



BELLVIEW

Baptist Church

Week of June 29, 2025



bellviewbaptistpaducah.com | 270.554.3173

Pastor Bob's Message...

1. Bold Faith in the Wilderness (Matthew 3:1-6)

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:1-2 KJV).

John the Baptist bursts onto the scene with a voice that pierced the spiritual dryness of Israel. He didn't choose the temple courts or crowded markets for his message. Instead, he proclaimed God's truth from the wilderness—a place symbolic of separation and preparation. John's very location communicated that something different was happening, something holy, something that required the people to leave their comfort zones and come out to hear from God.

His message was clear and uncompromising: "Repent." The Greek word for repentance means a change of mind that results in a change of direction. This wasn't shallow remorse but a call to genuine transformation. John challenged people not to rely on their religious traditions or lineage but to acknowledge their sin and turn back to God.

Matthew tells us that people from "Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan" went out to hear him. They came confessing their sins and were baptized. The fact that so many responded shows that John's message, though hard-hitting, was filled with Holy Spirit conviction. It challenged hearts and stirred souls to action.

In our world today, where the message of repentance is often diluted, John's faith still speaks. He was unafraid to stand alone, to be different, and to confront sin with the truth of God's Word. This kind of faith—bold, countercultural, and grounded in God's kingdom—is what we are called to live out and teach.

2. Confronting Religious Hypocrisy (Matthew 3:7-10)

"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Matthew 3:7 KJV).

John's faith was not only bold in message, but fearless in confrontation. The Pharisees and Sadducees—respected religious leaders of the time—arrived at the Jordan River. Rather than welcome them as VIPs, John publicly rebuked them. He saw through their pretense and called them what they were: a "generation of vipers." This wasn't an insult but a spiritual diagnosis. They were toxic, self-righteous, and deceiving others.

Pastor Bob's Message Continues...

John challenged them to “bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance” (v. 8). He was saying, “Don’t just show up looking religious – live changed lives!” The religious elite thought their ancestry gave them a pass. But John corrected their thinking: “Think not to say within yourselves, *We have Abraham to our father*” (v. 9). He declared that God could raise up children to Abraham from the stones.

Verse 10 is a strong warning: “And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees.” The time of pretending was over. God was inspecting the fruit of people's lives. Trees without good fruit would be cut down and cast into the fire.

John teaches us that faith is not about appearances but about heart transformation. It is not about who we know or what family we come from. Real faith changes how we live. His voice calls out today to the church: Is your life bearing the fruit of true repentance?

3. Pointing to Christ, Not Self (Matthew 3:11-12)

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I...” (Matthew 3:11 KJV).

In this final section, John shifts the focus from himself to the coming Messiah. John knew his role – he was the forerunner, the voice in the wilderness preparing the way. He didn’t exalt himself. Instead, he humbled himself, saying he was not even worthy to carry the Lord’s sandals.

He declared that Jesus would baptize “with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.” John’s baptism was outward, a sign of inner repentance. But Jesus would bring an inward baptism of power and purification. His work would not merely prepare people – it would transform them completely.

In verse 12, John warns of a final judgment, using the image of a farmer separating wheat from chaff. Jesus will gather the faithful but judge the unrepentant. It’s a sobering reminder that following Christ is not a casual decision – it’s a call to complete commitment.

John the Baptist models a faith that is humble, honest, and Christ-centered. He didn’t seek a spotlight. He used every moment to prepare others to meet Jesus. That is the kind of faith that challenges others – not by demanding attention, but by directing attention to Christ.

Closing Thought:

John the Baptist’s life was a challenge to the status quo. His faith called people to repentance, exposed religious pride, and pointed all eyes to Jesus. May we have the courage to live and teach that same kind of faith – a faith that challenges others to truly follow Christ.

JOIN US **LIVE**

EVERY SUNDAY
10 AM

ONLINE SERVICES



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**June 29th
6 PM**



PATRIOTIC PICNIC

**JULY 6TH
5:00 PM**



**Bring
your 3**

**Join Us at
the Altar**





Bro. Travis' Message

Hello Church,

I wanted to let you know that we have had a great week in VBS. As I reflect on this week I wonder what makes you stand in awe of just how big God is? Is it when you gaze up into the massive limbs of a giant oak ? What makes you stand in awe of just how big God is? Is it when you gaze up into the massive limbs of a giant oak tree or when a summer breeze stirs a field of wildflowers into waves of color? Maybe it's when you pause to take in a spectacular winter sunrise. At Magnified!™ VBS we spent our time discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things.

Our amazing God is not only the Creator of all things, but He also cares about His creation, right down to the tiniest detail. And the Bible tells us that people are the most significant part of that creation. God created you and knows every detail about you—right down to the design of your fingerprints and the number of hairs on your head. God cares about everything that happens to you. Our hope is Magnified! VBS encouraged those kids to look closely at the details of God's amazing world and magnify, or proclaim, the greatness of God. God made us, cares about us, loves us, forgives us, and is faithful to keep all His promises to us. We can praise God together! We were made to magnify God! I want to thank all my volunteers who made this week so special to all the kids that came. Your excitement and preparation to pour into the lives of these kids really stood out this week. Everywhere I went there were big smiles and kids enjoying all the areas of Bible school. What an awesome experience we had.

Thank you

Bro Travis.

Door Openers Trip

Giant City Lodge Restaurant , Makanda, IL

Thursday, July 24 | 3:30 PM

Asking for donations of
schools supplies

**BACK
TO
SCHOOL**

SUPPLIES & HAIRCUTS
JULY 28TH
6PM-7:30PM



**BELLVIEW
Baptist Church**
WHERE IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!



Bro Travis' Message

Projected Date for the Mission Trip



July 13 – July 19

Answers
IN GENESIS®

Cost is \$125 per family
\$75 per person

Deadline for the money for the Mission Trip is Sunday, July 6.

ARK
ENCOUNTER®

New Bible Study, **Autopsy of a Deceased Church**, has begun as of Wednesday, June 18, at 6:30 PM. Facilitator is Pastor Bob. Cost of the study books are \$8.28, if you would like to purchase one. Come join us in the choir room.
No Bible Study this Wednesday night due to Vacation Bible School!

Women's Ministry Meeting will be Tuesday, July 1, @ 6 PM
Home of Linda Boggess' (1910 Clark Line Rd)
No Food Needed Unless You Have Been Asked!
Natalie Harding will be giving her testimony.

Visitation Night will be Monday nights at 6 PM.
Meet at the church
before you head out to make visits.



Office Closed, Friday, July 4

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



WEEKLY SCHEDULE/GIVING

LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 29—10 AM

Sunday, July 6—10 AM

**Sunday Bulletin and the
monthly newsletter are online!**

Go to

www.bellviewbaptistpaducah.com

Only newsletters that will be sent out are
the members with no email addresses.

Last Sunday's Report for June 22, 2025

Required Weekly.....\$10,107.91

Offering Received.....\$4,629.00

Designated Received.....\$985.00

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

Deacon of the Week

Mark Wilkins 270-543-7927

Greeters/Welcome Center

Randy & Pete Lambert Linda Hatley | Pete Lambert

June Ushers

Caleb Hale – Ron Cunningham – Andy Pegram

Ray Shelton – David Turner

Security Team for Sunday, June 29 – #1

Card Ministry for June—Linda Meadows

Please NO food or drinks in the Worship Center.

**July 6, THERE WILL BE PRESCHOOL AND
NURSESRY AVAILABE DURING THE
10 AM WORSHIP HOUR**