

INDEPENDENT  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH



# INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 2011



God has been so good to Independent Baptist Church this year! It is so exciting to see spiritual growth; young Christians baptized and people loving God more each day. I am looking forward to this summer, as I'm sure you all are.

Today I wanted to share something that God recently impressed on my heart as a need in my life and the lives of our church.

Proverbs 2:1-5

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;  
So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;  
Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;  
If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;  
Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

As I read this passage God impressed upon my heart how much exercise is found in these verses. With the warm weather now upon us, it is very common to see families out for a walk, a lone runner, children riding their bikes, or people driving by with their boat and water skis tied behind. With physical exercise becoming the norm throughout the summer consider the thought of spiritual exercise. The question has been asked of me, "How do I become closer to God?" The answer lies in these verses.

Verse one speaks of taking possession ("receiving") God's words and "hiding" them. The word "hide" gives the thought of hoarding something

or reserving it for later. Your gun collection, your grandmother's sapphire ring, your childhood baseball cards, your prized set of golf clubs, your fine china set - what do you treasure? Often we protect our most beloved possessions in a fireproof safe or in a hidden drawer. Do you treasure and protect your possessions more than God's love letter to you?

"Incline thine ear" implies listening intently and "apply thine heart" gives the idea of diligently paying attention. Imagine yourself eavesdropping on the Sunday morning message. You listen as carefully as possible because you do not want to miss a word! If we are diligently paying attention throughout our day, maybe we wouldn't miss the messages God sends us through people and circumstances.

Verse three then commands us to pray about our search to know God better. It tells us to "cry after knowledge" and "lift up our voice" as we pray for understanding. When was the last time you prayed for God to give you understanding in your Bible reading, or asked for His wisdom throughout every moment of your day? God desires to give us good gifts, just like an earthly father wants to provide for his children. God will give you the understanding you ask for!

"If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;" The other day I ran into Lowe's to grab "one" item. Of course, as I passed different aisles I saw several things that I "needed" and grabbed them along the way. I had neglected to use a cart - I was only buying "one" item, remember. Soon my arms were full and I was still lacking the needed item, which was nowhere to be found! I'm

sure I was a comical sight as I walked carefully down the aisles, bending over to read the low signs as items spilled from my arms onto the floor. I don't know how long it took me, but my "quick trip to Lowe's" was anything but that! Finally, I found what I had been searching for and headed for the cash register. It struck me as I was reading this passage that maybe my shopping experience could be a small example of how God wants us to seek him. Oblivious to our surroundings, we are intent on searching for Him. How seriously do you search after God?

Verse five ends our short study with this promise, "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." All the spiritual activity that is described in the first four verses leaves us with the assurance that if you search after God like you're looking for the greatest treasure in the world (which it is) then you will find His wisdom.

This summer as you make physical exercise a priority, I challenge you to also make spiritual exercise a priority. Cry out to God; ask for His understanding and wisdom. I guarantee this summer will change your life spiritually and you will enjoy every moment of every day so much more.

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# YOUNG AT HEART

by: Rick Dove

As life rolls along we may sometimes lose purpose for why we are here. Sometimes we find ourselves caught in the stage of life when those around us speak to softly and they have turned the lighting down so we cannot read like we use to. Everyone says they told us that already. Yes, our hearing, eyesight and memory seem to not work just like we want them too. But the bigger issue is when we become



hard of hearing from God and our eye sight spiritually is not what it should be. In I Corinthians 4:2, God says, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." God wants us to stay tuned to his voice and respond quickly to his call. Daniel is a man we should try to emulate. He walked with God in such a way that the people that worked around him could not find him doing anything wrong.

Look what is said about Daniel in Daniel 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. As our life does roll along let us keep our life right, May we be faithful in our service to God and may the world not be able to find fault in us that we would not hinder God's Word from working in someone's life.



*My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not...refrain thy foot from their path:  
Proverbs 1:10, 15b*



## JUST A THOUGHT

By: Valerie Creed

Have you ever been in the wrong place at the wrong time? Yesterday, I saw the results of a nonchalant groundhog in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was contentedly munching his greens oblivious to the oncoming danger in the fast lane. After a few rolls, he realized that shadows may hurt you when the object of impact swiftly follows. God has commanded us to be vigilant in the paths that we choose.

You can be in the right place at the right time and receive God's constant blessing. Why settle for the fast lane of the world, when you can bask in God's sunlight in His green pastures?

**Why settle for the fast lane of the world**



## MEN'S CAMPOUT

Men's Campout will be August 11-13, at the Sassafras Natural Resource Area in Kennedyville, Maryland. You do not want to miss this time to be away from the hectic pace of life. If your work schedule will not allow you to come on Thursday let us know and you can come up later. There will be fishing, swimming, crabbing, and good food. Make plans to come. The cost will be \$30 per person or \$70 per family.

## GOD'S WILL

By: Barry Ocker

Many Christians have questions, such as, What does God want me to do now that I am saved? Where should I serve in my church? Where should I live? etc. Young people are often concerned about where they should attend college and whom they should marry. These are important questions and, as a Christian, it is essential to have God's input in the decision-making process.

God's will is the same for every person, but His plan for each individual differs. Remember, God is far more concerned in His people being the type of person He wants them to be than in a person doing "mighty works." Be what He wants you to be, and He will show you what He wants you to do.

God's will is not a mystery. It is clearly revealed in the Bible and He wants us to understand what is the will of the Lord (Eph. 5:17).

### God's will is:

All men come to Christ for salvation. (*II Peter 3:9; I Timothy 2:4*)

Christians to be yielded to and controlled by the Holy Spirit. (*Eph. 5:17-19*)

Christians to be thankful in all things. (*I Thess. 5:18*)

Christians to be submissive servants to Him. (*Eph. 6:5-8; I Peter 2:11-17*)

Christians to be conformed into the image of Christ. (*Romans 8:28-29; Romans 12:1-2*)

## TEEN TRUTHS

By: James Stroud

In the book of Judges we read a sad account of a teenager who runs wild. He is given a special opportunity by God to serve Him during this needy time in the country of Israel. Despite his amazing abilities and chances to be used of God for good, he misuses his gifts and fulfills the lust of his flesh. There are several traits of Samson that should challenge us as parents in rearing our teens.

He was worldly

He followed the wrong crowd

Disobeyed his parents

Lived in the flesh and not the Spirit

Used his powers for his own advancement

Mistreated his friend

Samson reminds us of a wasted life and unfilled potential. There are many teens which struggle with the Lord's will during their teen years and if given proper leading, they will follow God's plan and not their own. What a tragic end to a great beginning for Samson. Someone who could have made a tremendous difference in Israel; closes out his life by committing suicide, losing his sight and being bound in sin.

Don't forget TEEN CAMP – June 20-24

Cost is \$175.00



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Master Clubs Jr. Girls Camp-In**  
June 3

**Summer School Begins**  
June 6

**Young at Heart Summer Trip**  
June 9

**Young at Heart Meal**  
June 12

**Growing in Grace Ladies Fellowship**  
June 18

**Clinton Rehab Father's Day**  
June 18

**Father's Day**  
June 19

**West Coast Tour Group with us**  
June 19

**Teen Camp**  
June 20 – 24

**Bradford Oaks Fathers Day**  
June 23

**Jail Ministry Picnic**  
June 25



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