"Gone is the Wind" Acts 2:1-13,37-38

Since the birth of the church, at Pentecost, the church has been in transition. The transition has been downward and not upward.

SBC Totals:

<u>Year</u>

2009

2014

2018

Baptisms

349,737

305,301

246,737

Alabama SBC churches (2018)

- •Population: 4,887,871
- •No. congregations: 3,265
- •Baptisms: 12,615 (2018) 17,355 (2014) 21,416 (2009)
- Percentage decrease from 2017:6.20%

What has happened? What is happening? What can we do to stop the trend?

GONE IS THE WIND OF:

I. Freedom - (2:1-4)

A. Church was began by Jews who were bound by laws and traditions

- B. When the spirit came He
 - 1. Filled the place (vv.1-2)
 - 2. Filled the people (vv.3-4)

C. We are bound by labels, personal preference and fear. (II. Tim. 1:7) "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

GONE IS THE WIND OF:

II. Amazement (2:5-13)

A. They were there for the "Feast of the Weeks" – the second of three annual festivals.

B. They were amazed by the i. Unprecedented - (2:5-6) Never happened before ii. Unexplainable (2:7,12) "Galileans" - "What meaneth this?" iii. Unexpected — (2:8-12) "Hear we every man in our own tongue..."

C. We are no longer amazed, astonished or overwhelmed.

GONE IS THE WIND OF:

III. Conviction and repentance

- (2:37-38)

A. "Pricked in their heart" – (2:37)
The word opened their hearts and they saw the sin and wickedness in them

B. "Repent" – (2:38)

"Change directions"

C. Hearts no longer opened by the word – guilt no longer experienced – repentance no longer made. Keep on sinning.