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Wall, Zeno (1925 – 1948)

Pastors of First Baptist Shelby

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1967

### Tribute to Zeno Wall by Dr. Joseph T. McClain

Joseph T. McClain

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As promised a few weeks ago, we are publishing a tribute to Dr. Zeno Wall written by his pastor, Dr. Joseph T. McClain, in The Informer, church paper of First Baptist Church, Shelby.

### LOGIA

I want to devote these "sayings" (Logia) to one of the most amazing individuals I have ever met. He happens to be the first citizen of the City of Shelby and even of Cleveland County. He is the last of the giants that made Shelby the "Athens" of North Carolina. He has seen the "greats" come and go. He has lived with them and out lived them, and I reckon that no body in his and future generations shall be able to out-die him either.

I am writing of the affable, discerning and concerned Dr. Zeno Wall. As spring is about to burst forth, one can feel the vibrancy and virilenes of this man almost wherever he goes in this area. He lived, laughed, loved, was made sad and died with many of you people if not with all of you in one or more of these things. How outstanding he is! What words would epitaph this man best? A wonderful man! A person of the first magnitude! An unusual man! A one-in-a-million kind of man!

I have wondered this short year if any of you ever thought him to be unwise when he was the pastor? Did you ever think that he moved too fast for the church's good? In those glorious years you all were together, did any of you wish that you could change him for someone else? Did any of you ever think him to be loosing his touch? I have wondered these things because I know Baptist people and to save my life I can't understand how anyone could ever have a question about a peerless and sure leader and Saint of God as this Emeritus Pastor of all of us.

How I have learned to love him these days. To me he is the pastor of pastors. To me he is the "petros" (rock) of Shelby. He is what every pastor would like to be. He has it all. He is North Carolina's George Truett. He is to us what Charles Haddon Spurgeon was to Britian. He is the Apostle Paul of modern and future Baptist preachers.

God give us more men like him. God grant that out of the young men in our Church right now that someone will be sent forth to take his mantle and go on, as Elisha did. Elijah, to become two Zeno Walls.

Your Pastor,  
Joseph T. McClain