

EASTSIDE BAPTIST

ONE GOD, ONE PEOPLE, ONE HOPE

558 Gadsden Highway, Birmingham, AL 35235

205-833-3463

www.ECBCirmingham.org



Nursery

9/24 Barbara Finley & David Williams

September Birthdays

Bessie Branyon	9/21
Dean Strange	9/26
Cindy Graham	9/28
Donnie Henson	9/28
Audrey Krier	9/28
Carl McKibben	9/29
Barbara Smith	9/29
Becky Driver	9/30
Barbara Finley	9/30

Give Securely!
easyTithe

Date: 9/17/2017

**Undesignated Offerings:
\$3177.00**

**Weekly Budget Needs:
\$7,020.00**

**2017 YTD Giving:
\$245,402.14**

**2017 YTD Needs:
\$252,720.00**

THE ENCOURAGER

September 21, 2017

Sola Fide

“Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.” –Genesis 15:6 (NIV)

Sola fide (faith alone) certainly remains the Reformation’s most famous slogan. This phrase concerns the means of our salvation; it is the answer to the question the Philippian jailor asked the Apostle Paul, “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30). Paul’s answer to the jailer is the same one the Reformers gave, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved...” (Acts 16:31a). In short, we believe that faith in Jesus is the only way to salvation.

Sola fide requires us to ask two questions of the Bible. First, what is faith? Because “to faith” is not a verb, our English Bibles usually translate the verbal form of faith as “believe.” Faith is belief, mental assent to the truth, but it is more than that. Faith involves trust as well as belief. Both are important: what must know what we believe and trust it. It is one thing to believe that boats float, but it is another thing entirely to get into one. Faith steps into the boat.

A second question must be asked: faith in what? Faith in the Lord Jesus. Both words are important here. We cannot accept him as Savior and ignore him as Lord. He is God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Trusting him means doing what he says all the time no matter what. We also cannot accept him only as Lord and not as Savior. We must understand that he knew what he was getting into when he saved us. His death paid for every sin you ever have or ever will commit. Sometimes the hardest thing to believe is that Jesus loves you and forgives you even when you cannot forgive yourself. But that’s what faith is: believing the unbelievable truth.

Sola fide was a freeing reaffirmation of the truth for Western Christianity that had been unstated for centuries. The Roman Catholic Church added to it, insisting on the need for good works to earn grace. To understand how this happened, we have to ask the question that medieval theologians and the Reformers asked: what was lost at the Fall in the Garden of Eden?

The medieval church believed that Adam and Eve were earning eternal life in the Garden. As they obeyed, God gave them more grace to earn eternal life. When they sinned, they not only had to start over, but also introduced original sin into the human race. Christ had to come and reopen the way to eternal life by paying for our sin so that God could give grace. In baptism, the Roman Catholic Church believes that the guilt of original sin is washed away and the inclination to sin weakened. A believer must then obey God to earn progressively more grace to gain salvation. This is why Roman Catholics say they are saved by grace alone through faith alone.

But this is a far cry from *sola fide*. *The Reformers taught that Adam and Eve were simply loving and obeying God in the Garden, which is what it means to be human. Once they sinned, they lost the ability to be what God created them to be: in a perfect loving relationship with him. Christ had to come and live that perfect obedient life so that he could redeem us by paying for our sin. Like Abram, our faith alone causes God to count us as righteous. Jesus’ righteousness saves us. Our full forgiveness in Christ allows the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts and restore our relationship to God. In his power, we can now live from forgiveness instead of for it. We are saved by faith alone, forgiven by Christ and free to live out our love for God.* -

Jacob Catlett



9/24 Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:45 am

9/27 TeamKids 5-7 pm
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal 7 pm

Kingdom Fest
October 29th
3-6 pm
@ Huffman Baptist



Candy donations needed

September Missions

Feed the Homeless:
Monetary Donations

EACM: Sugar

Lawana’s Pantry:
Non-perishable foods

OCC Needs: Flashlights w/
batteries, musical instruments
(harmonicas, recorders, etc.)

Sept. Deacon Ministry:
Bill Graham & Eddie Gates