

# Ballston Lake Baptist Church

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Pastor George G. McDearmon

Pastor Robert C. Burchett

February 27, 1990

Pastor Martin:

Thank you for the lunch and time together last Friday. It was a very profitable two days at Trinity. Matthew 7:5 ("you will see clearly") has been front + center in my conscious thoughts + prayers. Also, I thought about the indispensability of the pastor's pursuit of godliness relative to the counselor/counselee relationship, I am persuaded that the counselee's readiness to come to us is dependent upon his/her conviction that we do pursue godliness. The reluctance of church members to seek out a pastor's counsel, the lack of confidence displayed in him, as well as the readiness of the sheep to seek extra-pastoral counselors (psychologists, CCEF, etc.) may often be linked to the accurate perception that real godliness, and thus credibility, is seriously lacking. They are slow to come and reticent to be seriously candid, quite possibly, because they <sup>perceived</sup> the inconsistency + hypocrisy which marks the pastor's life leaves them cold. Surely the connection between the multitudes attending to our Lord's teaching (Matt 7: 28-29) and his teaching as one having authority (an

"He is also head of the body, the church..." Col. 1:18

authority of life + example) has application to us and the readiness of our people to seek us out for what we call counseling.

The wedding was excellent. I was very glad that my children could be there.

Thanks for the further thoughts on Psalm 128.

Now, specifically, I am inviting you to preach here ~~in~~ the second half of the year. Let's consider December 2-5 as a primary date. The week following, or Nov. 11-14 would also be possibilities. My thoughts are that you would preach Sunday - Wednesday (five messages) and, tentatively, that the atonement would be the subject matter. Certainly we are flexible as to the number of messages and further, prayerful thought will be given to the subject matter. When I have previously considered having you with us, the subject of the atonement has repeatedly come to my mind.

We would delight to have Mrs. Martin here and will have ample space for both of you.

Yours faithfully in Christ,  
 George