

The Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church
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757-595-3300 / www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org



Each one of us has a good work to do. We may not see it yet, but it's often right there in front of our eyes. For Nehemiah, it was a crumbled wall. For you, it could be an injustice in the world, or a need you see what no one else does. During this series, we will learn how Nehemiah responded to his own calling and learn how we can change our own world just by leaning into the unique calling that God has put in front of each of us.

This new series helps us take a closer look at the good work God called Nehemiah to do and show us how his story can be an example in our own lives. God has called us all to a good work in our world, in our neighborhood, or in our family. This series will challenge us to find our purpose, understand our opposition, and give us the tools and encouragement to live out our calling.

If you have been feeling a restlessness in your Spirit and questioning just what might be the next step to take in pursuing God's wonderful plan for your life, then these messages will definitely speak both your mind and your heart!



Broken Walls, Broken Lives

“The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” Nehemiah 1:3b

Notice the description of Jerusalem. The people were in trouble and were feeling a great sense of disgrace and reproach. The walls of the city were broken down. The gates had been burned with fire and were no longer usable.

If we take Jerusalem as a symbol of our own lives, there are many of us who fit this description. You look back on your life, and you see there are places where the walls have been broken down. There is no longer any ability left to resist destructive attacks. You have fallen victim to sinful habits that you now find difficult to break. That is the kind of ruin that is described here.

Perhaps you have gone along with the ways of the world. You have fallen into practices that the Bible says are wrong, and you know they are wrong. But you have difficulty stopping them. Perhaps your drift began innocently. You did not realize you were forming a habit, but now you no longer can stop it. Your defenses are gone. The walls of your city are broken down, and perhaps your gates are also burned. Gates are ways in and out. They are the way by which other people get to know you as you really are. Perhaps your gates have been destroyed by wrong habits.

Perhaps you were abused as a child. This phenomenon seems to be surfacing frequently in our day. The shame and the scarring of it have kept you a recluse. Your gates are burned, and nobody has access to you. Perhaps you were a victim of divorce or rape or of some bitter experience, and you feel betrayed or sabotaged.

You want to run and hide. No one can reach you. You have been so badly burned, you are now touchy and inaccessible. There are parts of your life you cannot talk about. You do not want anyone to know. You have a sense of great personal distress and are feeling reproach and disgrace. You have been scarred emotionally. No one may know about it. To others you appear to be a success. They think you are doing fine, but inwardly you know you are not. As you examine the walls and the gates of your life, you find much of it in ruins. How do you handle that?

That is the great question many face. But that is why the Scriptures are given to us. The men and women of the past have been through these same difficulties, and they have told us how to handle them. This great book of Nehemiah is one of the most helpful pictures we have of how to recover from broken lives. The steps that Nehemiah took covers seven chapters of this book. They are specific steps, orderly--and very effective!

On the grace journey together with you, Pastor Lynwood

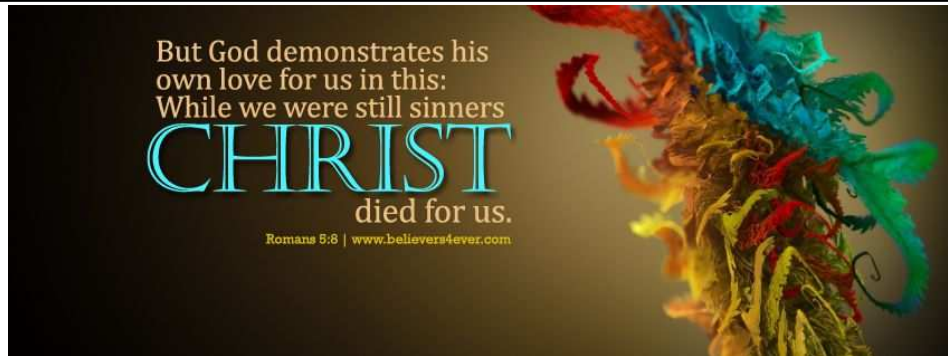
Hilton Baptist Church

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

June 27, 2023

Serving our Community with the Love of Jesus!

Budget \$6712.00
Cash in Cash out Lackey Free Clinic \$50.00
Cash in Cash out– Carenet \$25.00
Cash in Cash out– Sonshine Kids \$30.00
Cash in Cash out– Christy Anniversary \$125.00
Total Deposit \$6942.00



Calendar

Tuesday, June 27th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, June 28th

7:00pm Wednesday Night Bible Study at HBC and Facebook Live

Thursday, June 29th

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

Sunday, July 2nd

9:00am Discipleship Class

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids Church

Tuesday, July 4th

No Food Distribution

Wednesday, July 5th

7pm In house Bible Study and Facebook Live Bible Study

Thursday, July 6th

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

Sunday, July 9th

9:00 Discipleship Class

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids Church

Welcome to the Family

Welcome to the HBC Family who joined the church , Sunday, June 27th

David Falls

Lisa York

Clementine Yell

We will be accepting new members on the last Sunday of every month. If you would like to join the church contact the church office.

Plan ahead- The Church office will be closed on Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, July 4th.



Vacation Bible School

August 7th- August 11th

6:00pm—8:30pm

We are looking for helpers NOW! If you could help with VBS in any area, please contact Dreama.

Mark your calendars and start inviting Kids. There are fliers in the Connection Center. Its always a great time and you don't want to miss it!



Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226

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

Serve the City

Serve the City Peninsula has many exciting ways in which you can serve. Visit their website and check it out, <https://www.stcpeninsula.com> or contact Pam and she will be able to put you in the right direction.

Big Volunteer Week Plan July 11– 15th Plan now to be a part of Big Volunteer Week. Even if you can only participate a couple days of the six, your time will make such a difference. It is from 8:30pm– 12:30pm

During Big Serve Week, PORT hygiene Kits will be made. If you would like to help by donating some of the items please leave them at the Mission Outreach Table. Items are washcloths, travel size shampoo, travel size conditioner, travel size soap, travel size lotion, travel size deodorant, travel size toothpaste, toothbrushes and ChapStick.

Pray for our Missionaries

BL (Asian Pacific Rim People) SE, SH (Central Asian People) CL (European People) WM (South Asian People) Melissa Black (Sub-Saharan African People) Simon Sim (MA) Robert Welch (TX)

WMU Project for June

Lackey Free Clinic—money

WMU Project for July

Pure Water Pure Love

There is somewhere for everyone to serve! Come and be a part!

Christy Kuhlne 25 Year Anniversary Celebration

Thank you to all who helped in anyway with the celebration of Christys 25th Anniversary of ministry here at HBC. It was a great service and the reception was great. Thanks to all who brought food, helped set up, clean up or helped in any way!

Happy Birthday in June

6/27 Doug Miller

6/27 Pat Simmons

Happy Birthday in July

7/3 Art Halk

7/12 Emma Beard

7/21 Tracy Venable

7/23 Sue Monfalcone

7/27 Wayne Tawney

7/28 Herb Turner

7/31 Cindy Gibson

7/31 Lisa York



Lock up/ Hall Monitor 7/2 Joe Wircenske 7/9 Pam Cooke

Counter 7/5 Joe Wircenske 7/10 Margaret Upole

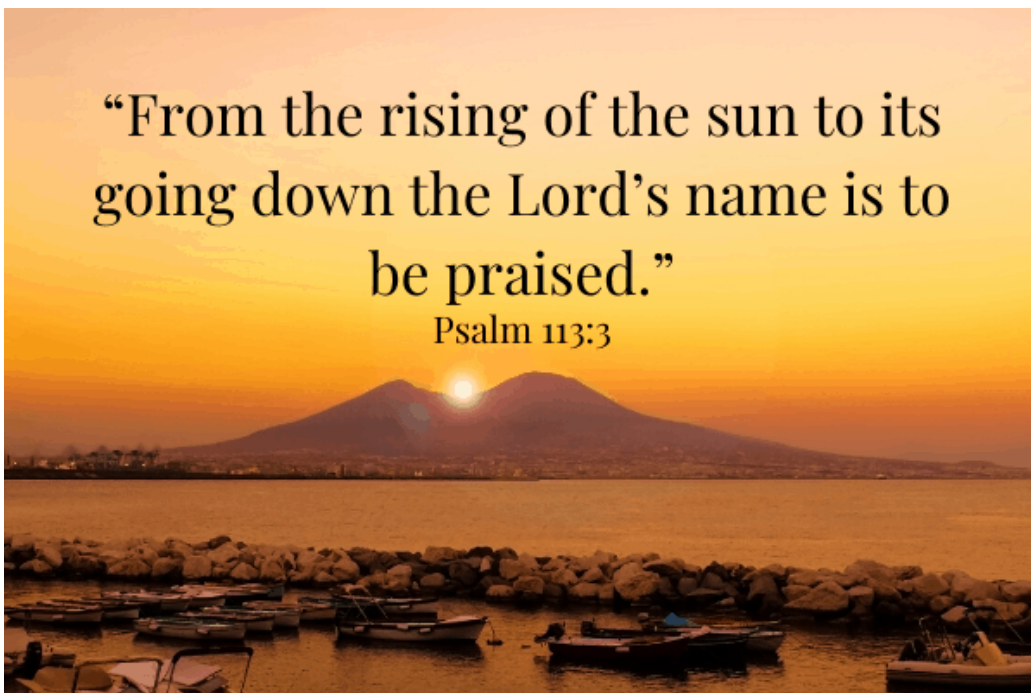
Kids Church Helper 7/2 Kathy Caskie 7/9 Youth

Grass Cutting for weekend July 15– Stan Langdon

Grass Cutting for weekend July 29– TBD

“From the rising of the sun to its
going down the Lord’s name is to
be praised.”

Psalm 113:3





It Is Uncomfortable Following Jesus

If you aren't uncomfortable in your faith, you may not be following Jesus. Just consider those encountering Jesus when he was on his way to die.

Along the way, Jesus was met by a rich young man who asked how he could get into heaven. Jesus told him to sell everything and give his money to the poor because it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven. This teaching from Jesus was so radical that the disciples were left wondering who in the world could be saved. While they were still reeling from this, Jesus "comforted" them by saying,

"Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Luke 18:29

Do Jesus' teachings make you comfortable? If so, then you probably haven't heard all of his teaching. You might have read them or heard them preached, but somehow, you haven't really heard them.

Jesus was revolutionary. He shook his followers from their comfort, and he spoke against many of their pre-conceived notions about what it meant to be his follower and a true child of God.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost, but he didn't come to make you comfortable. He came to love you, but he didn't come to make you comfortable. In fact, until you are profoundly uncomfortable you probably can't experience the totality of God's love and grace and you can't lead others to experience Christ in his fullness.

If we are never challenged by God's word, we aren't reading all of God's word. And, if we are never uncomfortable with Jesus, we may not be following Jesus at all, but a savior of our own comfortable imagination.

As we journey daily in the walk of true discipleship, let us be reminded that a comfortable God is no God at all. Change only comes through challenge, and the God who can overcome death, hell, and the grave, didn't do so to leave the world unchanged. He came to set the world right and he gave his own life to accomplish that purpose.

Let's continue to grow comfortable in discomfort and truly committed to follow Jesus wherever he might lead!



Following Jesus... Even When It's Inconvenient

As they went on their way, a man said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down and rest." (Luke 9:57-58 TEV)

Jesus never calls us to blind obedience. As we follow him and become familiar with his character, we learn he is always waiting on the other side of our steps of faith. He forces us into a place where we must trust him, but he also tells us what to expect when we follow him (John 14:1-4).

He wants us to count the cost of our commitment, because he knows it will demand everything we have (Luke 14:28). In essence, Jesus warns us away from a romantic view of following him. He understands that when we volunteer to go anywhere at any time, our romanticism will wither when our commitment becomes inconvenient — or when it collides with the full cost of discipleship.

Discipleship means we give up any thought that there will be bits and pieces of our lives that can remain unaffected by our relationship with Jesus. We can't say "yes" to Jesus and expect to hold on to a portion of our independence. He demands it all.

We no longer have the choice to serve only when and where it is convenient for us.

When we have a romantic view of discipleship, we may imagine ourselves giving up everything for Jesus as the world admires our faith and people express their heartfelt gratitude for our sacrificial service.

But the cost of discipleship may bring the scorn of the world to your doorstep. When you follow Jesus and do the things he tells you to do, even fellow believers may think you're throwing away your future to help people who can give you nothing in return. Discipleship may mean sacrificing for others who will have no appreciation for what you have done — much like Jesus was ridiculed as he died on a cross.

The grace to go wherever Jesus tells us to go comes only through the call of Christ and the power of God infused into our being. Grace obligates us to obey Jesus, regardless of the circumstances or consequences.

How much of your service to Jesus is based upon what is convenient for you, and how much of it is based upon you doing what Jesus has told you to do? Jesus loves you and plans his best for you. He brings no condemnation; he wants to turn you in the right direction.

The Glove

"You're so quiet, Son. What's on your mind?" asked Ben's father as he stopped at Ben's room to tell him good night.

Ben put his hands behind his head and stared at the ceiling above his bed. "Oh, I've just been wondering if I should be a missionary."



"You don't seem very excited about the idea," said Dad.

"It seems like such a hard job," said Ben, propping himself up on one elbow. "I have this feeling that I might not be any good at it. What if God calls me to do something I can't do!"

Ben's father thought for a moment, then reached over to Ben's desk and picked up his baseball glove. "What's this?" he asked.

Ben laughed. "Don't be silly, Dad! It's my ball glove."

Dad walked over to the corner of the room. He propped the glove against the wall, found a baseball, and threw it at the glove. Though the ball hit the center of the glove, it rolled to the floor. Dad picked up the glove and looked at it in disgust. "This glove is a total failure," he said, shaking his head.

Ben laughed and laughed. "Oh, Dad, you know it can't catch by itself! It has to have a hand inside."

Dad smiled at Ben. "You're just like this glove," he said. "God has a purpose for your life, Ben, just as there is a purpose for this glove. You put your hand inside the glove to give it guidance and strength – you give it power to catch the ball. In the same way, God will give you power to do whatever He calls you to do. Don't worry, Son, God will never prop you in a corner and leave you alone. It's His mighty hand that does the work when you are willing to be used."

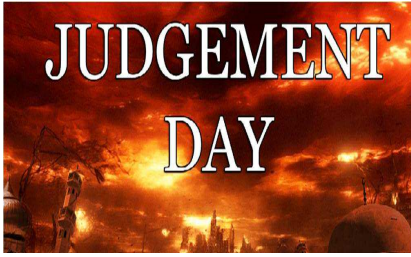


The Last Impression

There was once a young man who, in his youth, professed his desire to become a great writer.

When asked to define "great" he said, "I want to write stuff that the whole world will read, stuff that people will react to on a truly emotional level, stuff that will make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger!"

He now works for Microsoft, writing error messages.



“Confidence On Judgement Day”

“In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.” - 1 John 4:17

I doubt if there is a single person who does not realize, deep in his or her heart, that at the end of life there is an accounting. We must stand before the Lord our Maker. It does not make any difference whether we are Christians or non-Christians. Regardless of the type of relationship we have with Him, we must all come face to face with the Lord Himself. He stands at the end of every path we may be taking today, and we must come at last to a day of accounting.

We cannot help but ask ourselves how we will do in that day. Can I pass that unconscious test that Jesus speaks of in Matthew 25, when He stands to judge the nations and divides the sheep on His right hand, the goats on His left? He will say to the people on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world (Matthew 25:34). Why? For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me (Matthew 25:36). Do you remember their reaction? Lord, when did this happen? We weren't aware of it. We don't remember seeing You; we don't remember doing these things.

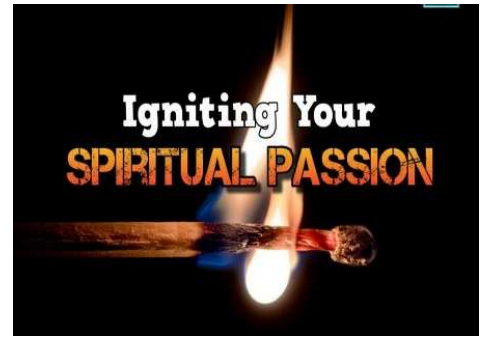
Then He says to those on his left, Depart into everlasting judgment. Why? Because when you saw Me weak and sick and in prison, you did nothing about it. You passed on your way, you showed no concern, you displayed no compassion, you did nothing. Again, remember that they say with surprise, Why, Lord, when did this happen? We don't have any memory of it. If we had seen you, we'd have done something, but we don't even remember seeing you (cf. Matthew 25:41-44).

The searching revelation of that passage is that this is now happening all about us. Christ is in all these situations of need, and when we are confronted with someone who has a need, it is Jesus who is asking our help. Our reaction to that person is our reaction to Him.

Therefore, is there not a question in each heart now: When I stand before Him like that, will I pass the test? Do I recognize these situations now? John says it is love perfected that gives us confidence in the day of judgment. Love that is perfected is love made visible in deeds. Therefore, note what John is saying: If you want to have confidence in the day of judgment, then let love express itself, let it be perfected, because it is when love is perfected with us that we have confidence for the day of judgment.

Passionate About God's Will

"So we continued the work... from the first light of dawn till the stars came out." - Nehemiah 4:21



In the face of overwhelming odds, Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in just 52 days. How? Because of a single-minded passion to do so. Some of us are afraid to pray 'Lord, I'll do what you want me to do,' in case He sends us somewhere we don't want to go or asks us to do something we don't feel ready or qualified to do. You've got it wrong! The Bible says God's will is "good, and acceptable, and perfect" (Romans 12:2). What is there to be afraid of in that formula?

Now, while God's will for us is 'good', it's not necessarily easy. But He gives us a passion for it. Jeremiah said that when he tried to stop speaking about the Lord, God's Word became "*like a burning fire shut up in my bones*" (Jeremiah 20:9 NAS). You can't contain a fire that God lights. When He sets your heart ablaze, you begin to see things you never saw before and get excited about them. He can even take your chapters of regret and write a story of grace.

But it's not likely you'll experience much of a passion for anything if you're just sitting on the sidelines waiting for something to happen. James says "*Don't just be a hearer of God's word, be a doer*" (James 1:22). You'll get a passion for God's will once you begin doing it! You'll think 'this is what I was made for'. And when you have a compelling reason for doing something and know that God is watching and smiling on you, it makes all the difference.

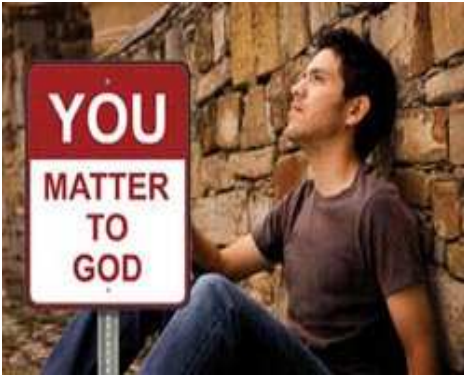


The Last Impression...

There was a woman who spent some months serving at a religious mission in Kenya. On her final visit to a remote township she attended a medical clinic. As the Maasai women there began to sing together, she found herself deeply moved by their hauntingly beautiful harmonies.

She wanted to always remember so she recorded this moment and would share it with friends when she arrived home. With tears flowing down her cheeks, she turned to her friend and asked, "Can you please tell me the translation of the words to this song?"

Her friend looked at her and solemnly replied, "If you boil the water, you won't get dysentery."



God Brags About You

Do you know how special you are to God? Do you realize that He loves you more than anything else? I think people have a hard time really understanding God's love for them. So many times in the Bible He goes to great lengths to explain His love, but all too often we fail to see or live in its transformative power.

Our Father God says *we are the apple of His eye* (Deuteronomy 32: 9-10); He explains *that if we obey His Word, then we--including our children--are promised long life* (Deuteronomy 12:28); He is our *Good Shepherd who knows us* (John 10:14); He says *He will never leave us nor forsake us* (Hebrews 13:5); He shares that it is *His good pleasure to give us the kingdom because He calls us friends* (Luke 12:32); He promises *that He will give us everlasting life if we believe in Him* (John 3:16); and *He will answer our prayers*. The list is endless concerning the things that God has done for us and will continue to do for us!

I remember an older friend who had a photo album that said Grandma's Brag Book. In it were pictures of her granddaughter when she was little. Whenever she would show it to family or friends, she'd say, "Look how adorable she posed!" or "Isn't that a cute face?" That is how God's Word is -- full of Him bragging on us.

God is love Himself. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, yet He was not satisfied because He desired fellowship. He gave us this opportunity to receive Him into our hearts or to choose the world instead. And we love Him because He first loved us and gave His Only Son to die for our sins (1 John 4:10). Think about it. Jesus was blameless and sinless, yet He allowed man to crucify Him so that He might take our place. He laid down His life for us so that we would inherit eternal life. It doesn't get any better than that! Truly, that is ultimate love.

So how do we as His adopted children live out the divine love affair God initiated with mankind? When you truly love someone, you talk to that person and want to spend time with that person. Your desire will be to develop a relationship, give yourself to it, cultivate it. God is the Lover of our souls. Let us draw always nearer to Him!

For even if the mountains walk away and the hills fall to pieces, My love won't walk away from you, my covenant commitment of peace won't fall apart. The GOD who has compassion on you says so.

—Isaiah 54:10, The Message

Sons and daughters of God let us come into the throne room to thank Him. When we come into worship to praise His name, let us remember who we are in Him. This pleases our heavenly Father so much. Let's do it more often because He loves us and wants our love in return!



Giving Back To God

The purpose of tithing is to teach us to always put God first in our lives. God doesn't need our money. He wants what it represents: our gratitude, our priorities and our faith. Look at these verses in Proverbs 3. Do you see where it says, *'Honor the Lord by giving him the leftovers of all your income'*.. Now, you can see, that's

NOT what it says at all.

It says, *"Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest .."*. We give to God first, before anyone else, right off the top of our income. And here is the promise, *"Then your barns will be completely filled, and your vats will overflow with new wine"*.

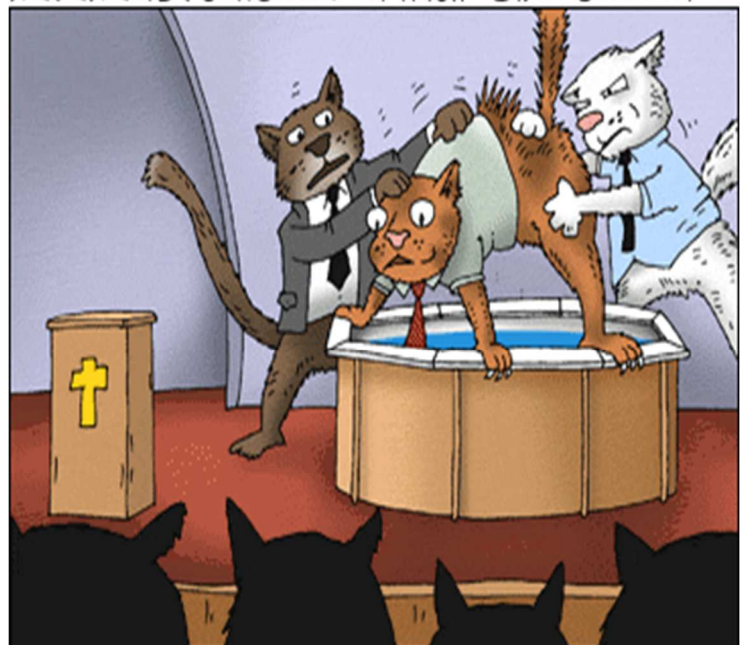
As committed believers, we are called to give the first 10% to God. If we're going to be in debt, we will be in debt to other people, but should not be in debt to God. You and I are called to give back to God in gratitude, but also as a demonstration of our priorities. And, it is a demonstration of our faith in his promises.

In **Malachi 3:10**, God says, *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse ..."*. That means the place where you worship. Then God says, *"Put me to the test!"* In a sense, *"Test me and see how I will bless you for your obedience"*. God says he will provide all that you need. He doesn't say he'll provide all that we greed, but all that we need.

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

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

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Thanks to Pam Winn

05-09-2011

TROUBLE IN CAT CHURCH