

# EASTSIDE BAPTIST

## ONE GOD, ONE PEOPLE, ONE HOPE

558 Gadsden Highway, Birmingham, AL 35235

205-833-3463

www.EBCBirmingham.org

**THE ENCOURAGER**

**March 20, 2019**



**Children's Church:**  
**(K5-3rd Grade)**

**3/24 Melanie Wise and Frances Fulmer**  
**3/31 Becky Godwin & Donnie Henson**

**Wednesday Night**  
**3/20**

**AG- Donnie H.**  
**EG - Bill Mc.**  
**Youth - Gwen S.**

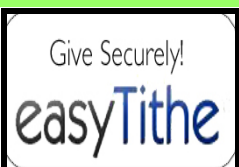


**March / April Birthdays**

Becky Murphy 3/26  
Judy Hovater 4/03  
Tom Sherer 4/03



**Emmaus Road Quartet**  
**Sunday, 3/24 in Morning worship-lunch immediately following.**



### Take Hold

*Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses (1 Timothy 6:12).*

In the verse quoted above, most of us are familiar with the first line, which is a great one. But I think the second one is also very important. The term "Take hold of" (or "lay hold on" in KJV/NKJV), points to a significant truth that many Christians miss.

Sometimes the term "eternal life" is used in the New Testament to refer to how long life will be in heaven. But in most cases, here included, the term is used to describe a certain quality of life that God gives to those who believe in Jesus. Jesus said, "Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life" (John 5:24). Those who believe in Jesus will go to heaven when they die, but this verse means much more than that. Notice that it is present tense – "has eternal life"! Timothy had that already, too. And Paul said, "Take hold of it." Eternal life is a God-given quality of life that only those in Christ can experience. It is God's kind of life, a from-the-eternal-realm kind of life. And, if we are in Christ, we can lay hold of that kind of life right now.

Faith in Christ gives us confidence that we will go to heaven when we die. But it gives us a lot more than that! Many believers have eternal life but they are not taking hold of it. Paul didn't want Timothy to be like that. The verse just before the one quoted above says, "Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness" (1 Tim. 6:11). Then he says, "Fight the good fight." Laying hold of eternal life involves a pursuit and a fight.

How silly would it be if someone gave you a gift and you reached out and accepted it, but never opened it? Or you opened it and then never used it? Eternal life is not a gift to be received and set aside to be used sometime in the future when you might need it, like a second crock pot. We need to grasp the fact that we have the very life and presence and power of God dwelling with us. Take hold of it! Make use of it today!

Bro. Brian

### Upcoming Events:

- 3/24 The Emmaus Road Quartet performs in the morning worship service
- 3/26 Senior Adult Lunch  
Bob Gibson BBQ  
Bus will leave EBC at 9:00 am.



### March Meetings:

- 3/20 DYS Pen-pal Training at 5:00 pm
- 3/24 Finance Committee Meeting at 12:00 pm



### March Missions

Feed the Homeless:  
Monetary Donations

EACM: Soup  
Lawana's Pantry:  
Non-perishable Foods

OCC Needs:  
Socks (adults or large children's sizes) boys and girls.

