduced in 1957. He wrote a prayer for his first inauguration and always started his Cabinet meetings with a silent prayer. He welcomed many religious leaders to the White House while he was in office.

President Eisenhower once said:

"Before all else, we seek, upon our common labor as a nation, the blessings of Almighty God."

Ronald Reagan

President Reagan was well known for his stance in opposition to big government. He reformed the income tax code in 1986 allowing lower income people to avoid exorbitant taxes. He held two terms in office and at the end of his administration the USA recorded the longest time of peace and prosperity never having any period of recession or depression. We also saw the end of the cold war and the fall of the Berlin wall under President Reagan. Mr. Reagan often talked about God and one of the favorite quotes by him is:

"I believe with all my heart that standing up for America means standing up for the God who has so blessed our land. We need God's help to guide our nation through stormy seas. But we can't expect Him to protect America in a crisis if we just leave Him over on the shelf in our day-to-day living."

—Excerpts from

www.christianswanttoknow.com

As a Matter of a Few February Facts...



February 2nd is Groundhog Day which marks the midway point between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox.

It is a derivative from the early Christian holiday of *Candlemas Day*. The holiday is commemorated when a famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, emerges from his burrow and looks for his shadow. The tradition goes that this day, is used to help determine how many weeks of winter might be left. It is observed every year on February 2nd and was established in 1887.



Valentine's Day is Feb. 14th and is a celebration of love and friendship. The Idea of Valentine's Day seems to have originated during the Middle Ages, somewhere around the 14th or 15th century. The holiday derived its name from two Roman martyrs for love, both named Valentine.

The first Valentine was beheaded on February 14th, but not before leaving a note signed *from your Valentine* for his lady. The second Valentine was supposedly a bishop who secretly married young couples, an act that was forbidden by the Roman Emperor who wanted young men to first serve as soldiers before marrying. Valentine ignored the law and was beheaded on February 14th.



February 20th is President's Day, or Washington's Birthday as it is still legally known, was originally designed as a celebration of George Washington's birthdate. In 1880, Congress voted to make this the first national holiday which honored an individual. In 1968, Congress enacted the Uniform Monday Bill, to give workers as many long weekends as possible. This moved as many holidays to a standard Monday each year.

Many states were already honoring Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12th, and this celebration was combined with George Washington's birthday, for one federal holiday. It is observed on the third Monday in February each year.

Valentine's Day



What better way to commemorate this day than with Bible verses that encourage us to celebrate God's unconditional love for us all.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 4:8

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:18

We love him, because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Mark 12:33

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Romans 12:9

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:4

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:14

—Bible verse collection from biblestudytools.com

Zion Baptist Church
Serving The Lord Since 1960

We're On The Web!

www.zionbc.com

If you would like to receive our "Beacon of Light" newsletter, please send us your name, mailing address, phone number and email address to:

Zion Baptist Church
 2437 South Probst St.
 Gastonia, NC 28056

Feeling the Winter Chill? Than Here's a Poem to Warm Your Soul!

He Never Sends Winter Without The Joy of Spring



Springtime is a season of HOPE, and JOY and CHEER.

There's beauty all around to see, and touch and hear.

So, no matter how downhearted and discouragement we may be.

New hope is born when we behold leaves budding on a tree.

Or when we see a timid flower push through the frozen sod.

And open wide a glad surprise its petaled eyes to God.

For this is just God saying—

"Lift up your eyes to me,

And the bleakness of your spirit, like the budding springtime tree,

Will lose its wintry darkness and your heavy heart will sing"

For God never sends THE WINTER without the JOY OF SPRING.

—author unknown



Think About It!

Whenever you are to do a thing, though it can never be known but to yourself, ask yourself, how you would act were all the world looking at you, and then act accordingly.

No Man ever plowed a field by turning it over in his mind.

THE PERSON WITH ENTHUSIASM LIVES ABUNDANTLY IN SPITE OF AND NOT BECAUSE OF HIS SITUATION.

How empty is the life that is filled with nothing but things!

No tears for the lost will mean no rainbows for the soul.

It costs less to train one hundred children in Christian living than it costs to deal with one average criminal.

Some of us don't believe we are having a good time unless we are doing something we can't afford.

Jesus did not teach "You'll believe it when you see it," but "You'll see it when you believe it."

Not to hate one's neighbor is good, but to love him is even better.

You will make a lousy anybody else, but you are the best YOU in existence.

Strive to do what you say you are going to do 100% of the time with zero exceptions.

This Year Plan To Attend!!!

Brotherhood Bible Study

Don't be confused by the name! Our Brotherhood Bible Study class has an open invitation for anyone to come and join us every other Monday evening at 7:00PM, here at the church, for one of Brother Clyde Wiggins very informative Bible study sessions. Our next Bible Study will be Feb. 13th.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15



Thursday Night Visitations

Join us each Thursday night here at the church at 6:30PM for prayer and to go out into the community to witness others about God's Saving Grace. What a wonderful opportunity to share The Five Steps To Eternal Life track!

"... Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:3

Brookdale Nursing Home

Join Brother Jake Rhyne as he ministers to the residents beginning at 7:00 PM the third Friday of each month. The Brookdale Nursing Home address is 1680 South New Hope Road. Upcoming date is February 17th.

"Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth."

Psalms 71:9