

**The HBC Weekly Forecast**  
**Hilton Baptist Church. [www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org](http://www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org)**  
**101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601**



Throughout the Bible, we encounter characters who serve as models for us today. Some of those characters teach us what to do; others remind us what not to do.

Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, was one character no one wants to replicate in today's world, because the mistake he made cost him everything.

In this week's message by Pastor Lynwood, we look at this rebellious ancient ruler in Daniel 5 and discover just what it takes for us to read, understand, and avoid the consequences in our lives of *"the handwriting on the wall."*

***Join us live at HBC 10:00 am this Sunday for wonderful and safe worship – Or tune into Facebook Live and join in with our virtual worship experience – Either way - Invite a friend!***



## ***The Handwriting is on the Wall...***

*“In the same hour the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.” Daniel 5:5*

King Belshazzar had a terrifying experience. During a drunken party, a mysterious hand suddenly appeared and began to write across the wall. What did the hand write? The Bible says that it wrote – ‘MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.’ What do these mysterious words mean?

MENE was a measure of money, or the word numbered. Daniel told Belshazzar, *“God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it.”* Daniel reminded Belshazzar of how his grandfather, King Nebuchadnezzar, had once become filled with pride and God humbled him by making him live out in the fields like a wild animal. Belshazzar had used the sacred vessels from the Jewish temple in a profane way by drinking wine and praising the gods of gold and silver. Therefore, his days as being king were numbered.

TEKEL meant “shekel” or the word weighed. Daniel said, *“You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting.”* (Daniel 5:27) One of the great mistakes many make in their relationship with God is thinking that because they are getting by with their sin today, they will get by with their sin forever. Yet the Bible tells us, *“...be sure your sin will find you out.”* (Numbers 32:23). Daniel told Belshazzar that he was in great debt to the Most High God and it was time for the debt to be paid.

PERES meant “half-shekel,” or the word divided. *“Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”* (Daniel 5:28) Though Babylon was a great kingdom at this time, there were other kingdoms as well. Perhaps Belshazzar thought, “No one, not even the Jewish God, will ever take away my kingdom.” Yet, Daniel told him, “Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”

How could anyone have been so foolish? How could anyone think that they could defy God? Yet, the Bible tells us, *“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a wicked heart of unbelief that turns away from the living God. But exhort one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”* (Hebrews 3:12-13) Sin can deceive us and make us believe things that are not true. It can also harden us, to the point where we turn away from God. Like the heart of Pharaoh that became hard and resisted the will of God, so the heart of Belshazzar became hard, even to the point that he would not believe the writing on the wall.

*On the grace journey of faith together with you, Lynwood*

# The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

March 1, 2022

Deposit 2/28/2022

Budget \$5308.00

Food Closet \$50.00

PORT \$500.00

Total Deposit \$ 5858.00



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**Please take time this week to pray for the people of Ukraine.**

If anyone would like to donate financially to Ukraine, Serve the City International will be collecting donations and, in consultation with our connection in the region, we will distribute the donations among people and organizations helping Ukrainians.

Donating online or through the STC International bank account can be found on the following link: <https://www.servethecity.net/donate/>

If you are in the USA and would like a tax-deductible receipt, you can donate through this link instead: <https://my.simplegive.com/App/Form/597f3cd6-5c00-490c-ae85-ea9f103cbde7>

### **Lock up/ Hall Monitor**

3/6 Stan Langdon      3/13 Charles Vassar

### **Counter**

3/7 Joe Wircenski      3/14 Margaret Upole

### **Kids Church Helper**

3/6 Kathy Caskie      3/13 Youth

**Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226**

**Sedgefield Elementary School Teacher/ Staff Outreach**

We once again have the awesome opportunity to reach out to the teachers and staff of Sedgefield Elementary School to encourage and bless them. There is stationary and names at the Mission Outreach table that you can pick up and write a note of encourage and support to a staff member of Sedgefield. Also you can bring individually wrapped snacks and we will be taking it to them when they come back from Spring Break. All cards and snacks are due back by April 3rd.

**WMU Focus**

The WMU Focus project for the month of March is the Sonshine Kids.

**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. Bring your non-perishable food to restock the pantry the last Sunday of every month.

**Aluminum Cans**

Recycle your cans at HBC and help Support missions! Bring them to HBC and place them in the gym or the church office. All money collected goes to missions!

**Pray for our Missionaries**

BA, JC, LH (Central Asian People) AH (Deaf People) CS (East Asian People)  
AH, AS (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) Lesley Vines (Sub-Saharan African People) Hector Medina (CA) Corwin Oglesby (GA) Farshid Amin (OK)  
Antonio Bennett (PA) Felix Cabrera (Puerto Rico)

**Serve The City**

There are many ways you can serve. Go to the website [STCpeninsula.com](http://STCpeninsula.com) to see how you can serve. You don't have to build anything, there are so many ways to serve.  
Check it out!

**Community Dinner**

Thanks to all who came out and helped in anyway. It was a great supper, thanks to Brian Lee who fixed an amazing brisket. Come out and be with us next Monday, Friday, March 25th. We can use your help !

***Serving our Community with the Love of Jesus!***

## **Calendar**

### **Sunday, February 27th**

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

Appalachia Shoeboxes are due

Food Collection Sunday

### **Tuesday, March 1st**

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

### **Wednesday, March 2nd**

7:pm Facebook Bible Study

### **Thursday, March 3rd**

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

### **Sunday, March 6th**

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids

Home Missions Week of Prayer

### **Tuesday, March 8th**

1pm—2pm Food Distribution

### **Wednesday, March 9th**

7pm Facebook Bible Study

### **Thursday, March 10th**

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

### **Sunday, March 13th**

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids

## **Sonshine Kids Easter Egg Hunt and Party**

**Saturday, April 9th 11am– 2pm**

Its not to early to think about Easter. If you want to help, please let me know as soon as possible.

Here is what we need

- ♦ Individually wrapped candy that will fit in plastic eggs (yes it can be chocolate) Needed by March 27, we will be having a egg stuffing party on Thursday, March 31st at 6pm.
- ♦ People to help head up a table, kitchen workers, clean up and set up the sanctuary after the event, registration and greeters. If you can only help a hour, we have a place for you!
- ♦ People to spread the word about the Egg Hunt and Party

Please let me know if you want to help. There will be a meeting after morning worship March 27th for all workers. Please let me know as soon as possible so that way I know how to prepare.

HBC Kids and Journey Kids are together every Sunday. We have a great time. We are one body of kids ! Not two! Journey will be helping us with this outreach as well. God has been so good to us ! Please pray for the Kids Ministry.

Dreama



**Come and Celebrate Jesus!**

**Week of Prayer for North American Missions**

**March 6–March 13**

**Annie Armstrong Offering**

We honor Annie Armstrong's life and work when we give to the annual offering for North American Missions. Annie Armstrong lead women to unite in mission endeavors that lead to the formation of the Women's Missionary Union (WMU).



Annie Armstrong was a woman of prayer, interceding for missionaries and those helping discover Christ.

100% of the offering is used for Missionary salaries and supplies



**American  
Red Cross**

**Hilton Area Churches Blood Drive**

**Tuesday, March 15th**

1:30pm– 5:30pm

Hilton Christian Church

Fellowship Hall

100 James River Drive

**Happy Birthday In March**

3/1 Priscilla Jones

3/2 Bob Caffacus

3/3 Donald Beard

3/8 Christine Douglas

3/11 Betty Howell

3/17 Christy Kuhlne

3/18 Judy France

3/24 Brian Fries

3/31 Kirk Crippen



## ***How Much Are You Worth?***

*"You know that in the past you were living in a worthless way, a way passed down from the people who lived before you. But you were saved from that useless life. You were bought, not with something that ruins like gold or silver, but with the precious blood of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb." –  
1 Peter 1:18-19 (NCV)*



As home values soared during the real estate bubble back in the mid-2000s, those of us who owned homes looked good on paper when it came to our net-worth. Then, as we all know, the bubble burst. Home values fell dramatically for most, and left millions of American homeowners "underwater" on their mortgages. Home foreclosures became commonplace, and some people simply moved out and walked away from their homes rather than to continue paying for a property worth less than the amount they owed.

One day before the bubble burst, I asked a real estate guy in my neighborhood, "How much is my house worth?" He replied, "Your house is worth whatever someone is willing to pay for it. That's what it's worth." It was a good answer. And, even today, it still applies.

I wonder, how much are you worth? I'm not talking finances. I'm not talking net-worth. I'm talking life-worth. Do you know how much your life is worth? Perhaps you are trying to prove that you are somebody by your possessions or where you live. Perhaps you are striving to attain a certain caliber of value. Perhaps you've rearranged your life into a mad scramble to try to feel like a "somebody." This scramble is like chasing the wind. As a matter of fact, that's precisely the way the Bible describes it. In Ecclesiastes 6:9 (NLT) we read, *"Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless – like chasing the wind."* The desperate pursuit of earthly value leads to a dead-end.

What the real estate agent said to me also rings true in this area of life-worth. Your worth is exactly what someone is willing to pay for your life. The Bible says that you and I were purchased with a tremendous price. The purchase price did not include precious commodities of gold and silver. Rather, it was the blood of Jesus, the Son of God, who gave His life freely for you and for me to show us how much we're worth.

You know how much you're worth? You're worth the life, the blood, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you open your heart and your mind to this truth, if you live your life with this present awareness that you are of immeasurable value, it will change everything about your life. Open your heart and mind to your true worth. You were bought with an awesome price – Allow that to guide your sense of self-worth!

## **No Excuses**

*"I'm not perfect." "I have all kinds of problems."*

*"That's just not my style"*

*"I don't know the Bible well enough."*

*"I have no ability." "I don't have any gifts."*

*"I'm just not worthy..."*



Well, did you know that...

Moses stuttered.

David's armor didn't fit.

John Mark deserted Paul.

Timothy had ulcers.

Hosea's wife was a prostitute.

Amos' only training was in the school of fig-tree pruning.

Jacob was a liar.

David had an affair.

Solomon was too rich.

Abraham was too old.

David was too young.

Peter was afraid of death.

Lazarus was dead.

John was self-righteous.

Naomi was a widow.

Paul was a persecutor of the church.

Moses was a murderer.

Jonah ran from God's will.

Miriam was a gossip.

Gideon and Thomas both doubted.

Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal.

Elijah was burned out.

Martha was a worry-wart.

Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse?

So did Peter, Paul – well, lots of folks did.

God doesn't require a job interview for salvation. He's our Heavenly Father. He doesn't look at financial gain or loss. He knows who we are and what we are and loves us in spite of ourselves.

Satan says, "You're not worthy." Jesus says, "So what? I am."

Satan looks back and sees our mistakes.

God looks back and sees the cross.

There are lots of reasons why God shouldn't call us. But if we are in love with Him, if we hunger for Him, He'll use us in spite of who we are, where we've been, what we have done, or the fact that we are not perfect!



## ***Someone To Pour Your Life Into***

Howard Hendricks, author and professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, suggests that every person should seek to have three individuals in their life: a Paul, a Barnabas, and a Timothy.

A Paul is an older person who is willing to mentor you, to build into your life. Not someone who's smarter or more gifted than you, but somebody who's been down the road. Somebody willing to share their strengths and weaknesses – everything they have learned in the laboratory of life. Somebody whose faith you'll want to imitate.

A Barnabas is a soul brother, somebody who loves you but is not impressed by you. Somebody to whom you can be accountable. Somebody who's willing to keep you honest, who's willing to say, "Hey, man, you're neglecting your wife, and don't give me any guff!"

A Timothy is a younger person into whose life you are building. For a model, read 1 and 2 Timothy. Here was Paul, the quintessential mentor, building into the life of his protégée – affirming, encouraging, teaching, correcting, directing, praying.

Do you have these three guys in your life?

## ***The Last Impression***

A preacher and the president of a soap manufacturing company went for a walk together.

The president said, "What good is religion? Look at all the trouble and misery of the world! Still there, even after years, thousands of years, of teaching about goodness and truth and love and peace. Still there, after all the sermons and teachings. If religion is good and true, why should this be?"



The preacher said nothing.

They continued walking until he noticed a child playing in the gutter. Then the preacher said, "Look at that child. You say that soap makes people clean, but see the dirt on that youngster. Of what good is soap? With all the soap in the world, over all these years, the child is still filthy. I wonder how effective soap is, after all!"

The president of the soap company protested, "But preacher, soap can't do any good unless it is used!"

"Exactly," replied the preacher. "Exactly."



## ***Life In The Rear View Mirror***

*"One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*

*Philippians 3:13-14*

After these words, Paul goes on to say that all who are mature in Christ should have this same attitude and perspective, and if not, God will reveal it to them. So, all of us should have this mindset, but what exactly is Paul talking about here? What things are (or at least should be) left behind and forgotten?

Here are some things I think we should leave behind.

**1. *Worldly Pursuits*** - God's word tells us that once we are in Christ, we are a "new creation." We are new in Him. Jesus says to follow Him, we should deny ourselves. When we accept Christ, we become a servant to Him. Worldly pursuits should be behind us and we should have a focused goal of following Christ. Striving for worldly goals will only result in discontent and distract us from the goal that Paul is speaking of here.

**2. *Regret and Condemnation*** - We've all made mistakes in life, whether you were a drug addict or a goody two-shoes. We all have regrets, past sins, failures, etc. I often fail as a man. I fail as a pastor. I fail and child of God. Every single day, I fall short of who God has called and empowered me by His Spirit to be. But, I cannot live in a place of self-condemnation. God inspires us with conviction. Satan disables us with condemnation. Regret wastes too much energy. Instead, past mistakes should be forgotten, so that we can move on and move forward in Him.

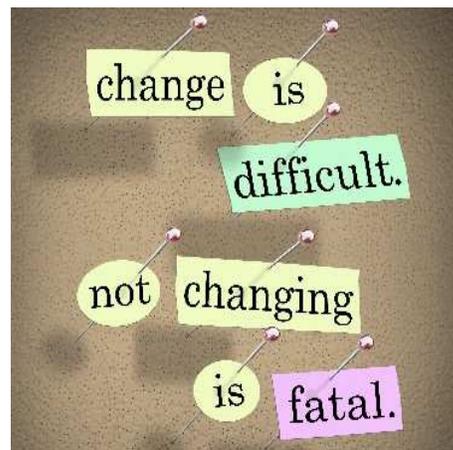
**3. *Grievances and Wrongs Against Us*** - God's word talks many times about forgiving those who wrong us. There is a great quote, "Holding a grudge is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die." Holding onto a grudge eats away at a person's peace, and allows bitterness to take root in one's heart. God requires forgiveness from us, just as he offers forgiveness to us. In addition to that, He realizes the harmful effects of bitterness and holding a grudge. It will hold you back and prevent you from giving yourself fully to Him and His purpose.

If there is something in your life that needs to be left behind and forgotten, I pray that God will help you release it so that you can do as Paul, and forget those things that are behind and press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus!

## *The Challenge of Change*

*Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser:  
teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.*  
Prov. 9:9

Few people enjoy change. We get in a comfort zone and tend to want to remain there. John Galbraith observed, “Faced with the choice between changing one’s mind, and proving that there is no need to do so, almost everybody gets busy on the proof.”



Mr. Galbraith was right. Great energy has been expended, impassioned speeches delivered, and battle lines drawn all in resistance to change. One humorist said, “Nobody likes change, except a baby with a wet diaper.” Another good observation.

Certainly, some change ought to be resisted. Change for the sake of change has no merit. Change in the wrong direction is...well, wrong. For instance, a change from obedience to God to disobedience or from faith to doubt or from honesty to dishonesty would be change for the worse.

There are immutable truths and principles set forth in God’s Word which must never be violated or rendered moot in the name of change. Conversely, to insist that one will never change on any issue no matter what is just silly pride, stubbornness and a recipe for spiritual dwarfism.

I recall as a boy hearing one preacher thunder about how he had not changed in twenty or thirty or fifty years... and the church replied with a chorus of “Amen.” It made good preaching...and poor theology and a terrible approach to ministry.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever because He is perfect. He is ideal. There is no change He could make that would improve Him in any way. The same can be said for no other human who has ever walked the planet.

Change can be frightening and foreboding. It is often unsettling because you don’t know what to expect. It is also essential – if you are going to grow. Every new thing you learn, every new idea, every new piece of information changes you in some way.

May we each keep an open mind and teachable spirit and may the things we learn and experience this day change us...for the better.

*A Prayer For Today: Father, I know that I am a work in progress. I am better than I was before You found me, but not at all what I will be when You have perfected Your work in me. I pray that I will remain pliable in Your hands.*

## ***If the Horse Is Dead, Dismount***



*"When a thing grows weak and out of date, it is obviously soon going to disappear." Hebrews 8:13 (NIV).*

According to Rick Warren, pastor of the Saddleback Community church, (the single largest Southern Baptist congregation in the U.S.) and author of the book, *The Purpose Driven Church*, the reason that 95% of all churches in the world never grow past 300 members is because their structure keeps them from growing beyond that point. Quoting today's scripture, he said, "When a thing grows weak and out of date, it is obviously soon going to disappear. That's true of churches, too. If a church cannot change, it will eventually die."

This same principle applies to many areas of life. No, we don't want to make changes where change is not to our advantage, but there are times when we do need to make changes. When it comes to communicating the gospel, while the message itself never changes, our way and means of communicating it have to change in order to communicate effectively to the particular group we are addressing. One size doesn't fit all!

Also, whether we approve or disapprove, many things around us change and if we don't adapt, we get left behind. For instance, marriage partner roles of husband and wife have changed drastically from the days of our parents and grandparents. If a husband still interprets being the head of the home as being the family dictator, he will be doomed for failure (at least here in America and other parts of the world as well). Those old ways (which, by the way, were a misinterpretation of the Bible), have "gone with the wind."

A few years back, *Moody Monthly*, the highly respected Christian magazine, discontinued its publication after its 103-year history. Why? Because of the economy, the proliferation of Christian magazines, and because of technology. *Moody Monthly*, like so many other ministries, has had to turn from printed hard copy to electronic means of communication, not only to become more effective in their ministry, but also to survive.

So whether it is in our church or personal life, let's be open to and willing to change where change is both essential and necessary.

*Suggested prayer: "Dear God, in these days of rapid change, please give me the courage to change the things I need to change, the insight to know the things I must not change, and the wisdom to know the difference. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer.*

*Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen!"*

## ***Who Is Annie Armstrong?***

Each year, we honor the life and advocacy of Annie Walker Armstrong (1850-1938) when we give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American missions.

As a tireless servant of God and a contagious advocate and supporter of mission's efforts throughout the world, Annie Armstrong led women to unite in missions' endeavors that ultimately led to the formation of Woman's Missionary Union, for which she served as the first corresponding secretary.

Annie rallied churches to give more, pray more and do more for reaching people for Christ. As modern-day missions' advocates unite to continue that work today, we can be confident that her legacy will also be ours.



### ***Reaching North America For Jesus – Will You Help***



#### **CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp



**"I just realised why no one was in church today... I forgot to unlock the doors."**

***God is doing some exciting things through the people of God at HBC...***

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