

***The Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church.
101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601
HiltonBaptistChurch.org / (757)595-3300***



When we make the choice to put God first in our lives, we are inviting His presence to guide our every step. It's easy to get distracted by the demands and chaos of daily life, but when we intentionally prioritize Him, everything else begins to fall into place.

Putting God first doesn't mean everything will be perfect, but it does mean that we will have His strength and wisdom to overcome any obstacles. As we surrender our priorities and desires to Him, we open the door for His transformative power to shape our lives.

When we live with God at the center of our lives, our relationships, work, and personal growth will all reflect His love and grace. It's in this surrender that we experience true freedom, and the blessings that follow are deeper, more meaningful changes in our hearts, our character, and our ability to love others as He loves us.



When God Is Not First

***“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” –
Matthew 6:33***

Life has a way of pulling us in many directions. Responsibilities, ambitions, and distractions often compete for our attention, and before we realize it, God is no longer at the center of our lives—He has been pushed to the margins.

When we fail to put God first, the foundation of our lives begins to weaken, and we experience the consequences of misplaced priorities. Without God at the forefront, we lean on our own understanding, making decisions based on fear, pride, or convenience rather than faith and wisdom. Anxiety takes hold as we carry burdens we were never meant to bear alone. Our relationships suffer because we lack the grace and patience that come from abiding in Christ.

Our spiritual hunger grows, but instead of being satisfied with the Bread of Life, we chase after things that never truly fulfill. We search and search through cycles of addiction only to ultimately return to the only One who can truly satisfy.

Yet even when we stray, God’s love remains constant. He gently calls us back, reminding us that His ways are higher, His plans are better, and His presence is the only place of true peace. Like the prodigal son, we may wander, but the Father stands with open arms, ready to restore what was lost when we return to Him.

Let us realign our hearts with His. Let us seek Him first—not out of obligation, but out of love. When we put God first, everything else finds its proper place. Our worries are replaced with trust, our striving turns into resting in His grace, and our lives bear the fruit of His presence.

Just remember, putting God first doesn’t mean everything will be perfect, but it does mean that we will have His strength and wisdom to overcome any obstacles. As we surrender our priorities and desires to Him, we open the door for His transformative power to shape our lives.

When we live with God at the center of our lives, our relationships, work, and personal growth will all reflect His love and grace. It’s in this surrender that we experience true freedom, and the blessings that follow are deeper, more meaningful changes in our hearts, our character, and our ability to love others as He loves us.

On the grace journey together with you, Pastor Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

February 4, 2025

Budget \$4885.00

Cashin Cash out Faith Recovery \$25.00

Food Pantry \$130.00

Total Deposit \$5040.00

Calendar

Tuesday, February 4th

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, February 5th

PORT Ends this morning.

Thursday, February 6th

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Sunday, February 9th

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live

Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids– Super Cereal Bowl Sunday—Bring a box of cereal for the Food Pantry and wear your favorite team!

Happy Birthday in February

2/2 Tammy Ortery

2/4 Bob Spiers

2/10 Margaret Upole

2/14 Curtis Whiting

2/17 Debbie Marfa

Tuesday, February 11th

12pm– 1pm Food Distribution

Thursday, February 13th

12pm– 1pm Food Distribution

Sunday, February 16th

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live

Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids

Full Food Distribution after church.
Free and open to the public

Schedules

Lock up/ Hall Monitor

2/2 Robbie Ayscue

2/9 Joe Caskie

Counter

2/2 Joe Wircenske

2/10 Margaret Upole

Kids Church

2/2 Kathy Caskie 2/9 Tracy Venable

Missions Outreach

***If you have any questions on Missions Outreach Activities
call Pam Cooke 757-660-4226***

Pray for our Missionaries

Stan Meador (American People) JI, Timothy Owens (Asian Pacific Rim People) CT (Central Asian People) Kristy Dubnick, Jake Go Forth (European People) NE, AH, RL, TP (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) MM (Sub Saharan African People) Guillaume Munyakuri (AB) Michael Saffle (AK) Michael Talley (CO) Chinh Ngyuyen (FL) Belafae Johnson (IL) James choi, Steward Owusu Antwi (MD) Fataki Mutambala (MO) Lucas Noe Colmenares Meza (NC) Jacques Muanda (OH) Shawn Snyder (OR) Thiago Lima Da Silva (PA) Andrew Cheatham, Adam Nuckols (VA)

January's Community Dinner is Friday, February 28

We need your help! We need help with preparation, serving and clean up. Please see Pam Cooke if you can help. If you want to help with the food bank giveaway, contact Tara. We need you to come and love and help with our Community.

Sedgefield Elementary School Outreach

We will be collecting valentine treats and writing cards to the staff and teachers of Sedgefield Elementary School for Valentines Day. Please check the Mission Outreach Table to find the cards to write. They will need to be returned by Sunday, February 9th

WMU Mission Project for February—Faith Recovery

Collecting : Paper towels, Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent, Personal Hygiene items and money.

Mennowood Retirement Community invites everyone to attend the following FREE Events

Thursday, February 6th 12pm– 1pm Broken Heart Syndrome Workshop
Presented by Marcella Williams, Community Outreach for Altmeyer Funeral Home.

Thursday, March 20th 12pm-1pm Understanding and responding to Dementia Related Behaviors , presented by Doug Panto, Community Programs Manager, Alzheimer's Association

All events are free and open to the public but you need to make reservations.

RSVP to Michele at the Mennowood 757-249-0355 or mryba@mennowood.com



Do People Recognize That “You Have Been With Jesus?”

So here we are, trying to figure out this thing called church. You may have your own understanding of what church means and it might look and sound a lot like what many people understand it to be, Sunday after Sunday, attending a worship service. But it truly is so much more!

As I was reading through Acts once again, I discovered a profound nugget of truth in Act 4:13. *“Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were marveling, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.”*

Notice the focus of this passage. This has everything to do with Christ and nothing to do with us. A life yielded to Christ is one that is recognized only by spending time with Christ. So, the notion that Peter and John did anything apart from that has no merit.

Imagine these disciples, these uneducated men derived their being and everything they had as witnesses of the gospel of Christ from Christ Himself, through the gift of His indwelling Spirit. The truth they spoke was not a truth of their own imaginations but rather truth as shared with them first by Christ Himself and then, after Pentecost, by the gift of the Holy Spirit (John 14:25-26).

We too, by spending time with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in His Word, in fellow-shiping with other believers of His church and by prayer, become the witnesses recognized by those of the world as having spent time with Jesus. Spending time with Jesus is the only way that leads to being in a position to be the kinds of witness this world needs, as in the case with Peter and John. It can't be done any other way. If you don't spend time with Jesus, you can't know Him, and if you don't know Him, how can you testify of Him?

As you read the passage for yourself, you will see that there is more to it than I am able to share with you here. There is a larger context of what Peter and John did on their way to the temple and their subsequent preaching as a result of the miracle the Lord worked through them. They performed their first miracle in the healing a crippled man, as if it was the most natural thing possible – *“as men who had been with Jesus.”*

Boldness is not the goal, knowing Jesus is the goal. Boldness is always a byproduct of knowing Jesus and declaring what not only what He “did” but what He “does” - that the world might recognize through our witness the one simple truth – *“That we have been with Jesus!”*



Lose Yourself Though Worship

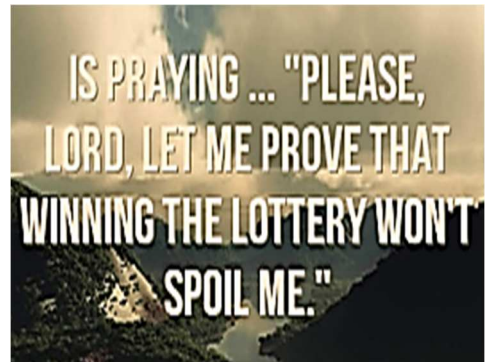
Never lose your sense of wonder, or you'll lose your motivation for worship. Unless you believe God is all-powerful, ever-present and approachable, you'll live in a state of anxiety believing that everything depends on you. You'll fail to be generous because the source of your security is in yourself. You'll avoid confronting those who need it, because without the certainty of God's acceptance you yourself will become a slave to people's opinions.

There's one thing that's guaranteed to restore your understanding of how big and wonderful God is – worship. God created us so that when we experience something awe-inspiring we need to praise it, to wrap words around it. We don't worship God because He needs it, but because we do.

Without worship our perception of Him is incomplete; we forget how great He is; we overlook our calling and become self-involved. We lose our sense of wonder and gratitude by plodding through life with blinkers on, and we become self-reliant, stubborn and proud. So, each day let us pause and say, "*Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool...*" (Psalm 99:5)

The Last Impression

A woman named Edna finds herself in dire trouble. Her business has gone bust and she's in serious financial trouble. She's so desperate that she decides to ask God for help. She begins to pray... 'God, please help me. I've lost my business and if I don't get some money, I'm going to lose my house as well. Please let me win the lotto.



Lotto night comes and somebody else wins it.

Edna again prays.... 'God, please let me win the lotto! I've lost my business, my house and I'm going to lose my car as well.'

Lotto night comes and Edna still has no luck.

Once again, she prays, 'My God, why have you forsaken me?? I've lost my business, my house, and my car. My children are starving. I don't often ask you for help and I have always been a good servant to you. PLEASE, just let me win the lotto this one time so I can get my life back in order.

Suddenly there is a blinding flash of light as the heavens open and Edna is confronted by the voice of what sounds like God Himself:

“Edna, how about you meet Me halfway on this... *Buy a ticket!*”



Does God See You As A Giver?

In our spiritual journey, the question of whether God sees us as givers is vital to understanding our relationship with Him and others. The Bible teaches us that God is a generous giver, and He desires for us to reflect His character in our everyday lives.

When we give, whether it be our time, resources, or love to those around us, we showcase the heart of Christ. Scripture reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:7 that God loves a cheerful giver, emphasizing that the attitude of our heart matters as much as the act of giving itself.

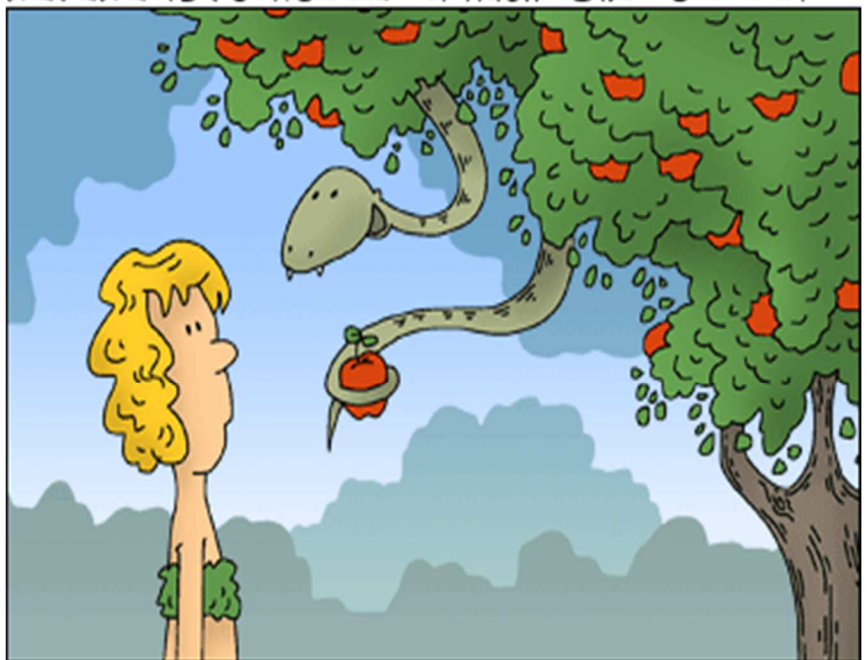
It's essential for us to recognize that God sees beyond our outward actions to our innermost intentions. He understands our capacity for giving, acknowledging the sacrifices we make. Whether our offerings seem small in the world's eyes or monumental, what matters is our willingness to give from the heart.

In Luke 21:1-4, Jesus highlights the widow's mite, illustrating that even the smallest gift is significant when given with love. So, let us reflect on our giving—are we sharing out of abundance, or are we offering our hearts in faith like the widow? Ultimately, God values our sincerity and willingness to give, reminding us that every act of kindness, large or small, carries eternal significance.

God is doing some exciting new and powerful things through the faithful people of God at HBC!

Please remember your tithing commitments and giving and be part of the ongoing miracle!

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(See Genesis 3)

12-30-2013

REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?