



BIBLE BAPTIST BEACON



INDEPENDENT, FUNDAMENTAL, PREMILLENIAL, KJV

The Bible Baptist Church meets at
4174 Wheatley Road
Suite 200
Richfield, Ohio

Service Schedule:

Sunday

10:00 AM - Bible Study
11:00 AM - Morning Service
6:00 PM - Evening Service

Friday

7:00 PM - Bible Study

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Services Broadcast Online at:

- http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBYx3bQJ1GewMZjCzWEtLrA

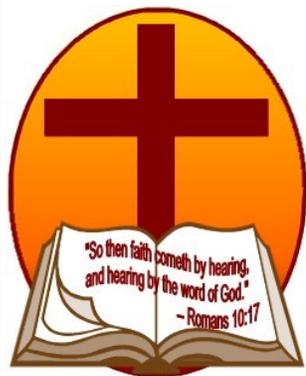
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WKWK 1220 AM & 96.9 FM

- Sundays - 11:00pm
- Fridays - 1:30pm

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~ Published by the Richfield Bible Baptist Church, Richfield, Ohio ~ December 2022 ~

O Christmas Tree or Idolatry?

By Pastor Alfred B. Davis

The origin of the Christmas tree is somewhat obscure. Explanations range from being part of pagan winter solstice celebrations to early Christian celebrations of life over death. Christmas trees are condemned by some and celebrated by others.

Consequently, nearly every year someone asks if Jeremiah 10:1-4 condemns the Christmas tree:

“Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails

and with hammers, that it move not.”

Sounds pretty much like a condemnation of the Christmas tree, does it not? But is it?

Let’s take a closer look at this passage. It begins with God speaking to the Jewish people, warning them about becoming like the heathen around them. However, in the previous chapter, in Jeremiah 9:13-14, God rebukes them for turning away from Him and following the ways of the heathen:

“...Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them:”

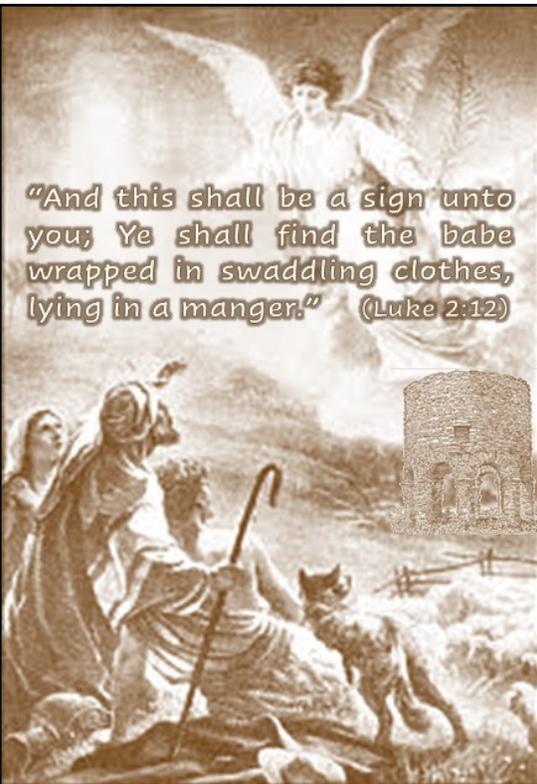
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‘Twas the Night Before Winter Fest

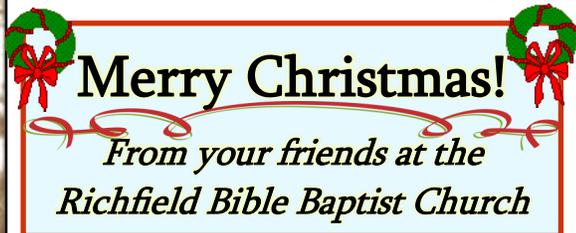
‘Twas the night before Winter Fest, when all through the land,
Not a Christian was stirring, nor lending a hand.
Their Christmas was hung by the attorneys with care,
In the hope that their pastors soon would not care.

The Christians were nestled all snug in their pews,
While visions of Winter Fest gave them the blues.
And Deacon in his suit coat and I with my tote,
Had just wracked our brains for a Winter Fest float.

(Continued on page 4)



“And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:12)

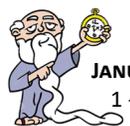


Coming Events at the BBC

DECEMBER 2022

- 24 - Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service at 7:00pm
- 25 - Christmas Day
No Sunday night service

31 - New Year’s Eve



JANUARY 2023

- 1 - New Year’s Day



Please Note:

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O Christmas Tree or Idolatry?

(Continued from page 1)

And, in verses 25-26, God goes on to say that they had essentially become just like the heathen:

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised; Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.”

Consequently, when we get to chapter 10, we need to realize that many of the Jews had already turned from God and His Word and embraced idolatry. So, in the beginning of chapter 10, we find God reminding His people that they should be listening to Him and not the heathen. Unfortunately, the people had already learned the way of the heathen and adopted vain customs; in particular, idolatry.

With all that in mind, let’s look at Jeremiah 10:3-4 again:

“For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.”

It quickly becomes apparent that what is being discussed here has to do with idolatry because Jeremiah refers to the tree that is cut out of the forest as “the stock” later in verse 8. In fact, Jeremiah used this same word earlier in 2:26-27, saying:

“As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets, Saying to a stock, Thou art my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth: for they have turned their back unto me, and not their face: but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us.”

In chapter 2 it is clear that the stock Jeremiah is referring to is an idol. Likewise, the context of chapter 10 also indicates that the tree cut out of the forest is an idol as well. Notice verses 5, 8-9, and

(Continued on page 4)

MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

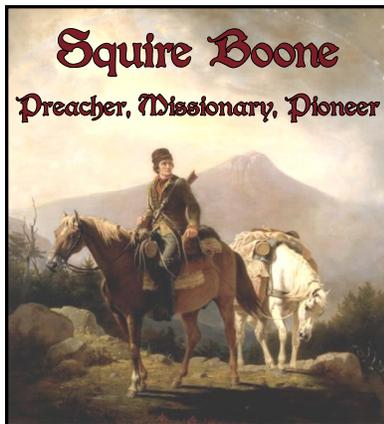
Squire Boone Brother of Daniel Boone

Among the first permanent settlers in the wilderness territory of Kentucky were many of the people called Baptists, who were the pioneers in religion in Kentucky. Along with these early settlers came the pioneer Baptist preachers, facing every danger, suffering hardship, visiting the settlers in their rude log cabins, comforting the bereaved families, whose loved ones had been murdered by the Indians, and preaching the gospel at every opportunity.

Squire Boone was evidently the first Baptist preacher to set foot on Kentucky soil. He was a son of Squire Boone and Sarah Morgan Boone, and a younger brother of the famous explorer. He was born in Berks County, not far from Reading, on October 5, 1744, and had the honor of receiving his father's name, Squire, which had been transmitted "through several generations of the Boones". While Squire was yet a lad, his parents moved to North Carolina and settled in the Yadkin region in Wilkes County, where he grew to manhood. He was married to Jane Van Cleve, August 8, 1765, following the death of his father early the same year. To their marriage were born five children, all of whom were given Bible names - Jonathan, Moses, Isaiah, Sarah and Enoch, which indicates a knowledge of Bible characters. Squire spent a number of years with his brother Daniel in his hunting and

exploring expeditions.

When Squire Boone became a Baptist and a Baptist preacher cannot be definitely known. He came in contact with the Baptists in Yadkin county in North Carolina, where he was reared. "The majority of the settlers from the Yadkin Region were Baptists and they from the beginning more than outnumbered all other denominations. Squire Boone himself was an itinerant Baptist preacher". It



has been mentioned that he was "an occasional preacher in the Calvinistic Baptist Church" in 1776, when he performed the first marriage ceremony in Kentucky. The records show that in 1779 Squire Boone moved his family down the Kentucky and Ohio River to Louisville, where he purchased some lots and erected a

cabin at the mouth of the Bear Grass Creek. Here "He signed the early petitions of 1779 and 1780 presented by the residents of Louisville to the Legislature of Virginia for the establishment of the town. He - a Baptist - is said to have preached the first sermon in Louisville".

Squire Boone was also the first Baptist preacher in Meade County. This man from all the evidence" available "certainly preached at a rude hunting camp at the Blue Spring near the head of Doe Run". On Janu-

(Continued on page 5)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Roger & Tammy Tooley
Church Planting in England
(Currently on the Field)

John Yingling
General Director
Baptist International Outreach
Jefferson City, Tennessee

Mike & Debby Drust
Church Planting in Albania
(Currently on the Field)

Mt. Pisgah
Bible Printing Ministry
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church
Oliver Springs, Tennessee

Jim Robideau
Lighthouse Legal Ministries
at Lighthouse Baptist Church
Ashtabula, Ohio

Jim & Emi Civale
Church Planting Assistance
in the Samoan Islands
(Currently in the USA)

Words Worth Considering...



"What every society needs is the moral law of God. His law is an objective standard. His law is objective truth. He is the Creator of all. He best knows how we are to be governed. He declares what is right and what is wrong. His law/truth is not subjective, rather it is objective."

—Matthew J. Trehwella

"Though the partisans of arbitrary power will freely censor the preacher who speaks boldly for the liberties of the people, they will admire as an excellent divine, the parson whose discourse is wholly in the opposite, and teaches, that magistrates have a divine right for doing wrong, and are to be implicitly obeyed; men professing Christianity, as if the religion of the blessed Jesus bound them to bow their neck to amy tyrant."

—Rev. William Gordon (1794)

"It is binding all over the globe in all countries, and at all times: no human laws are of any validity, if contrary to this; and such of them are valid derive all their force and all their authority, mediately or immediately, from this original. The doctrines thus delivered we call the revealed of divine law, and they are found only in the Holy Scriptures."

—William Blackstone (1176)

"A really efficient totalitarian state would be one in which the all-powerful executive of political bosses and their army of managers control a population of slaves who do no have to be coerced, because they love their servitude."

—Aldous Huxley (*Brave New World*)

"Those who see and know the truth have a moral duty to stand firm in its defense and to defend the institution of marriage."

—Chip Roy & Ryan T. Anderson

"If God has no need of human learning, He has still less need of human ignorance."

—Basil Manly, Jr.

"Really great moral teachers never do introduce new moralities: it is quacks and cranks who do that."

—C.S. Lewis

"Recognize that while we no longer have an Iron Curtain separating East from West anymore, we do now have a curtain of deception descending all around us. Unless we push back, unless we stand on truth, unless we proclaim what truth is, that curtain of deception will envelop our grandchildren, our children, and yes, even ourselves."

—Tim Moore

"Gratitude is not only the greatest of the virtues but the parent of all the others."

—Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC-43 BC)

"Christmas trees are a strange tradition, if you think about it: Every December, people in regions around the world head to the nearest forest, chop down a tree, drag it into their homes, adorn it with lights, baubles, and tinsel—then unceremoniously drag it to the curb in January."

—Amy McKeever



MINISTRY FOCUS



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 PM

Richfield Bible Baptist Church



Christmas is a busy time of the year and it is easy to lose focus. Join us on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 7:00 PM for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service to help keep your focus on the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We will be singing Christmas songs and Pastor Davis will read *The Birth of Christ According to the Scriptures*. After the singing and reading, we will take turns lighting candles and sharing some of the blessings of the past year. Afterwards, enjoy some Christmas cookies and fellowship as we celebrate the birth of Christ together.

Bible Baptist Beacon Available Online

If you missed an issue of the Bible Baptist Beacon or want to read a past issue, please note that the BBB is available online. You can find them by going to our church website, <http://bbc.mapleknoll.us/>, and scrolling down on the left side of the page. Or, you can go to <http://bbc.mapleknoll.us/BBB-XXX-XX.pdf>, where *XXX* is the month (i.e. Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, etc.) and *XX* is the last two digits of the year (i.e. 20, 21, 22). Available issue go back to September 2020.

If you are just looking for the articles that Pastor Davis writes for each issue of the BBB, then you can go to <http://pg.mapleknoll.us/> and scroll down until you find the article you are looking for. While there, you can also see articles going back to 2004. †

NAME THAT CHRISTMAS CAROL (answers below--no cheating!)

1. Bleached Yule
2. Castaneous-colored Seed Vesicated in a Conflagration
3. Singular Yearning for the Twin Anterior Incisors
4. Righteous Darkness
5. Arrival Time 2400 hrs - Weather Cloudless
6. Loyal Followers Advance
7. Far Off in a Feeder
8. Array the Corridor
9. Bantam Male Percussionist
10. Monarchical Triad
11. Nocturnal Noiselessness
12. Jehovah Deactivate Blithe Chevaliers
13. Red Man En Route to Borough
14. Frozen Precipitation Commence
15. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle
16. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Proboscis
17. Query Regarding Identity of Descendant
18. Delight for this Planet
19. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings
20. The Dozen Festive 24-Hour Intervals

[Answers on page 5]

O Christmas Tree or Idolatry?

(Continued from page 2)
14-15:

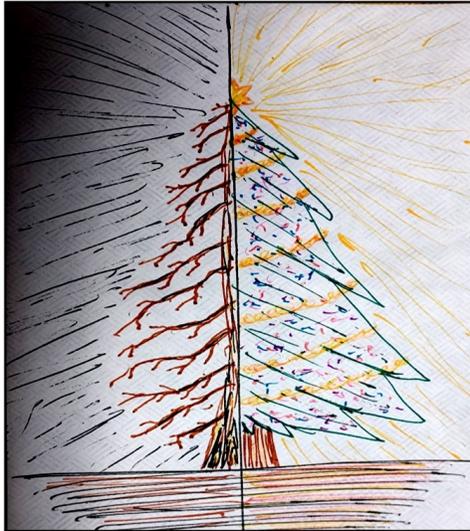
“They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.”

“But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities. Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men.”

“Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them. They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.”

So how does the tree cut from the forest become an idol? Well, the prophet Isaiah gives us more insight. In Isaiah 44:13-17 we read:

“The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house. He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it. Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.”



As we can see, the piece of wood that is formed into an idol is not the same as a Christmas tree. The residue of the tree cut from the forest is carved into the figure of a man, which means that the limbs and bark are removed as the stock of the tree is shaped and finished as a graven image of wood.

In Isaiah 40:19-20 we see two examples of graven images; one made from metal, the other from a block of wood:

“The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.”

The image made from metal was generally made from brass or lead and then covered with thin plates of gold to give the appearance of a solid gold image. However, those with limited finances often chose to use a sturdy piece of wood that was not prone to decay quickly. If possible, these wooden figures were likewise covered with thin plates of gold to give the same illusion. Silver plates were often affixed to these images as well to further decorate and beautify them. Isaiah 41:7 gives us a more detailed look at this process in regard to wooden images:

“So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It is ready for the sodering: and he fastened it with nails, that it should not be moved.”

Covering the carved wooden idol with gold and silver plates is mentioned Jeremi-

(Continued on page 5)

‘Twas the Night Before Winter Fest

(Continued from page 1)

When out in the hall there arose such a clatter,

I sprang from the room to see what was the matter.

Away to the foyer I flew like a flash,
Tore into the lobby and fell with a crash.

The moon on the crest of the holiday tree
Gave the luster of Earth Day to all I did see.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a rumpled old man, with eight charges to fear.

Twas a little old lawyer, so snidely and slick,
I knew in a moment it must be Ole Nick.
More rapid than eagles his charges they came,
And he hooted and hollered and charged us with blame!

“No Bibles! No witness! No Commandments in here!

No meetin’! Nor preachin’! And no teachin’ ya hear!

To the stop of your sort! I’m the plaintiff to all!

I’ll dash away! Trash away! Bash away all!”

As weak knees before the ACLU did knock,
When met with a subpoena, though it was a crock.

So up to the courthouse the lawyers they flew,
With a case full of briefs, and Ole Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard out the door,

Their protests and outcries and a li’l bit more.

As I stuck out my head, and was looking around,

Down the pathway Ole Nicholas came with a bound.

He was stressed and a’fire, from the look of his eyes,

And his cases were all tarnished with falsehoods and lies.

A bundle of griefs he had flung in his pack,
And he looked like a swindler, a bit of a quack.

His eyes—how they smoldered! His grimace so scary!

His lawyers were flustered, his attorneys harried!

(Continued on page 5)

O Christmas Tree or Idolatry?

(Continued from page 4)
ah 10:9 as well:

"Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men."

It should be noted, however, that merely making an image and plating it with gold or silver does not make it an idol. After all, according to 1 Kings 6:23-28, when King Solomon was constructing the Temple "he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high. ... And he overlaid the cherubims with gold." He also, according to verses 29, 32, and 35, "carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers" on the walls and doors and overlaid them with gold as well.

What makes a graven image, with or without gold plating, an idol is when it takes the place of God. It is when one "... falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god. (Isaiah 44:17)" This is when the second of God's Ten Commandments is broken:

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them... (Exodus 20:4-5)"

(Continued from page 3)

Answers to NAME THAT CHRISTMAS CAROL

1. White Christmas
2. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire
3. All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth
4. O Holy Night
5. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
6. O Come, All Ye Faithful
7. Away in a Manger
8. Deck the Hall
9. Little Drummer Boy
10. We Three Kings
11. Silent Night
12. God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen
13. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
14. Let it Snow
15. Go, Tell It on the Mountain
16. Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer
17. What Child is This?
18. Joy to the World
19. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
20. The Twelve Days of Christmas



JESUS is
the Reason
for the
Season.

Clearly, then, the Bible does not condemn Christmas trees in Jeremiah 10:1-4. What it condemns is idols. However, with that said, if the Christmas tree takes the place of God in the hearts and minds of those who have them, then they would be an idol and, therefore condemned as any idol would be. And those who indulge in such idolatry are no different than those in Habakkuk 2:18-19 where God says:

"What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it."

Now, while some may still eschew Christmas trees based on pagan origins or other reasons, please don't let it be because of Jeremiah 10:1-4. And remember, there are also many who embrace the Christmas tree as a symbol of life and triumph over death. So, this Christmas, whether you do or do not have a Christmas tree, let's keep the focus on the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and remember what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:31:

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

†††

'Twas the Night Before Winter Fest

(Continued from page 4)

His stern little mouth was drawn down in a frown.

For the base of his case the judge had shot down.

**The stub of a pencil held tight in his fist,
And the note he had circled stood out on his list.**

He had a broad claim that the judge had found smelly,

That shook when he sued, like a case full of jelly.

He was grumpy and sore, a right angry old hob,

And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of his mob!

**A look at his case and a peak at the note,
Soon gave me to know what the judge he had wrote.**

He spoke not a word, for his case was a joke,

And filed at the courthouse, to harry the folk.

**By laying his lawsuit astride of the court
And giving a threat, to end Christmas by tort!**

I sprang in the pulpit, to the church gave the news

Of what the judge wrote of Ole Nicholas' views.

"God's great gift of His Son, on that one blessed night,

Sent a Saviour for all, that's a case you can't fight!"

—Alfred B. Davis (December 2006)

Squire Boone

(Continued from page 2)

ary 3, 1783, "Squire Boone entered 6000 acres of land on the Ohio River below the mouth of Doe Run" in Meade County.

This first pioneer preacher rendered valuable service in several political relations. He was a member of the Virginia Legislature from Kentucky in 1783, and was also a member of the first Kentucky Convention held at Danville December 27, 1784, looking to the separation from Virginia. From 1787 Squire Boone was in and out of Kentucky for several years. He died in Harrison County, Indiana, in August, 1815, across the Ohio River from Brandenburg, Kentucky.

[From *A History of Baptists in Kentucky*
By Frank M. Masters, 1953]

GOD'S SIMPLE PLAN OF SALVATION

- **WHO IS GOOD?** "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." (Romans 3:10)
- **WHO HAS SINNED?** "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
- **WHERE DID SIN COME FROM?** "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12)
- **WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR SIN?** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)
- **WHAT IS OUR HOPE?** "But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
- **WHAT SHOULD WE DO?** "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)
- "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

SERVICES OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH:

- Sunday School 10:00 AM
- Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 AM
- Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:00 PM
- Wednesday Evening Prayer Service 7:00 PM
- Friday Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTRIES OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH:

- Bible Studies & Expository Preaching
- World Missions & Local Evangelism
- Internet Outreach: BCRichfield.com LiveWithPastorAl.com
- Radio Outreach Ministry on WHKW 1220 AM: Late Night Live with Pastor Al — Sunday, 11:00 PM Live With Pastor Al — Friday 1:30 PM

LOCATION OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH:

- The Bible Baptist Church meets in the Richfield Commons Plaza at the corner of Wheatley and Brecksville Roads, in Richfield, Ohio.
- Our meeting location is at 4174 Wheatley Rd., Suite 200 Richfield, Ohio 44286

THE BIBLE BAPTIST BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF
Richfield Bible Baptist Church
 P.O. Box 452
 Richfield, OH 44286
 BBCRichfield.com

Meeting at:
 4174 Wheatley Road, Suite 200, Richfield, Ohio

Listen to...
Live with Pastor Al
 Sundays at 11:00 PM & Fridays at 1:30 PM
 on AM 1220 WHKW (Cleveland)
 LiveWithPastorAl.com



"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
 (Romans 10:17)

MERRY CHRISTMAS **HAPPY NEW YEAR**