

Bel-Aire Baptist Church
...making disciples of Christ

A Note from our Pastor:

Dear friend,

On behalf of Bel-Aire Baptist Church, welcome to our membership orientation. We hope to introduce you to our church and her mission through this session.

Church Membership is Biblical. Christ desires for his followers to commit themselves to a local body of believers living life with each other while carrying out His mission. As you plug in, we trust you will see some of the opportunities and challenges our setting and history brought us.

We cannot know what the future brings for the church any more than we know what tomorrow holds for us as individuals. Nonetheless, we delight in the spiritual health of our church that only the Spirit cultivates, and we thank God as He continues bringing committed believers to Bel-Aire. Serving Christ in our neighborhoods and nations with our brothers and sisters of all ages, backgrounds, and occupations is a blessing.

Although we desire that you become a member of our church, we pray God shows you the place to commit yourself to His people and His service, whether here at Bel-Aire or someplace else.

Grace to you,



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I. OUR BELIEFS

A. “The SOLA’s”

1. The Word of God is our Highest Authority

(Sola Scriptura = Scripture Alone)

We believe **Scripture alone** is the complete authority for all Christians, not man’s traditions or the rulings and practices of the church. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Sola Scriptura means the Bible teaches, either explicitly or implicitly, all truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life, not the opinion of priest, preacher, or pope.

Sola Scriptura does not claim all truth of every kind is found in Scripture. For instance, Scripture has little or nothing to say about genetic research, nuclear fission, or vehicle mechanics, etc.

Expository preaching and teaching of the Bible are of central importance to the Church. While other programs, performances, and ministries are a tremendous blessing, God’s people hold the teaching of God’s inherent, authoritative Word in the highest regard.

2. We are Saved by the Grace of God

(Sola Gratia = Grace Alone)

Scripture teaches us salvation from God’s wrath upon sinful man is by God’s free sovereign grace - His absolute, unchanging, unmerited favor. Man cannot be saved through church ordinances, works of service, or sacraments. A sinner’s salvation is not of their own doing. (Romans 3:23; Ephesians 1:3-8)

The idea or practice that we can offer something to God in exchange for His pardon of our sins is unbiblical and arrogant. Scripture is clear. We cannot: confess enough, give enough, serve enough, attend enough, be Baptized enough, or even partake of the Lords Supper enough. We cannot love our neighbor enough. We cannot even love our family enough for God to excuse the sins in our life. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

3. We are Saved Through Faith in Jesus

(Sola Fide = Faith Alone)

Scripture teaches us justification before an infinitely holy God only comes through genuine, God-enabled faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus cancels out the record of sin debt, credits us with the righteousness of Christ himself, affords us the indwelling of The Holy Spirit, and sets us free from the power of sin and death.

Faith alone in Jesus gives us peace, knowing that God's anger toward our sins has been satisfied, secures our eternal home with The Father, and grants us an inheritance with His Son. This is something we can never achieve by conforming to laws and regulations. (Colossians 2:14-15; Galatians 2:16, 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:1; 1 Peter 1:3)

4. We Live for the Glory of God

(Soli Deo Gloria = The Glory of God Alone)

Scripture teaches the glory of God should be of paramount importance in a Christian's life. (1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-2)

The Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, "*What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.*"

Christians are to be motivated and inspired by God's glory and not our own. Our greatest desire should be to see His Kingdom expand and not our own. (Matthew 6:9-13)

For the Christian, there is no compartmentalization of what we do in here and what we do out there. Everything we do: our work, our play, and our worship should all be honoring to God. (Colossians 3:17)

5. Christ is our only Lord, Savior, and King
(*Solas Christus* = Christ alone!)

Scripture teaches salvation is by Christ's work alone. So, because of His work, Jesus reigns as our Supreme Priest, our Saving Lord, and our Sovereign King. (1 Colossians 1:15-17, 2:9-10; 1 Timothy 2:5)

Christ is the sole mediator between God and man, not the pope, not the church or pastors, not the priest, not the Saints. It is Christ who ultimately rules over His church, not the elders, not the deacons, not the committees. We must always submit to Jesus and his Word, not our traditions and ideas. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

B. Baptist Faith and Message of 2000

See booklet.

C. Bel-Aire Baptist Constitution and By-Laws

See booklet.

II. OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

At Bel-Aire, we are serious about *making disciples*. Disciple-making is our Lord's mission for His church. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15).

III. OUR METHOD IS A.C.T.S.

We encourage every member of BABC to plug into a simple process of discipleship called **A.C.T.S.** A healthy disciple of Jesus wants to be involved in each of the following areas of discipleship.

1. Assemble for worship

Every disciple of Jesus is expected to gather together for worship (Hebrews 10:25). Prayer, praise, and the proclamation of God's Word is the lifeblood of a disciple of Jesus. It is the simple means of grace that serves as the launch pad for all we do. Our Sunday morning worship service will drive everything at BABC.

2. Connect with other people

Every disciple of Jesus is expected to plug in with other disciples (Galatians 6:10). We call groups of believers fellowshiping, building relationships, and studying the Bible together "Connect Groups." Connect Groups begin on campus at 10:45 am. We pray that God will use this time to cultivate relationships to live life together on and off our campus.

3. Thriving in sound doctrine

Every disciple of Jesus is expected to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Wednesday night discipleship classes promote this type of spiritual growth. We want everyone at BABC to plug into a "Thrive" discipleship class, so you become better equipped to make disciples.

4. Sharing the Gospel

Every disciple of Jesus is expected to make *other* disciples. We do this by serving within the church and sharing Christ in our neighborhoods and nations through relationships, ministry, and missions. We do not have the power to save anyone. However, God draws people to faith in Jesus as we share the Gospel. Followers of Christ who consistently assemble for worship, connect with others, and thrive in sound doctrine are better equipped to share Jesus with others. There are several “*Sharing*” ministries in which you may choose to participate; many are “off-campus”.
(Luke 14:23)

IV. OUR MODEL IS THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

The early church consisted of born again men, women, and children, who trusted Christ, received the Holy Spirit, and clearly identified as God’s people through baptism by emersion. The early Christians carried out the commands Jesus had given them out of love and worship for Him. (Acts 2:42-47)

Disciples who were making other disciples comprised the early church. They were not perfect, but they focused on God’s Word and His mission. As such, we believe the following:

1. As followers of Christ, we are Biblically required to observe two ordinances.

A. Baptism

- i. Baptism of a believer shows his willingness to submit and follow the example set by Jesus. (Mark 1:9)
- ii. Jesus commanded the baptism of believers. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- iii. Baptism shows the believer's public profession of Christ and his or her commitment to follow Jesus forever. (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 6:4)
- iv. Baptism by immersion identifies a believer as God's elect and is the entry point into His church. Church membership at Bel-Aire Baptist church requires Baptism by emersion. (1 Corinthians 12:13; Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38-39)

B. The Lord's Supper

- i. We are commanded by Jesus to observe communion regularly. (1 Corinthians 11:24-26)
- ii. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic reminder of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and second coming. (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)
- iii. The Lord's Supper is a celebratory statement of faith in Jesus, reserved for born again, baptized, believers. Moreover, it is for any believer who, after examination, is free from blatant, unrepentant, unresolved sin and conflict between themselves and other Christians. (1 Corinthians 11:29; 1 John 1:9; Matthew 5:23-24)
- iv. At Bel-Aire, we observe the Lord's Supper periodically – usually **every six weeks.**

2. As followers of Jesus, we are Biblically commanded to consistently and generously give of our finances to the ministry of the church. We feel that *at least* 10 percent of our income should be cheerfully given as an act of worship in response to what Christ has done on our behalf. **This can be done online or in person anytime the church is open.** (2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Malachi 3:10; Acts 20:25)
3. As followers of Jesus, we are Biblically commanded to act in love and unity toward each other. (Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 15:5; Peter 1:22; Ephesians 4:29)
4. As followers of Jesus, we are Biblically commanded to follow the leadership of the church. (Hebrews 13:17; Titus 1)
5. As followers of Jesus, we are Biblically commanded to live a life that honors Christ and His Church. (1 Peter 1:16; Matthew 5:6)
6. As followers of Jesus, we are Biblically commanded to lovingly practice church discipline in response to open, blatant, and unrepentant sinful activity within its membership. (Gal 5:19-20; Matthew 18:15-20; Titus 3:9-11; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 2:5-8; Galatians 6:1)
7. As followers of Jesus, we are Biblically commanded to use our gifts to serve within the local church. At BABC we encourage you to serve in at least one ministry within A.C.T.S. (Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:4-5,27)

Below are a few areas of ministry at BABC in which you may participate.

Assemble	Connect	Thrive	Share
Greeters Ministry	Children Ministries	Awana Ministry	Biblical Counseling Ministry
Choir Ministry	Student Ministries	Music Arts	Multi-family Outreach
Music Ministry	Next Gen. Ministries	Student Ministry	Domestic and Foreign Missions
Media Ministry	Young Adult Ministries	Kitchen Ministry	VBS
Prayer Ministry	Adult Ministries	Adult Ministries	Personal and Local Evangelism
Visitation Ministry	Senior Adult Ministries	Teaching Ministries	
Baptism Ministry	Teaching Ministries	Men's Ministry	
Library Ministry		Women's Ministry	
Children's Ministries		Deacon's Ministry	
Security Ministries			
Nursery Ministry			
Landscape Ministry			
Usher Ministry			
Counting Ministry			
Benevolence Ministry			
Recreation Ministries			
Kitchen Ministry			

BABC has one mission in mind: **Making Disciples of Christ**
 We want you to be on-board as we follow our Lord for His glory.

Our ways of communication and office hours.

-  228-832-1966
-  office@belairebaptist.org
-  www.belairebaptist.org (Calendar, Online Giving and Sermon Videos)
-  Bel-Aire Baptist Church (Public Page)
-  Bel-Aire Baptist Praise & Prayer (Church Members Only Closed Group)
-  Bel-Aire Baptist Live Streaming (Complete Services & Sermons)
-  belairebaptistmedia (Miscellaneous Videos, 80 Seconds & Special Events)

Office Hours:
 Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 8am-12:00pm & 1-5pm
 Wednesday: 8am-12:30pm & 1-4:30pm Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday
 15080 Dedeaux Road, Gulfport, MS 39503