

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

MAY 2022

VOL XII: ISSUE 5 LBCPC.ORG



*Welcome Home.*



# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

As a child I had a bad habit of wishing my life away. I wanted to jump straight from 5 years old to 18 so I could get past school. Then in college I wanted to get to the end so I could get to what I thought was my real life. In Seminary I just wanted to make it to graduation so I could get on with my life when in fact I was actually wishing away my very real life. The Bible says my days are numbered and in no place did it say any single day in that number was less important to God than the other. Now as I get closer to the end of my days than the beginning I have found a great deal of truth in the stories told me by older men about how time really starts to fly the older you get. As a child a day in school could last for what seemed like a week and now a week seems like a day. As I look back on my time here at Lakewood nearly ten years have passed in what seemed like no more than a few months at best. I say all this because as I began to write this note I simply could not make myself believe this could be May 2022. The first four months, a full one third of this year has passed already and I'm just now starting to feel comfortable writing

2022. But as I look back I can clearly see that we have come a very long way from the day I first arrived. God has accomplished so much and we are truly in a very good place to really see a great harvest from all the planting and preparation we have done. We have made the best of all the trials and testing brought our way in 2020 and 2021 and we are stronger for each of them. The best way to get excited about the future is not always to look up at what you have to overcome but to look back at how far you have come. We might not be at the summit but we are so much closer than we were just a few years ago. If we have been able to climb this High we can certainly climb even higher. It really has been a challenge but with God we have proven we are up to the task. So time it really is flying at this point in my life but I have learned to never wish it away. Here we are and yes it really is May and we are well on our way to another great year in the history (God's story) of this great church and I can't wait to see what God has for us at the summit. He did say He had a plan for us and that plan was to bless us and to give us a hope and a future!

**SPARK YOUR CREATIVITY**  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022

CREATED IN CHRIST • DESIGNED FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

**SPARK STUDIOS**

Place **LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH**

Date **JUNE 5-9 SUNDAY-THURSDAY**

Time **5:30-8:30PM**

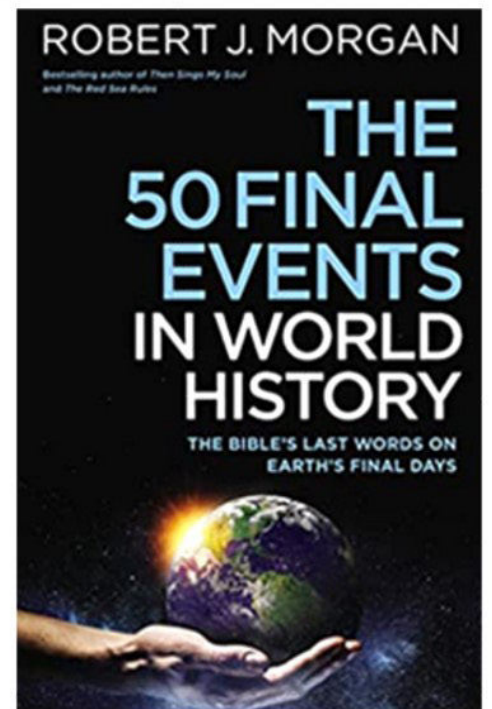




Guest Speaker  
Rob Morgan  
Sunday June 26  
9:00 & 11:00

Teaching from  
his book on  
Revelation

Available now  
from the  
Church Office  
for \$17



PICK  
BOTTLE  
UP  
MOTHER'S DAY  
AND  
RETURN  
BY  
FATHER'S  
DAY



Last year, 67 women considering abortion  
decided to CHOOSE LIFE while at Sound  
Choices Pregnancy Clinic!



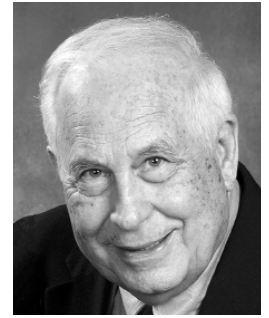
Thank you for giving through Baby Bottle  
Boomerang so that even MORE women  
have the opportunity to choose LIFE for  
their babies!

And also last year 40 women  
prayed to receive Christ!

SOUND CHOICES  
PREGNANCY CLINIC

FILL  
WITH  
COINS  
CASH  
OR  
CHECKS

# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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*MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH*

Not long ago a professing Christian who was engaged in a questionable activity demanded of me, "Show me in the Bible where it says I can't do this." Sometimes it's easy to decide between right and wrong, because God has given specific statements regarding conduct, such as those in the Ten Commandments. However, there are many questions about right and wrong that are not specifically covered by the Ten Commandments. You see, the Bible is not a rule book of minute laws. It's a guide book, filled with great principles. For example, the Bible nowhere says that you should not abuse your body with heroin or cocaine, or that you should not zoom through a school zone at 100 mph. If God had made the Bible a rule book rather than a guide book, people would always find loopholes in the laws, but you can't find loopholes in the great principles of the Bible. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians gives six positive principles that will help determine if something is right or wrong.

The first is the principle of expediency. "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient" (1 Cor. 6:12). Perhaps you will have a better understanding of this statement if I offer this translation: "But all things don't help me on my way." The word "expedient" is the root of the word "expedition," a journey somewhere. Sometimes the question is not so much, "Is it allowable?" It should be, "Is it the best thing to do?" "Does this help me or hinder me in my Christian walk?" There are some things that may not really be wrong in and of themselves, but in my situation they may slow me down. For example, there is nothing wrong with a hundred pound bar bell, but it's not expedient to carry it on your shoulder if you're running a hundred yard dash. There may be something in your life that is wrong simply because it's a waste of time, a drag anchor that keeps you from arriving at the place God wants you to be. Every activity, every television program, every book, every movie, should pass this test: "Am I a better person and a stronger person for having done this?"

The second principle is that of enslavement. "All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any" (1 Cor. 6:12). That statement means not to be enslaved by anything. People who say that they are free to do something become enslaved to the very thing they claim to have the freedom to do. You may be free to do drugs, or to indulge in some other habit, and you soon find yourself to be a slave, unable to break that habit. Some people say, "I'm free to do what I want to do." That's the reason they are slaves. You see, Jesus sets us free, not to do what we want to do, but to do what we ought to do. A person may be free to sin, but only in Jesus does he become free not to sin. Jesus gives us that pure liberty in which we become free to do what we ought rather than what we want.

The third principle is that of example. Many people claim that what they do doesn't hurt them. If that's your way of thinking, then you better read 1 Corinthians 8:1, which says that you may have the freedom to do something, but you need to consider the influence it might have on others. If what you do causes somebody else to stumble, then it's wrong. If you don't believe that, then you need to read Romans 14:13-15. As Christians, we are not to judge other people; we are to judge ourselves and see to it that we do nothing that would cause anybody else to

stumble. Underscore Romans 14:21, where you find that the question is not, "Will it hurt me?" The question is, "Will it hurt somebody else?" What about your example? If what you do drags somebody else down and causes somebody else to sin, then you have better leave it alone.

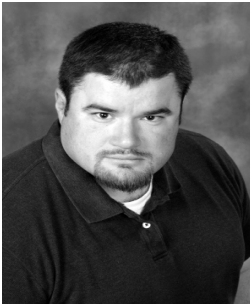
The fourth principle is that of edification. "All things are lawful for me, but not all things edify" (1 Cor. 10:23). To edify means to build up. An edifice is a building, and by your life you are either building or tearing down. Everything that you do as a Christian should have a positive influence; otherwise, it will have a negative influence. That principle applies even to your words. If your words are not positive words to encourage, then they are idle words that discourage. And what about self-edification? Why read something or watch something or do something that leaves you depressed, frightened, defeated? You can argue long and loud that there is no harm in it, but ask these questions: "Has it edified me? Has it built others up? Has it made me and others stronger and better?"

The fifth principle is that of exaltation. "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Does it exalt the Lord? If it does, then you can do it. If it doesn't, you have no business doing it. Would you do it if Jesus were with you? You should not do anything that you cannot do to the glory of God. In the old days, when boys and girls went on a date, a chaperone went with them. Well, I want to remind you that if you are a Christian, you have a chaperone that goes with you wherever you go. His name is the Holy Spirit. You can't say to Him, "Now, Holy Spirit, I'm going in here, and you can wait for me outside," or "Holy Spirit, close your eyes while I do this," or "Holy Spirit, stop up your ears while I have this conversation." "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from the Lord, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

The sixth principle is that of evangelism. "Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God. Just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved" (1 Cor. 10:32-33). What Paul was saying is that he didn't want to do anything that would hinder his witness for Jesus Christ to people and keep them from coming to Christ. We are to live in such a manner that we would not be ashamed to witness for Jesus when people have seen the way we live. How can we tell people a dirty joke or use foul language and then witness to them? How can we worry and worry and then tell people to trust the Lord? How can we be cranky to people and then witness to them?

We are the only Bible the careless world will read;  
We are the sinner's gospel, we are the scoffer's creed;  
We are the Lord's last message, given in deed and word;  
What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?

What if our hands are busy with work other than his?  
What if our feet are walking where sin's allurements is?  
What if our tongues are speaking of things his lips would spurn?  
How can we hope to help him and hasten his return?  
-Annie Johnson



# *A Message from* **Andrew Spires**

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*MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES*

Psalm 90 is a psalm of Moses, and it may be the oldest psalm in the bible. It is titled; "A prayer of Moses the man of God." It compares and contrasts the eternality and strength of God with the short lifespan and relative weakness of man to affect his outcome. God is portrayed as our dwelling place, from everlasting to everlasting. A thousand years are but a day in His sight. While men are dust that return to dust, who are swept away in the sleep of death. Nothing remains hidden from God's sight, even our most secret sins are plain for Him to see. The most familiar verse is verse 12; "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." This is more than a proverb from God's humble servant, it is a reflection by the man of God as he thinks about his time here on the earth. Moses realistic view of our weakness is the birthplace of the wisdom of God. As humans, we are always in a hurry, always looking at tomorrow, even when tomorrow isn't even promised to us.

May is graduation month, a time where high school and college seniors are recognized for their achievements. It is also a time where those graduates look forward, towards tomorrow and attempt to map out their lives. In my experience, so many have big plans for their lives as they exit high school or college, but soon find that "life" seems to change that course? It is hard to convince them that they need to number their days. Harder still to convince them to live differently than the rest of the world. And even harder to convince them to rest and wait upon the Lord for His plan for their life. Yet, all of our days are in full view of the Lord. Our short-lived lives, and relative frailty, are some of the damaging effects of sin and the curse. Those grads, who are mostly 17-25 years old, likely have many more days ahead of them, but those whom God has allowed to live long lives on this earth have learned that every single day is a gift of grace from God.

Some may read Psalm 90 and feel depressed about the human condition. However, there are some immense truths to understand from the humble man of God named Moses. First, God is our dwelling place, our fixed point, our home. We can always return to Him, and we don't have to wonder if we can find Him. He doesn't change like shifting shadows and He doesn't change His mind about us. Second, nothing is beyond His view and nothing is beyond His control. He sees all, and knows all, and is working all things towards His intended conclusion. Therefore, His control gives me peace in the storms of this life. Third, His unfailing love towards us is one of His defining attributes, and His compassion carries us along all the days of our lives. I can depend on His love, and that His desire to help and not harm me. Fourth, God alone, is the source of true joy, He is our song, He brings us happiness in Him. I don't have to look for joy in other things that won't last, I can go straight to the source. Finally, God's favor rests upon His people, establishing us in Him, and ordaining the very days of our lives to glorify Him. Only what is established by God will last, so I don't wear myself out chasing after things that will rot.

In closing, reflect on Ephesians 5:15-16; "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise. Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." A true heart of wisdom comes only from knowing God, and resting in His ability, His plans, and His purposes, all the days of your life.

God bless,  
drew  
John 3:30



# Lakewood Happenings

## MAY 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
4:30pm Under the Son Bible Study  1	2	10:00am "Take Courage" Bible Study  3	10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Mission Union  4	5	6	7
Mother's Day  8	9	10	11	12	5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night Pizza, Salad & Dessert 13	14
11:00am Graduate Sunday  15	16	17	7:00pm Finance Team meets 18	19	20	6:00pm Women's Ministry Game Night 21
22	23	24	25	6:00pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women 26	27	28
29	Memorial Day 30	31				

## March Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
3/6	\$32,398.05	\$260.00	\$1,324.10	\$1,104.00	\$35,086.15
3/13	\$16,570.31	-	\$7,321.00	\$643.00	\$24,534.31
3/20	\$16,084.08	\$25.00	\$2,011.39	\$700.00	\$18,820.47
3/27	\$36,509.61	\$150.00	\$735.96	\$10,395.00	\$47,790.57

### 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

# A Message from David Stephens



CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Be Still!

## Situation 1

The alarm clock goes off, and we wake up to the promises of a new day, a new opportunity, a new chance to touch a person or a situation and make it better. God is large and in charge, he breathes life into the hopeless, and our heart is to be this life giving breath of God to our world. As we begin our day we have this thought enter our space "Be Still and Know that I am God" .

## Situation 2

The alarm goes off, and we wake up in a drugged up stupor. We vaguely remember the dog barking at 2 in the morning. The child is sick, and now you are sick. But, you don't have time to be sick. The boss is breathing down your neck, deadlines are fast approaching. We drag ourselves to the coffee maker. We fix our food for the day. We begrudgingly feed the dog that woke us up at 2AM. At this point it's all muscle memory. Hopefully we remember to pack a lunch. You're really not sick. It's just a rough morning. Yet, as we begin this new day we have this same thought enter our space, "Be Still and Know that I am God." What does this mean? How do we do this?

Remember that in all our circumstances God is present whether we feel it or not. Remember that God has all the power to help us in these moments. Remember God knows we are having a good or bad morning. Yet the thought that has entered our space is "Be Still and Know that I am God." Is this not challenging in our busy world we live in today?

- Angry customers, "Be Still"
- Cut off in Traffic, "Be Still"
- Lackluster Co Workers, "Be Still"
- Yelling, Crying Children, "Be Still"

- Burnt Dinner, "Be Still"
- Irritating family member, "Be Still"
- Acute and or Chronic pain, "Be Still"
- Broken Heart, "Be Still"

This list can go on and on. We must fight ourselves to Be Still and Know every day. Granted, there are some days when it is easier to do than others. We must understand and get to the point where we are able to just...Be. This concept of "Being Still" must be birthed out of our heart that is filled with overflowing gratitude for the one who has saved us. This Creator God, who came to earth took on bodily form thru Jesus Christ, born as a baby, lived, was tempted in all forms, brutally died faultless on our behalf, conquered death, was raised to life, ascended to heaven leaving his spirit to live inside those who believe in His name. In order for us to understand and live out the concept of "Being" we must have this spirit within us, understand, and tap into its power. The Holy Spirit allows us to "Be Still" in all aspects of our life. It's not a matter of being still and stopping our physical movements, although sometimes that is helpful. It is a stillness of the heart. It is the ability to go into every situation and be what our Lord needs for us to be in that moment.

I challenge myself to start every day saying to myself. "God, who do you have for me to encourage today?" I have found that on days that I begin with this framework, I am more focused on others. Surprisingly, I am more productive, and I am able to "Be" present with others with a stillness of the heart that is above all the "noise". It is in these moments when life giving words or actions are given and received.

Be Encouraged!

## Kids Ministry Calendar

May 11 Awana Store  
May 18 Awana Celebration (final meeting)  
June 5-9 VBS (volunteers needed)  
July 11- 14 MERGE Summer Camp

Keep an eye out for Wet Wednesday dates in June/July/August

**In Memory of**

Rita Nevels  
For Amen Choir From  
Glenda Medley  
Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead

For Merge Kids Camp  
From Joyful Servants

For COI  
From Clara Jean Watson

Leberte & Nell Grimes  
For COI  
From Terry Grimes

Grason Saulters  
For Amen Choir  
From Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Barbaree

Yvonne Melvin  
For General Fund  
From Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead

Leon Bailey  
for General Fund  
from Glenda Medley

Barbara Stewart  
For Building & Grounds  
From Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead

Shirley Pope  
For General Fund  
From John Smith and Family  
Amy Smith Ferguson and Family

**In Honor of:**

David & Pansy Slocumb  
For Amen Choir  
From Myra Currier  
Glenda Medley  
Margie Jackson

For Missions  
From Cindy Robinson

For Ice Machine  
From Clara Jean Watson

**SENIOR ADULT  
GAME NIGHT**

~

FRIDAY, MAY 13TH

5:30PM - FH

PIZZA, SALAD  
& DESSERT

**WE NEED  
NURSERY WORKERS  
AT 11:00 IN OUR  
PRESCHOOL DEPT.**

**EMAIL  
MELISSA@LBCPC.ORG**

MINISTERIAL STAFF

**MR Hamilton**  
PASTOR  
BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

**Charles Keown**  
MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS  
CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

**Andrew Spires**  
STUDENTS & SINGLES  
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

**David Stephens**  
CHILDREN  
DAVID@LBCPC.ORG

**Jerry Horner**  
DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH  
JHORNER@LBCPC.ORG

OFFICE STAFF

**Melissa Costello**  
FINANCE ASSISTANT  
MELISSA@LBCPC.ORG

**Carol Breault**  
OFFICE ASSISTANT  
CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

**Linda Keown**  
MUSIC ASSISTANT & MEDIA  
LINDA@LBCPC.ORG

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH  
4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE  
PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867  
O: 334.298.6433  
Fax: 334.298.4873  
FAC: 334.298.6460  
LBCPC.org  
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM  
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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