

The HBC Weekly Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church. www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org
101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601



“The king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den.” – Daniel 6:16

In week one of our “Tough As Nails Series” we spoke of the importance of “Standing Out.” In week two, we learned about “Standing Up.” This Sunday we’ll discuss “Standing Strong,” even in the midst of hardship.

Daniel was a faithful follower of the Lord, living in exile in Babylon. And he had been appointed as one of the king’s top administrators. The other administrators were jealous of Daniel, however, and they wanted to destroy him. So they tricked the king into making a decree that said anyone who prayed to any god except the king should be thrown into a den of hungry lions (Daniel 6:1-9).

Did Daniel complain to God? Did Daniel claim it was not right to end his life in a lions’ den when he had been faithful all his life? No, Daniel did not do things like that. Instead, he praised God and gave thanks for all of God’s blessings, even in this difficult situation. And the next morning, when the king went to check on him, Daniel said, “My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions.” And our God can do the same for the lions in your life today!

“Join us live at HBC 10:00 am this Sunday for a sanitized and safe worship experience – Or tune into Facebook Live & join in with our virtual worship experience – Invite a friend!”



What To Do When You Are Thrown to the Lions...

“Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!”

Have you ever been in a situation where one minute, everything is going great, and then in a matter of moments, everything goes bad?

At the beginning of Daniel 6, things are looking great for Daniel. Even though he began as a prisoner from Jerusalem, in Babylon, he becomes one of three administrators over the 120 newly appointed satraps, who were like governors. Daniel impressed the king so much the king planned to set Daniel over the whole kingdom.

Enter envy. Other administrators and satraps were so jealous and envious of Daniel that they tried to find dirt on him or create a scandal that would have him removed. They were relentless in their pursuit and convinced the king to make a new rule regarding the worship of God, and it was a rule that they knew Daniel couldn't keep.

Things go from really great to really bad really fast. Not only is Daniel persecuted for praying to God, he is thrown into a pit of hungry lions with no way to escape. Imagine yourself facing the same situation. Hungry, ravenous lions, breathing heavy and growling ready to make you their very next meal!

Maybe you've been in similar circumstances. Things seemed to be going great. Then the call came. Or the rumors started. Or your boss called you in with news. And the lions seemed to appear out of nowhere, and totally unexpectedly.

We may not be in an actual pit with real lions, but the “lions” in our lives are just as ferocious. God closed the mouths of the lions for Daniel, and He can do the same for you.

God doesn't promise us a trouble-free life, but He does promise to be with us through it all. Daniel knew that and experienced it first-hand. Daniel continued trusting, praying, and praising his God. He did what was right without shame or fear.

Daniel 6:23 says, “And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him because he had trusted in his God.”

God can do the same for you!

On the grace journey together with you, Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

May 4, 2021

Budget \$8102.00

Drink Machine \$20.00

Annie Armstrong \$125.00

PBA Offering \$25.00

Cash in Cash out– Sonshine Kids \$25.00

Cashin Cashin out– Love offering \$25.00

Peninsula Rescue Mission \$20.00

Food Closet \$1095.00

Total Deposit \$9437.00



Another Way to Give



Vacation Bible School August 9th– 13th

6:00pm– 8:30pm



able Captains are needed.

Please contact Dreama to let her know if you can help.

Do you shop on Amazon?

If you do... sign in with [smile. Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). Choose Hilton Baptist Church as the organization that you want to support. A percentage of your purchase will come to Hilton Baptist.



Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226

Serve The City

Visit [STC peninsula.com](http://STC.peninsula.com) to signup for opportunities to serve.

Build Wheel Chair Ramps 5/8/21 9am-12am

Food Distribution 5/10/21 9am-12am

Elmerton Cemetery Maintenance 5/23/21 2pm-4pm

WMU Focus

WMU Missions Focus for May— Peninsula Carenet Pregnancy

Accepting baby items such as diapers, Diaper Bags, lotions, wipes,

Blankets etc. All Items are de at the church by May 23rd so they can be taken to Carenet Pregnancy. Anyone that has a bottle left from before, you can also turn that it and we will take it with the items.

Food Pantry at HBC

HBC gives food away on Tuesdays and Thursday. See Sue Monfalcone to volunteer and for more information on how you can help.

Donations -1st Wednesday Drive Through Donation in

HBC Back Parking Lot 4pm-6pm

And Last Sunday of every month in sanctuary

You can leave donations at the church any other time !

Pray for Our Missionaries

AB, Martha Ulmer (East Asian People) Carina Beaty, Victor Herrera (European People) SB (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) AC (South Asian People) Ross Mackin (East Asian People) Taylor Wolfe (Sub— Saharan African People) Fabia Perea Ardilla (CO) Sean Stevenson (IL) Jose Alejo (IN) Miguel Benitez (LA) Scott Douglas (MO) Santiago Rodriquez (TX) Sabelo Mhlanga (WA)

Serving our Community with the Love of Jesus!

Calendar

Tuesday, May 4th

1:00pm—2:00pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, May 5th

4:00– 6:00pm Drive By Food

Donation Drive by Parking Lot

7:00pm Facebook Bible Study

Thursday, May 6th

1:00pm—2:00pm Food Distribution

Sunday, May 9th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

Sonshine Kids

Mothers Day

Tuesday, May 11th

1:00pm—2:00pm Food Distribution

6:30pm Vision Team Meeting

Wednesday, May 12th

7:00pm Facebook Bible Study

Thursday, May 13th

1:00pm—2:00pm Food Distribution

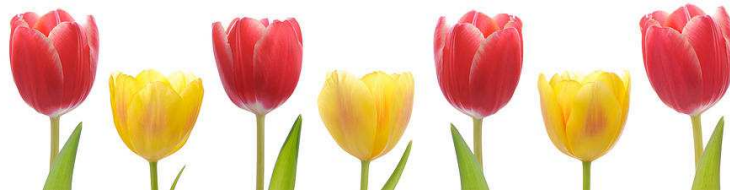
Sunday, May 16th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

Sonshine Kids

Reminder! Sunday, May 23rd— We will be honoring Pastor Lynwood in the morning worship service for 20 years of service at HBC. Please plan to attend this special service



Happy Birthday for the next two weeks

5/1 Maddie Jordan

5/2 Robert Caffacus

5/3 Pauline Shofner

5/4 Joyce Greene

5/6 Kizzy Moriah

5/11 Beverly Hudson

5/14 Lynwood Wells

5/15 Mary Ann Schell





“People Pleasing or God Pleasing”

I heard about a recent interview a famous actress describing herself as, “eager to please.” The young actress was thrust into the spotlight when she landed a part in a hugely successful film series. She told the interviewer, “I am a people pleaser. I was just so desperate to please everyone – please both my parents, do really well on the film, please my school. Sometimes I felt like I was being ripped into about five pieces.”

People pleasers are usually quite insecure because they live in fear of what others think or say. They are insecure in their identity and have become lost to who they really are. Like the chameleon they change according to their environment. People pleasers think negatively and have negative expectations, so they become slaves to the opinion others.

Christians are not exceptions from the compulsion to constantly please people around them. They often live within their comfort zone in order to avoid confrontation, aiming never to give offence or get angry, and then becoming over-responsible. They doubt their self-worth, and because they have a desperate need for approval, fear to say, “No.” Because they believe love and acceptance is earned they live under the lie that they need to do something to gain the love and acceptance of God. But God’s love is unconditional; freely given, through the Lord Jesus, as a gift of grace.

Our text for today is a challenge. It asks questions. Whose approval do I seek? Who am I living to please? It makes it clear that it’s impossible to live as a people pleaser and please the Lord. The issue is about motives. At the heart of people pleasing there are ulterior motives of wanting to be liked, gain acceptance or status. In the final analysis as people pleasers we are pleasing ourselves.

The Bible makes it clear that it’s impossible to live as a people pleaser and please the Lord. To try to reconcile the two aspects causes inner conflict. Jesus is our example of how to live. He said, ‘I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me’ (John 5:30). Jesus also said, ‘The One who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases Him’ (John 8:29).

Jesus always and only did what pleased His Father. He obeyed His Father whatever the cost, and consequently He didn’t fear the confrontation that His pure motives brought Him into. I wonder if the antidote to so many of our fears would be found if we lived as Jesus lived; pleasing our Father in heaven, irrespective of the consequences. I believe this truly is what He requires of all His children.

Redwoods And Community

A number of years ago, I spent some time in northern California, with some friends driving up the Pacific coast. While there, we visited the Redwood National Forest, just north of San Francisco. The redwood trees reach their leafy arms heavenward, commonly growing 200 to 275 feet tall. They stand like sentinels of time and have done so for hundreds of years. They've been through winds, earthquakes, fires and storms – yet, they still stand. Nothing seems to deter them.



As tall as the redwoods are, one amazing fact is that these trees have a comparably shallow root system and yet they rarely ever fall. How do they keep standing even in the wildest of storms? It's because the redwood's root systems reach out for great distances and are intertwined with one another. They literally hold each other up.

If you and I are going to reach our full potential, we too need the support of each other. We are not to be over dependent, but rather, inter-dependent. None of us can stand alone. We need each other! God never intended for us to go through life alone. Get connected today to others in the body of Christ! HBC is a great place to make that happen!



The Last Impression

One Sunday a pastor told his congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns.

After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1,000 bill in offering. He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate.

And there sat Rosie, all the way in the back, shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the pastor. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and in thanksgiving asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the building and said, "I'll take him and him and him."



“God’s House vs. Our House”

“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” – [Haggai 1:3-4](#)

After the Jews returned from exile in Babylon, they began to prosper. They started rebuilding the temple which had been ruined by the Babylonians. But the people of other religions who lived in the land sent letters to Babylon and complained that the Jews were preparing to revolt. For that and other reasons, the rebuilding of the temple stopped.

It seems that the Jews began with a will to rebuild the temple, but when opposition arose, they faltered and lost focus. They transferred their energy to building and beautifying their own houses. It took the searing words of Haggai to call them back to the priority of rebuilding God’s temple.

In the world today, we must not be discouraged by the struggle it takes to build Christ’s church. The forces of the devil will try to overcome it, but Jesus will prevail ([Matthew 16:18](#)). Remember what Jesus said: *“Seek first [God’s] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”* ([Matthew 6:33](#)).

It’s not that God necessarily wants us to live in a bleak apartment without beautiful paneling. But if that’s what it takes to build God’s kingdom, we must be willing to sacrifice. Our treasures are in heaven!

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!



Thanks to Laura Cynthia Chambers (See Genesis 1:1-2:3)-10-2014



Live By The Spirit

Here's a simple formula for maintaining a righteous lifestyle. Paul says in Galatians 5:16, "Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Every moment of every day, we have a choice. We can live according to our fleshly desires for comfort and pleasure. Or, we can trust the Holy Spirit to enable us to fearlessly serve the Lord.

In order to walk by the Holy Spirit we must accept the truth that it's impossible to live the Christian life alone. If we depend upon our experiences and strength, we'll fail. God's Spirit works in and through us. That's why submitting our will to His power and guidance is critical. And surrender isn't a one-time deal. Believers have to yield repeatedly

Every time a decision must be made, we should look to the Spirit for guidance. Righteous living simply isn't natural for human beings. We require help. Our Father has graciously given us the Helper so we can live in a godly manner. When we choose to yield to His direction, joy and peace will follow.

The Cocoon

One day a small opening appeared on a cocoon, a man sat and watched for the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no further.



So the man decided to help the butterfly, he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If God allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never fly.

When
Bad Things
Happen to
Good People

Bad Things... Good People

If I decided how my days were to go, I would never write in "crisis." I would never write, "Get sick" here or "Have my tire go flat" there, or "Have this unexpected disaster take place." I would just write in all the good stuff. I would plan for everything to go my way. There would be no traffic on the freeways. It would always be green lights and blue skies.

But guess what? We're not in charge of our lives. God is. I love what the prophet once admitted to the Lord: *"O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23)*. The fact is, God allows so-called "bad things" to happen to us in our lives. But as time goes by, you will find that the significant things you learn in life didn't really come from the good times and the mountaintop experiences. They came from those times of crisis in which you were more dependent on God. Many of the most difficult days will, in retrospect, turn out to be unbelievably valuable, because it is through those so-called "bad times" that you will learn some of life's most important lessons.

When you put your faith in Jesus Christ, you come under His protective care. God is fully aware of everything that happens to you, and thankfully He is never asleep on the job. He pays careful attention to the smallest details of your life and is in complete control of all circumstances that surround you. He knows what's happening in your life right now better than you do. And His presence and provision will be all you need to make it through.

One Final Laugh...

While traveling on a mission trip to Latin America, a pastor was going to use a translator when preaching. But to identify with his audience, he wanted to begin his sermon by saying in Spanish, "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen." He arrived at the church a little early and realized he did not know the Spanish words for ladies and gentlemen. Being rather resourceful, he went to the part of the building where the restrooms were, looked at the signs on the two doors, and memorized those two words.



When the people arrived and he was introduced, he stood up and said in Spanish, "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen." The congregation was shocked. He didn't know whether he had offended them or perhaps they hadn't heard him or understood him. So he decided to repeat it. Again, in Spanish he said, "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen."

One person in the congregation began to snicker. Pretty soon the entire audience was laughing. Finally, someone told him that he had said, *"Good evening, bathrooms and broom closets!"*



With Jesus I Can Make It...

*“That day when evening came,
he said to his disciples,
‘Let us go over to the other side.’” (Mark 4:35)*

Jesus gets into a boat with his disciples and tells them, “Let’s go to the other side.” They are on their way when all of a sudden, a squall comes up, and the waves begin to rock the boat so violently that even the disciples who are fishermen and thus accustomed to rough waters, begin to fear for their lives.

Through all this, Jesus is asleep on the boat! So they awaken him and ask him if he doesn’t care that they might drown. The Lord gets up and rebukes the wind and the waves as if he were talking to a person. Then he asks his disciples a poignant question, “Do you still have no faith?” He may be asking us the same question today.

For some of us, crossing to the other side could represent a season in our lives with decisions and adjustments to be made as we are going to school or getting married or beginning work in a profession. Getting to the other side could also represent a year in our lives; perhaps it’s a difficult year filled with the pain of illness or the death of a loved one.

It could even be just a day in our lives when we are facing an exam in school, a job interview, office layoffs, or test results at a doctor’s office. And in all of this, we may wonder if we’ll make it to the other side.

The thing is that life has unexpected turns where a storm can come up without warning and, all of a sudden, we’re in trouble. And at times we also feel as those disciples felt: “Lord, don’t you care that we’re about to drown?”

Jesus challenged the disciples, asking them if they had no faith. Notice that the Lord wasn’t questioning their faith for not having spoken to the storm themselves, just as he had done. Only Jesus could have done that. In fact, this was one of the attesting miracles, which proved the divinity of Jesus, for only God has power over the wind and the waves.

So why did Jesus admonish his disciples? He admonished them for their fear, and for believing that they would drown even though Jesus himself was in the boat! He wanted them to know – and he wants each of us to know – that if he is in the boat, the boat is making it to the other side.

Yes, there will be trouble, and the storms can really get frightening at times, but those storms aren’t catching the Lord by surprise, and he is going to take us safely to the other side!



Grace!

Remember when that special “someone” came up and embraced you? They gave you a kiss on the cheek unexpectedly. And you remember how exceptional the feeling was.

You asked them why. And they simply replied..., “*Because I love you...*”

We can dress it up with theological terms, clothe it with religious dogma, explain it in foreign Greek words such as “*agape*” for love, and “*charis*” for grace, or romantic Latin phrases such as, “*Amor in perpetuum vivit dei gratia*” meaning, “[Love lives forever by the grace of God...](#)” (I know that last one had to impress you!)

But when all is said and done, it all boils down to, “*Because I love you...*” That’s GRACE... *pure and simple.*

And I am feeling these days that in our pursuit of deeper revelations, more meaningful experiences with God, deeper relationship connection with the divine persona above us and the human community around us , we might most fundamentally be best served by returning to step one – GRACE!

And we ask “*Why?*”... “*Because, I love you!*” God responds.

That is what God said to humanity when he entered our flesh through an infant presence in Bethlehem’s manger and exited through the agony of Calvary’s cruel cross. The divinity so majestically restrained in the physical body of Jesus was ravishly released in the resurrection and then poured out from heaven upon all flesh at Pentecost to splash upon the human timeline this era we call grace!

And how will respond today – in such a time as this? Perhaps resonating with the words penned by songwriter Gloria Gaither:

*I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child and I am not afraid.
So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;
The law of love I gladly will obey.*

*I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.*