

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2022

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Happy Valentine's Day

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



John 13:34-35



Welcome Home.



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

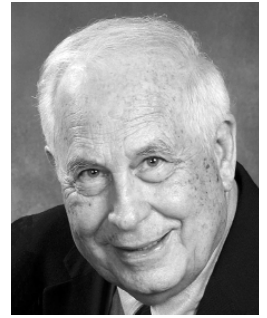
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SENIOR PASTOR

Those of you who have followed me through the years know I have always looked at February the same way I do Kansas, it is what you have to get through to get to where you want to be. But this year everything has changed. This year February is not what I have been trying to get through but what I have been trying to get to. February has been changed from a journey to a destination. February will be two months from the date of my open heart surgery which means I get to drive a car again. It means I will begin upper body exercises at cardiac rehab and begin to regain my strength and independence. It means the days I have been dreaming of these last few months will have finally arrived. February for the first time in my life is the month I have been looking forward to for a very long time. I can't tell you how happy I am to see the month of February coming up on my calendar.

Why are all these things true? What has changed about February? Nothing at all has changed, only my perspective has changed. Perhaps one of the best lessons I can learn from this entire experience is to always strive to have a better perspective as our perspective really does change everything. For example how would your world change if you woke each morning all excited because you just knew that God had a blessing ready for you. Not next week or next year but today for God really did say I know the plans I have for you today and that plan is not to harm you but to bless you and give you a hope and a future. So what did God mean when He said He wanted you to have hope when you look into your future? Your future is right in front of you today because today is the tomorrow you dreamed about yesterday. You are living in your future this very moment and God has a plan for it and that plan is good. I am celebrating February not because this month has somehow changed but simply because I changed my perspective. I stopped looking to get through it believing my hope was beyond

my present day because this is the day I have been waiting for and I am expecting it to be a blessing. When you are expecting something you begin to watch for it and make arrangements in your schedule to make sure you don't miss it. Are you making sure you don't miss God's blessing for you today? Are you expecting it, looking for it, dreaming of what it could be? If not, why not? Is God in the habit of making promises He doesn't plan to keep? I seem to have fallen out of the habit myself these past few years and I need to get back to that place where I would start out my days saying every single day is like a holiday, and every meal is a feast, it is just like Sunday on the farm around here. Oh some days have their challenges but God has never been surprised by a single one of them. So as I preach through the letter to the Philippians I have made myself a promise to live like I believe it. "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy meditate on these things and the God of peace will be with you." (Phil. 4:8&9) This is the truth! God did make this promise and all that is required is a simple change of our perspective. The future, our future has a loving God in it!

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

The long-running soap opera “Days of Our Lives” premiered in 1965 with the voice of Macdonald Carey welcoming viewers with the words, “Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives,” as a large hourglass appeared on the TV screen. Have you ever felt that time was slipping through your fingers like grains of sand through an hourglass? We are well into a new year, and eleven months from now, most of us will say, “Where did this year go?” It seems that the older you get, the faster time flies. Of course, the reason could be that you pick up speed when you’re going downhill. Indeed, our time on earth is fleeting. David said that the span of our years is just a breath (Ps. 39:4-5), and James said that our life is just a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes (James 4:14).

With all the inventions of modern technology, no one has come up with any means of putting more hours in the day. We often look around and say about someone, “He has more time than I have,” or, “If I had as much time as that person has, I could accomplish much more.” Well, actually, we all have the same amount of time. Everybody has twenty-four hours in the day. The difference is not that some people have more time than other people. The difference is how people use the time that God has given them. The amount of time that may be measured out in your life is not nearly as important as how you use the time you have. Ephesians 5:16 tells us to redeem the time. There are two words for time in the Bible. One word is *chronos*, from which the word *chronology* comes. This word speaks of segments of time, as measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, and so on. The other word is *kairos*, which is the one that Paul used in Ephesians 5:16, describes time as having a purpose. It can be translated “opportunity,” as it is in Galatians 6:10. Your life falls into one of these categories. It can be a life of just counting the days, without purpose, or it can be a life with dimension and reality.

Although time can be measured, it can’t be stored. When a moment is gone, it’s gone

forever. You can plan the future and hold memories of the past, but the present moment is all the time you possess. Therefore, as Ephesians 5:15 tells us, we should use that time wisely. Because of the brevity of our lives, and to live as God would have us live, it’s essential that we make the best possible use of our allotted time. When we are good stewards of our time, we can achieve all God has for us to do. There is no doubt that the responsibilities and pressures of the world pull us in different directions, and it’s easy for us to get swallowed up in mundane, lesser matters. To avoid losing focus on things of eternal value, we need to realize that time does not belong to us. Time belongs to God, so we need to seek His wisdom in how to use it. There is enough time every day to do everything that God wants you to do. If you don’t have enough time, you’re doing something that God did not intend for you to do, either something that you have imposed upon yourself or allowed others to impose upon you.

Don’t get so busy running around with the daily grind that you miss what God has assigned you to do. On December 17, 1903, the Wright brothers made the first successful airplane flight. They telegraphed their sister with the thrilling news. “We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas.” The sister hurried to the editor of the local newspaper to show him the exciting news. He read the telegram and responded, “How nice. The boys will be home for Christmas.” He totally missed the big news, and often we miss the big picture of what God wants us to do. Let’s begin every day asking God for wisdom concerning what He would have us do today. As the poet wrote:

**Every morning, lean thine arms awhile
Upon the windowsill of heaven,
And gaze upon thy Lord.
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet thy day.**



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

On Wednesday nights, our students and young adults have been walking through the Gospel of John for many weeks now. We just finished **chapter 18** which contains the part of the crucifixion story where Jesus is being questioned by Pilate. Pilate asked if Jesus was the king of the Jews? Jesus, in classic Jesus-fashion, answers a question with a question. Eventually, Jesus does directly answer Pilate's question but in a way he doesn't expect. **John 18:37**; "Jesus said; You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." Pilate was stunned by this response and it spawns another question; "**What is truth?**"

Pilate lived in a Greco-Roman society, a time where **philosophy and reason** ruled the known world, and people were obsessed with the search for truth. Jesus had already answered Pilate's question and he didn't even know it. When Jesus said "for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth." He was actually answering Pilate's question before it was asked. Jesus was claiming **to be truth incarnate**. He was claiming **pre-existence**, that He came into the world with **purpose**. He was claiming to be **the source and sole testifier to the truth**. John records Jesus' similar claim in **John 14:6**, where Jesus famously said; "I am THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life. NO ONE comes to the Father except through me." Here, Jesus claimed to be the ONLY way to an eternity with God, the ONLY source of truth, and the ONLY true and fulfilling life for all who believe. We aren't told how Pilate responded to Jesus' claim, but the latter half of **John 18:38** says; "With this he (Pilate) went out again to the Jews and said; "I find no basis for a charge

against Him (Jesus)." When confronted with absolute truth, Pilate could only declare the innocence of the Savior.

Today, we live in a **post-modern society** which claims to have discovered a new-truth. The post-modernist thought says; truth is **relative and subjective to your experience**. In simplest terms, you can have your truth, and I can have mine, even if those truths don't agree. While this is pronounced as intelligent and enlightened, it's easy to see that it doesn't make sense. If one thing is true, the other must be false, right? Yet, even further, the post-modern thought has been extended to say; "You can have your truth, and I can have mine, unless yours offends mine, then my truth must silence yours!" We often see this play out in the silencing of the biblical world view today. The biblical world view says; truth is **absolute and singularly found in Christ** and is revealed solely and securely in the Word of God. When Jesus came to earth it was with **purpose and mission**. When Pilate interrogated Him, Jesus was on mission. When the religious leaders struck and spit on Him, He was on mission. Even when they nailed Him to a tree that He created, Jesus was fulfilling the very purpose He came for; **the revelation of truth and the redemption of mankind**. It will become tougher and tougher to be a real Christian in this post-modern world, and many will be tempted to shrink back. However, the Spirit of God gives us an encouragement to **persevere in Hebrews 10:39**; "**But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.**" Join me, as we stand on the truth about Christ, and stand on the truth of God's Word, come what may! God bless,
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A Message from David Stephens



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CHILDREN'S MINISTER

You Defined

How do you define yourself? How do I define myself? This is a question I have been grappling with lately. Here are some of my thoughts for your encouragement. In our cultural commonsense way, we want to take responsibility for looking deep within ourselves to define who we are and what purpose we have. Nobody can do this for us. It's a journey we must do on our own. 'Find your purpose', 'be your best self', 'follow your dreams', 'listen to your heart's desire'; these and many more sayings we see everywhere we look. Many other cultures it is common place for people to look around to identify who they are and what their purpose is, then are defined by the community. But, the Bible's view of things says the God defines who we are.

You or the community doesn't define you. You discover the self that God has already defined. We receive a definition; we don't invent one for ourselves. In our western culture of individuality; it would make sense for us to say, wait; hard stop! I don't get to define who I am. I'm losing freedom. I get to decide what I'm going to do with my life. I'm responsible for my own destiny. This is a very understandable reaction.

But, what if this freedom that we think we have in defining ourselves is really

slavery? What if submitting to someone else's definition for our life could lead us to a deeper understanding of freedom? When you travel down the tracks that God has laid out before you and you understand the definition he assigns, this is real freedom that no one can take away. When you define yourself or you are defined by others these definitions are always changing. Are you not then a slave to the desires of others or your own thoughts. But, when God defines you; you're a slave to him. When you adopt His definition then are you not truly who you are meant to be? This is the ultimate freedom that we all seek. The bible flips the script. We must first look to God who defines us made in his image. But, our instinct is to first look within ourselves. Why? The answer is simple. Sin. Sin leads us to resist or outright reject God's design. Selfishness shows up causing us to pursue our own purpose and identity We tend to look deep within ourselves to find our truth then we sprinkle a little Jesus on it saying things like 'as long as my truth lines up with scripture I'm good'. We must define ourselves by looking to God 1st. God is God and we were made to love and worship him. We must practice putting aside looking in to self and let's exist to worship God in all things because he alone is worthy of our praise.

Kids Ministry Update:

We now have an established Children's Ministry entryway in the lower lobby of our campus. Our check- in counter has bibles, journals, devotions, Lakewood bags, bookmarks, and a few mugs left. Suggested donations identified. All proceeds will go directly to children's ministry camps and events.

We are beginning to promote for Children's Summer Camp. My goal is to fill the bus with kids. We got close last year. I believe we can do it this year.

Calendar:

Children's Ministry Volunteer Appreciation Event: Feb 25 6PM-9PM

Mom's Morning Out: Feb 28, 9:30AM – 12PM

Circles of Influence



Celebrating Sound Choices Pregnancy Center 2021 Report

Total Pregnancy Tests 618 Positive Tests 518

Abortion Minded 132 Chose Life 67

Gospel Presentations 410 Prayed to Receive Christ 40

Abortion Recovery Class 19 Abortion Pill Reversal 5

Call David @ 309-404-3647

GRIEF SHARE
You don't have to grieve alone.

New class begins Monday, February 21st
6:00pm downstairs in the conference room

MOM'S MORNING OUT

Ages 1-5

Monday, February 28th

9:30am-12:00pm

Pre-register

David@lbcpc.org

Lakewood Happenings

FEBRUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT					
		1	10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Mission Union	2	3	4	5				
6	6:00pm Womens Ministry Meeting	7	8	9	10	5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night	11	12			
5:00pm Deacons meet	Valentine's Day	13	14	15	7:00pm Finance Team meets	16	17	18	19		
12:00pm Family Fun Day	6:00pm GriefShare	20	21	22	23	6:00pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women	24	25	6:00pm Kids Workers Mystery Dinner	11:00am Singles/Young Adults Feed the Homeless 6:00pm Couples Game Night	26
27	9:30am Mom's Morning Out 6:00pm GriefShare	28									

December Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
12/5	\$43,680.02	\$260.00	\$10,235.50	\$490.00	\$54,665.52
12/12	\$18,030.11	-	\$7,367.20	\$75.00	\$25,472.31
12/19	\$14,717.81	\$100.00	\$7,005.50	\$121.00	\$21,944.31
12/26	\$41,618.41	\$100.00	\$8,250.0	\$3,125.00	\$53,093.41

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

- 6:00pm AWANA/FLYTE
- 6:00pm Prayer Meeting
- 6:30pm Youth Worship

In Memory of:

Grason Saulters

For Amen Choir:

From:

Gary & Kathy Hollon

June & Ronnie Rice

Brenda Slappey

Glenda Medley

Cathy Archie Henderson & Family

For Student Missions:

From: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn

For: Cicles of Influence

From: Lias Varela

Gail Brantley

Mr. & Mrs JD Whitehead

Linda McCarty

For Feed the Homeless

From: Larry & Kim Knox

Joel Kimbro

for Orchestra

From: Mr. & Mrs. Chris Strength

Ganarah McArdle

For General Fund

From: Glenda Medley

In Honor of:

Mitchell Martin

For Food Closet

From: Patricia Thomas



Couples Game Night

Saturday, February 26th

6:00pm

Fellowship Hall



**YOUTH YARD SALE
FOR MISSIONS**



**MARCH 5TH
AT THE FAC**

**FOR MORE INFO
VISIT OUR
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