Churches of the Commonwealth
Ministering to the World

Virginia Association of Free Will Baptists

PLUMBLINE

May 13, 2022

INTERPRETATION
Preaching & Teaching

In the expounding of truth, there is a need to declare it logically and orderly while also explaining it clearly and understandably to the listener. This involves the teaching and preaching ministries of interpretation. Remember that interpretation is not merely what one supposes as a meaning; it provides sufficient explanation to reveal what is intended from the information being considered.

Of the words used for "interpretation" in the New Testament, only one is specifically used within the context of instruction or preaching. The circumstance of that usage is when Jesus came alongside two traveling on the road to Emmaus. He began reasoning with them about the Old Testament Scriptures that spoke of the Messiah. Luke 24:27 then says, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

In this passage, the word "expounded" is *diermeneuo*, which carries the meaning of interpretation, translation, or explanation. As Jesus mentioned the Scriptures that specifically spoke of Him, He went further to interpret and make that truth clear to them. And that is what the work of communicative interpretation does. It provides a full explanation of what something means to bring about clarification to the hearer. And in this case, that is just what Jesus' interpretation does. "And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:31-32)

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TEMPUS FUGIT

We have a grandfather clock we've enjoyed over the years, and on the face, it has "Tempus Fugit." It means "time flies." Yesterday, May 12th, Debbie and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. This is a joyful milestone for us personally, but this morning, May 13th, my thoughts have gone to how quickly time seems to pass. And with that, I can't help but consider how quickly time ticks by for the ministries we all have to complete for Christ. Regardless of calling, all believers have a privilege and responsibility to serve the Lord faithfully and consistently. Each passing moment falls away into history, unretrievable and unchangeable. May the Lord help us redeem the time He has given (Colossians 4:5).

2022 Virginia State Meeting

Dr. Robert Picirilli
June 16, 11:00 AM
"The Church and the Shepherds"

Rev. Jamie Lane
June 16, 1:00 PM
"The Church and the Savior"

Dr. Bruce Barnes
June 16, 2:00 PM
Seminar: Grace Mission Ministries

Dr. Eddie Moody
June 16, 7:00 PM
"The Church and the Sinner"

Rev. Jim McComas
June 17, 11:00 AM
"The Church and the Saints"

"I Will Build My Church"

June 16-17, 2022

New London Church
Forest, VA

Pastor Brandon Baber
12371 E Lynchburg
Salem Turnpike
Forest, VA 24551

Attendees will be able to find motels in the Lynchburg, VA, area which is about eight miles from the church. We recommend beginning your search for the accommodations of your choice now.

MUSIC BY THE HOST CHURCH & REJOICE FROM WELCH COLLEGE

INTERPRETATION, Cont'd.

Both preaching and teaching involve proper interpretation and explanation of Scriptural truth. The one speaking the Word of God is under mandatory caution to "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).

Excited oratory without ample explanation for the hearer's clarification is entertainment-driven. And the instruction of fact without applying interpretation to life is nothing short of dead orthodoxy. The ministries of teaching and preaching have a far greater purpose than such. May the Lord help all those who proclaim God's Word to translate, interpret, and explain it in such a way as to lead the hearer to understand the truth and to apply it personally!

NAFWB CONVENTION HOTELS

Online reservations for the convention hotels for the National Association opens this Monday, May 16, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. The reservation cut-off date is Friday, June 24. The hotels are the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel and the Westin Birmingham. Both connect to the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

For more information, procedure, and hotel links, go to the following link concerning the national convention: https://nafwb.org/convention/

VAFWB ON THE CALENDAR

- May 22-25, Forgiveness Conference, Bethany FWB Church, Norfolk, VA
- May 28, Southwest Virginia Assoc., West Wise Conference
- May 28, PR-DR: First FWB Church, Richmond, VA
- June 11, John Wheeler Northeast Quarterly
- June 16-17, Virginia State Assoc. Meeting, New London Church, Forest, VA
- June 26-July 2, Northern Virginia Conference Youth Camp
- July 24-27, National Association of Free Will Baptist Convention, Birmingham, AL

There are some of your graces which would never be discovered if it were not for your trials.

C. H. Spurgeon

VIRGINIA CHURCHES LOOKING FOR PASTORS & ASSOCIATES

Several churches in Virginia are looking for pastors or associates. If you might know of a Free Will Baptist preacher who is looking for a new ministry, please make contact through the information below or with us here at the Virginia Promotional Office.

If any other churches in the Virginia State Association would like to include pastoral search information in The Plumbline, please let us know.

PASTORAL SEARCH
First Free Will Baptist Church
Richmond, VA
Contact Bruce Barnes at 757-407-1183 or dbrucebarnes@yahoo.com.
SEE MORE INFORMATION HERE
This is a full-time position with First Church, and it is a ministry within the state's capital.

ASSOCIATE SEARCH
A church in Virginia is looking for a full-time youth pastor. If you are interested, please contact the Virginia promotional office. We will forward your information to the church.

757-407-1183 or dbrucebarnes@vafwb.org

PASTORAL SEARCH
Genesis Free Will Baptist Church
Kingsport, TN
Contact Newl Dotson at 276-502-4684 (Cell) or 276-546-4400 (Office).
Information about the church and job description are available here:
GENESIS PASTORAL SEARCH

ASSOCIATE SEARCH
Unity Free Will Baptist Church
Chesapeake, VA
Contact Pastor Earl Sutton at 757-639-5088 or suttonle45@gmail.com
The church is looking for an associate pastor to work alongside Pastor Sutton in church ministries. It is a paid position.