



the CONQUEROR

Romans 8:37

Volume 01 Series 08

December, 2024

Do Not Believe the Christmas Lie

From the Pastor's Desk:

Thanksgiving Day now is history but being thankful – grateful to God for what He has given us still should be in our hearts.

This year has been eventful if not crazy. Our town has seen it raining “cats and dogs” along with hurricanes, power outages, flooding, and we’re still looking for fall weather and its December!

You still see evidence of Hurricane Helene across the area – even here in the church parking lot. But that doesn’t mean we should not be thankful. Psalm 107 tells us, “O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to be thankful in everything – that means even when a tree falls on your house or you do not have electricity for a week.

A story about gratitude is told about a brother and sister who grew up poor in foster care. One day the brother’s sponsor paid for him to go to Disney World. He was given \$10 to spend on drinks and souvenirs. It was not much money – especially for Disney World – but the boy was determined to spend it wisely. He had a great time at the amusement park but really wished his sister could have come.

Wanting her to experience something of the day, he bought her a little plate with her name on it. He bought his sponsor a thank you token from the park also. He didn’t spend one penny on himself – he was grateful

for the experience.

Late that afternoon when he saw his sister and gave her the plate, she looked at it and exclaimed, “what am I going to do with this useless cheap piece of glass.” She was ungrateful. The story does not end there. The boy became a naval captain as an adult while his sister, still ungrateful and thinking the world owed her something, landed on the rolls of welfare.

For some, it’s a hard lesson to learn to be grateful in all things, but that is a command of God. Yes, Thanksgiving Day has passed but we are entering a season the world should be thankful for.

We now are officially into the Christmas season – a time to celebrate with our family. It’s a favorite time of year for the women – they get to go shopping. For some men, it’s a time to risk life and limb to climb ladders and hang lights. But is that what this season is all about?

No. This is the season to celebrate God’s gift to the entire world – from the beginning of time until the end of time – His Son. Jesus Christ came into this world, born of a virgin in a manger because the world did not have room for Him.

The story is told of a young reporter assigned to cover a story about a church that had recreated the complete story of Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem. Actors played the part of people in the market, the inn where there was no room for the young couple,



(Left to right) Pastor Justin Atchison, head pastor of Bemiss Road Baptist Church, and Pastor Immy Burt, head pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church, enjoy a time of fellowship while watching volleyball at Lighthouse.

and then the scene everyone is familiar with – the stable.

The church dressed the reporter in a costume and she found herself yelling out to the crowd “No room!” In her story she stated some people got angry with her, but she felt sorry for Mary and Joseph because they looked so tired and dejected. The reporter began asking many questions about the Christmas story after that, and for a while started attending church.

Jesus was rejected by the world. In fact, after healing thousands of people – from the blind to the crippled – and feeding thousands of people, the world chose a criminal and menace to society over Jesus. Jesus was crucified.

Interestingly, Jesus had the power to call down thousands upon thousands of angels to destroy the world and set Him free. The truth is, He could have done that without any assistance – but He didn’t. The reason is He loved the world so much, He wanted to do His Father’s will and pay the price for all our sins, because without His sacrifice we all would

die and go to hell for eternity. We’re all sinners. We all have broken God’s laws. If you watch the news, you will hear momma’s say their boy who was shot in a night club was a “good boy. He had such a good heart.” Sadly, that is not true. Because of the sin Adam committed in the Garden of Eden, we all are born with a sinful heart and need Jesus’ gift of salvation. That is why little children; after learning to walk they hear the word “no” so often. Adults say it’s because they are “curious.” The truth is children must be taught right from wrong.

John 3:16 tells us, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” I really like the word “whosoever.” That means anyone – no matter your race, sins, beliefs, financial status, age, education – Jesus loves you and by accepting His free gift of salvation can have eternal life in heaven with Him! It’s that simple, but for most, it’s

See Christmas on Page 7,

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

December 1

Ezekial 38-39; 1 John 2; Proverbs 15

December 2

Ezekial 40; Proverbs 16

December 3

Ezekial 41-43; 1 John 3; Proverbs 17

December 4

Ezekial 44; 1 John 4; Proverbs 18

December 5

Ezekial 45-46; 1 John 5; Proverbs 19

December 6

Ezekial 47-48; 2 John; 3 John; Proverbs 20

December 7

Daniel 1-2; Jude; Proverbs 21

December 8

Daniel 3; Revelation 1; Proverbs 22

December 9

Daniel 4-5; Proverbs 23

December 10

Daniel 6; Revelation 2; Proverbs 24

December 11

Daniel 7-8; Revelation 3; Proverbs 25

December 12

Daniel 9-10; Revelation 4; Proverbs 26

December 13

Daniel 11-12; Revelation 5; Proverbs 27

December 14

Hosea 1-4; Revelation 6; Proverbs 28

December 15

Hosea 5-8; Revelation 7; Proverbs 29

December 16

Hosea 9-13; Revelation 8; Proverbs 30

December 17

Hosea 14; Joel 1-2; Revelation 9; Proverbs 31

December 18

Joel 3; Amos 1-2; Revelation 10; Proverbs 1

December 19

Amos 3-6; Revelation 11; Proverbs 2

December 20

Amos 7-9; Jonah 1-3; Revelation 12; Prov. 3

December 21

Obadiah; Jonah 1-3; Rev. 13; Proverbs 4

December 22

Jonah 4; Micah 1-4; Rev. 14; Proverbs 5

December 23

Micah 5-7; Rev. 15; Proverbs 6;

December 24

Nahum 1-3; Habakuk 1; Rev. 16; Proverbs 7

December 25

Habakuk 2-3; Zephaniah 1; Rev. 17; Prov. 8

December 26

Zephaniah 2-3; Haggai 1-2; Rev. 18; Prov. 9

December 27

Zechariah 1-3; Revelation 19; Proverbs 10

December 28

Zechariah 4-8; Revelation 20; Proverbs 11

December 29

Zechariah 9-11; Proverbs 12

December 30

Zechariah 12-14; Revelation 21; Proverbs 13

December 31

Malachi 1-4; Revelation 22; Proverbs 14

Don't read the Bible looking for difficulties; read the Bible looking for TRUTH.

THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

1. Recognize your condition.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

No one is good enough to go to Heaven on his own merit. No matter how much good we do, we still fall short.

2. Realize the penalty for sin.

"For the wages of sin is death... (Romans 6:23)

Just as there are wages for good, there is punishment for wrong. The penalty for our sin is eternal death in a place called Hell.

3. Recognize where sin came from.

"Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so

death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (Romans 5:12)

We have been born with a sin nature, which was passed down from Adam to every generation.

4. Believe Christ died for you.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Christ's great love for us was shown when He died on the cross to pay our sin debt.

5. Trust Christ alone as your Savior.

"But the first of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23b)

"For whosoever shall call upon the name

of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13) Everlasting life is a gift purchased by the blood of Jesus and offered freely to those who call upon Him by faith.

6. Claim God's promise for salvation.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

Now pray, confess that you are a sinner, ask God to save you, and receive Christ as your Savior.

The Conqueror Newspaper

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PRAYER REQUESTS

When you scan the graphic to the left with your phone, it will take you to a form where you can submit a prayer request to be put on our Church Prayer List. Share it with friends, relatives & co-workers!

THANKFUL FOR FOOD, FRIENDS, FELLOWSHIP

Lighthouse Baptist Church held its annual Thanksgiving meal the Monday before Thanksgiving for all those involved in the ministries at Lighthouse Baptist Church. That night Pastor Jimmy Burt, emphasized having a grateful heart.



FELLOWSHIP TIME AT LIGHTHOUSE



Thanksgiving Meal November 25, 2024

We had a great time with our ladies setting the table with some delicious food that included turkeys, hams, beef, vegetables and desserts. The kids had fun in the bouncy house while everyone else enjoyed a time of fellowship.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THAT HELPED MAKE THIS A VERY SPECIAL TIME. WHAT A BLESSING!!!!!!

ALUMNI CORNER



Madison "Madi" Goldsberry recently graduated from Truett McConnell University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree. She previously had earned her associates from The Crown College in Powell, Tennessee. Her family hosted a graduation celebration for her Lighthouse Christian School friends and Lighthouse Baptist Church members at a local restaurant. After graduation, Madi moved to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where she is a nanny for a family.



Madison is making her grand entrance for her Graduation Party.



Madison is now in the process of sharing all of her wisdom as a graduate with the ladies. It didn't take long!!!! LOL!



BAPTISMAL SERVICE



Chris Burt, the Associate Pastor at Lighthouse Baptist Church, baptised Clarissa Leggett on Sunday, 11/20/24. 5



Zipporah is ready to cut the cake and get down to real business, EATING!!!!



Cake looked to good to eat. But not for Zipporah!!!

FREEDOM HEIGHTS



Bible Club

Lighthouse Baptist Church hosts a Bible Club every Wednesday for the residents at Freedom Heights Apartments on Bemiss Road. Missionary Larae Hoff, who is planning on working with children in Ghana, West Africa through the mission board of Fundamental Baptist Missions International, was a tremendous blessing as she worked with the folks at

Lighthouse's First Drive-In Service



Lighthouse Baptist Church held its first drive-in Sunday morning worship service in its 41 year history. Following Hurricane Helene, most of Valdosta was without electricity and many also did not have water. Pastor Jimmy Burt, the head pastor at LBC, knew there was much to be thankful for after the devastating storm, and after learning the church had limited ability to broadcast through the radio airwaves, he decided to hold a Sunday morning service via a drive-in parking lot service. The service was well attended considering the circumstances and it gave members a chance to fellowship in the parking lot following the service.

The Picture

By Joseph Flader

“When do I get to see the picture
That God is painting for me?”
That’s what I thought before I realized,
Maybe it wasn’t Him painting, but me?
Lord, I lay down my paint and my brush, to Thee,
Take this black and white disaster,
And turn it Beautiful, for everyone to see
So, Lord, paint my picture,
Make my life reflect thine
So that everyone will be sure
That I am the Lord’s one of a kind.
God is the author and finisher of our faith.
We need to remember God has a plan for our lives.
Everything happens for a reason.
God take the biggest mistake we’ve made
And integrate it into His current plan.
Give God the brush, and let Him
Paint the rest of the masterpiece.



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CHRISTMAS

Continued from Page 1.



that hard. I have heard many excuses – from “I have to straighten my life out first,” to “I have done too many bad things in my life, and He will not accept me this way.”

After death on the cross, Jesus rose again the third day – and that is where we get the holiday Easter. Jesus is alive and one day He will come back to earth to reign as the King of kings. For some, this all sounds like make believe, but the truth is it’s all in the Bible and it’s all real. The best gift you can unwrap the Christmas is God’s gift of salvation. I pray that if you have not made that choice, you will today and enjoy Christmas the way it should be experienced – as His child. It’s that simple, but for most, it’s that hard. I have heard many excuses – from “I have to straighten my life out first,” to “I have done too many bad

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VOLLEYBALL AT LIGHTHOUSE



Lighthouse Christian School recently held its Lady Conquerors volleyball banquet for both the junior and varsity teams. Coach Chris Burt said the season was cut short due to Hurricane Helene but both teams had done really well this year. The banquet was

informal and allowed the girls to face off against family, friends and coaches. The Lady Conquerors came out on top in most matches and the school served everyone boiled peanuts.



Power Pac Basketball League Ages 3 to 12

BOYS & GIRLS
SIGN-UP SATURDAY
JANUARY 11TH
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

PRACTICE SATURDAY
JANUARY 18TH
Division One: 3-7 years old
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Division Two: 8-12 years old
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

SIGN-UP NOW!



2025
Season begins
Saturday, Jan. 25

BOYS & GIRLS
REGISTRATION FEE
\$65.00 per CHILD before Jan. 8th
\$75.00 per CHILD after Jan. 8th.

FIRST GAME
SATURDAY, JAN. 25TH
Division One: 3-7 years old
9:30 a.m.
Division Two: 8-12 years old
11:30 a.m.

AWARD'S BANQUET
Friday, March 7, 2025 ~ 7:00 p.m.
No Charge for players

RESOLUTION DETERMINING PROPERTY EXEMPT FROM AD VALOREM TAXATION



The Lowndes County Tax Assessors' Office has choose **NOT** to proceed to take Lighthouse Baptist Church to Court & has restore **FULLY** our tax-exempt status. **Praise the Lord!!!!**

WHEREAS, Lighthouse Baptist Church of Valdosta, Inc. ("Lighthouse Baptist") owns real property located at 4565 Bemiss Road, Lowndes County, Georgia, that the Lowndes County Board of Tax Assessors (the "Board") has assigned for ad valorem property tax purposes parcel number 0145C 176A (the "property"); **WHEREAS**, based on information then available, the Board initially determined for purposes of 2024 ad valorem property taxes that the property was, as of January 1,2024, taxable; **WHEREAS**, Lighthouse Baptist appealed the foregoing determination to the Lowndes County Board of Equalization (the "BOE"); **WHEREAS**, the BOE found the property to be exempt from ad valorem taxation;

WHEREAS, the Board appealed the decision of the BOE to the Superior Court of Lowndes County by giving a Petition for Review to Lighthouse Baptist pursuant to and in accordance with OCGA § 48-s-311(eX2);

WHEREAS, pursuant to and in accordance with OCGA § 48-5-31 1(gX2), the Board and Lighthouse Baptist participated in a settlement conference, which did not result in a settlement of the issue of the taxability of the property;

WHEREAS, also pursuant to and in accordance with OCGA § 48-5-311(g)(2), the Board thereafter timely filed its Petition for Review with the Superior Court of Lowndes County;

WHEREAS, the Board has continued to research and analyze applicable law and relevant facts regarding the taxability of the property;

WHEREAS, exemptions from ad valorem property taxation are set forth in and governed by OCGA § 48-5-al;

WHEREAS, based on applicable law and relevant facts, the Board has determined that, as of January 1,2024, the property was not exempt from ad valorem property taxation pursuant to OCGA § 48-5-41(2.1)(A) as a place of religious worship;

WHEREAS, based on applicable law and relevant facts, the Board has determined that, as of January 1, 2024, the property was,

not exempt from ad valorem property taxation pursuant to OCGA § 48-5-41(4) as property of an institution of purely public charity;

WHEREAS, based on applicable law and relevant facts, the Board has determined that, as of January 1,2024, the property was not exempt from ad valorem property taxation pursuant to

OCGA § 48-5-41(6) as a building erected for and used as a college, incorporated academy, or other seminary of learning;

WHEREAS, OCGA § 48-5-41(2.1XB), as applicable, provides All property owned by and operated exclusively as a church ..., when such entity is qualified as an exempt religious organization

under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and such property is used in a manner consistent with such exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

WHEREAS, as of January 1,2024, the property was owned by a church;

WHEREAS, Lighthouse Baptist has provided facts that, as of January 1,2024, the property was operated exclusively as a church, for the reason that the property was used by Lighthouse Baptist primarily for a program of early care and learning for children based on the religious tenets of Lighthouse Baptist and otherwise incidentally as a church;

WHEREAS, Lighthouse Baptist

has represented that, as of January 1,2024, it was qualified as an exempt religious organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

WHEREAS, Lighthouse Baptist has also represented that, as of January 1,2024, the property was used in a manner consistent with such exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing applicable law and relevant facts, the Board has determined that, as of January 1,2024, the property was exempt from ad valorem property taxation pursuant to OCGA § 48-5-41(2.1XB);

NOW THEREFORE, based on the foregoing applicable law and relevant facts, the Board does hereby resolve to determine and does determine that, as of January 1,2024, the property was exempt from ad valorem property taxation pursuant to OCGA § 48-5-41(2.1XB). The Chief Appraiser shall cause the foregoing determination to be entered in the records of the Board and notice of the foregoing determination to be provided to the Tax Commissioner of Lowndes County. Legal counsel for the Board shall cause the action initiated by the filing of the Board's Petition for Review with the Superior Court of Lowndes County to be dismissed. **IT IS SO RESOLVED, this 5th day of December 2024**



ATTITUDE EDGE

Frankl, survivor of a Nazi death camp, said, "The last of the human freedoms is to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances." We all know, he's right -- we determine our attitudes in every situation, whether we know it or not. In this unpredictable and changing world, the one thing we can always control is the way we think.

While we have little control over circumstances or the actions of others, we CAN control our reactions to them. And anyone can learn how to think more positively and operate with a better attitude, regardless of circumstances, temperament, or intellect. To begin thinking more positively and leading your people to do the same, follow these guidelines:

ACT LIKE THE PERSON YOU WISH TO BECOME.

To start thinking positively, begin by ACTING positively. Most people wait until they FEEL LIKE it before taking action, but that's going about it backwards. Instead, you've got to act your way into thinking. By putting desires into action, you can establish a HABIT of thinking positively -- and the result is a positive attitude.

If you tend to think negatively, break that habit by choosing to have and exhibit a positive attitude. Besides improving your personal well-being, you'll model the actions you want your followers to take as well. As they see your commitment to being positive, they'll follow your example.

CULTIVATE A CONSISTENT POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

To reap a successful harvest, a farmer doesn't plant seeds and then just expect them to grow on their own. He must continually water, weed, fertilize and nurture the growing plants if he wants them to reach maturity.

Likewise, if we want a successful life, we need to spend time every day nurturing our attitude. We must nourish the seeds with a positive attitude, or they won't grow. And if we don't pay attention to our crop, weeds of negative thinking will spring up and choke the positive plants until they die.

Focus on what's positive and successful. Don't feed the weeds. As it says in (Philippians 4:8), "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report ... think on these things." (KJV).

LOOK FOR THE BEST IN EVERYONE.

Have you noticed that whenever you buy a new car, you suddenly see others driving that same model everywhere? I'm sure you've figured out that those other cars were there all along; you just weren't looking for them before. Now that you have that particular car yourself, your eye is trained to notice it. People really do see what they're prepared to see.

That's why it's so important to train yourself to look for the best in others. There is good in the worst of us and bad in the best of us, if we look for it hard enough. So whether you notice positive traits or imperfections depends almost entirely on what you CHOOSE to see. When we consciously look for the best in people, we allow their good traits to have a positive impact on our life and leadership.

LOOK FOR THE BEST IN NEW IDEAS.

You might believe that great ideas come only to the geniuses of the world. But in reality, discovering an idea is more a function of attitude than aptitude. An open-minded, creative person looks for ideas anywhere he can find them. He considers every option and doesn't reject anything until he's thoroughly examined it for any good he can find.

Thomas Edison, one of the world's great inventors, discovered some of his best inventions after other ideas went wrong, and he found another use for them. In fact, that's exactly what happened with the phonograph. If you keep an open mind and explore every idea presented to you, your people will follow your example. And the new ideas you discover together will contribute to your success.

Many people tend to take attitude for granted. They assume that they're stuck with the attitude that they have. Yet your outlook on life, as well as that of your people, can be changed. And the impact of positive thinking is so significant that it deserves regular attention. Take an attitude inventory today, and set yourself on the right track of positive thinking. Before you can change your world, you must first change the way you look at it.

