

# BereaOne Life

## WISE Musings

"Hatred stirs up conflicts, but love covers all offenses." Proverbs 10:12

February is the month of love. I think Valentine's Day is about the only thing we haven't ever done "pandemically" before. It certainly will be different this year!

While I was pondering love month, and how desperately love is needed in our world right now, I was reminded of a recent "Ask Pastor John" podcast where I learned the connection between two very famous and very different preachers.

Billy Graham and Martin Luther King worked side-by-side. Not often together, per se, but in the same time and in the same direction. They both preached of our need for love in America.

In an interview with Paul Harvey, Graham remembered: "I talked to Martin Luther King many times... I called him Mike. I said, 'Mike, I'll stay in the stadiums and make them integrated through the South [this was back in the '50s], and you go ahead on the streets and do your thing.'"

King said things like: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

While Graham was saying: "[Jesus] was not a white man. He was not a black man. He came from that part of the world that touches Africa and Asia and Europe...Christianity is not a white man's religion. [It's not a black man's religion.] And don't let anybody ever tell you that it's white or black. Christ belongs to all people. He belongs to the whole world."

And that's where it fits into today. Just as Jesus was not white, he was not American. He was not Republican. Or Democrat. He did not come for the rich only. Or for the popular, or influential, or moral, or...

"Christ belongs to all people."

As the Proverb states above, "love covers all offenses." Jesus' love for us offered eternal forgiveness for our sin.

Our love for others can help them see God's equal offer for their forgiveness as well. It's strange to think that our manner toward others could have eternal significance.

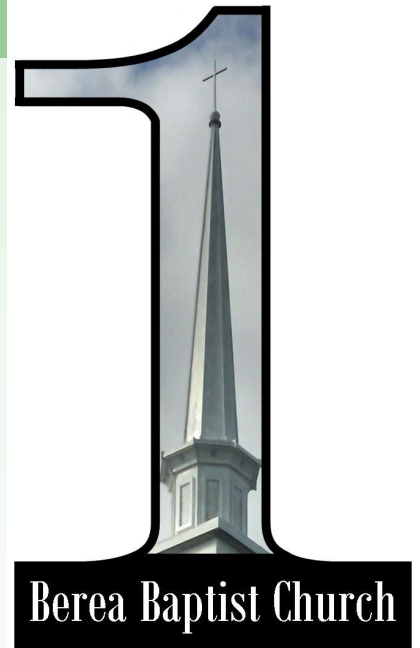
Our world is broken. This is nothing new. Earth and its inhabitants have been broken ever since the first ones ate that forbidden fruit.

Some broken things can't be fixed. Others can be miraculously mended by the blood of Christ and the offer of forgiveness of sin and restoration to God's perfect design.

In this "love month" will you be a blanket of offense covering love? Or are you satisfied with the conflict?

Love you all,  
Jason

Listen to "Ask Pastor John" wherever you find your podcasts, or visit <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/martin-luther-king-and-his-partner-in-the-cause> to listen to or read the transcript of the podcast referenced above.



February  
2021

### Inside this issue:

- ▼ Staff Anniversaries
- ▼ Sunday School Recaps
- ▼ Sermon Recaps
- ▼ Lenten Devotional
- ▼ Pray for our Nations Leaders

### Weekly Activities:

#### Sundays

- ▼ 10:00am Sunday School
- ▼ 11:00am Sunday Worship
- ▼ 6:30pm Youth @ Troxell's

#### Wednesdays

- ▼ 6:00pm Adult Bible Study\*
- ▼ 6:30pm Awana

\*Adult Bible Studies are done via FacebookLIVE.

### February @ a Glance:

- ▼ Deacons Meeting  
2/8 @ 7:00pm
- ▼ Newsletter Deadline  
2/19 @ 9:00am
- ▼ Church Council  
2/28 @ 12:15pm

# DEACONS

*Following to Lead | Leading to Serve*

Bill Durham  
 Steve Durham - Reflections  
 John Gregory  
 Fahey Harrell - Secretary  
 Frank Lilly - Chairman  
 Doug Rogerson  
 Richard Seymour - Vice-Chairman

**Next Meeting: February 8 @ 7:00pm**



*Berea*  
 Handyman Ministry



## Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons

God is your Protector. He is the One who preserves your life...No matter what happens to you, God has a plan to bless you on this earth and reward you in eternity. Everything that you experience, even things that you might label "BAD," God can and will turn to eternal good if you will only trust Him to be your sovereign Lord.

**"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall  
 abide under the shadow of the Almighty. "  
 Psalm 91:1**

## January Financials

### January 3, 2021

General	\$4,316.00
Bap. Ch. Home	250.00
Annie Armstrong	50.00
Basketball	400.00
Puppet Team	25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,041.00</b>

### January 10, 2021

General	\$4,694.00
Awana	40.00
Memorial*	95.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,829.00</b>

\*Memorial given to the General Fund in memory of David Mooring.

### January 17, 2021

General	\$2,737.00
Memorial*	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,787.00</b>

\*Memorial given to the Memorial Fund in memory of David Mooring.

### January 24, 2021

General	\$2,481.00
Youth Missions	250.00
Memorial*	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,781.00</b>

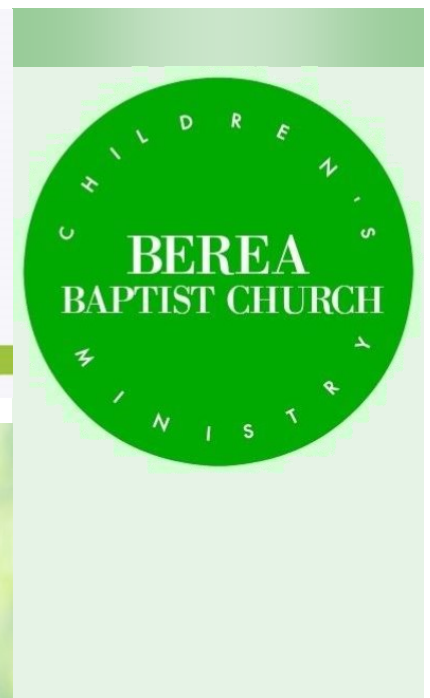
\*Memorial given to the General Fund in memory of David Mooring.

Offerings can continue to be mailed to the Church/Treasurer, dropped off to the church during office hours or brought to Worship in the gym. Thank you for your continued financial faithfulness!!

## Handyman Ministry



This ramp was for Tim Pridgen. He's a disabled veteran who was recently in an automobile accident and broke his leg in two places. The material for the ramp was paid for by Project Patriot, an organization formed by several Ruritan Clubs to help disabled veterans in the area.



A number of years ago I took a picture of a scoreboard at an away game. There is nothing particularly special about it for others to see however, when I look at it, the story of my first collegiate win unfolds before me. With a glance at that picture I could tell you the starting line up, and the emotions I was filled with as the clock ticked down to all zeros, and of course the final score which was 58-36.

While God's Word is not a photo album, we still see many pictures of Jesus throughout as we read through the pages. In Isaiah we see Jesus as the Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace. Throughout the Gospels we see him as Savior, Friend, Servant, the Word, Bread of Life, and the Light of the World. Through these, and many more, we get a picture of Jesus that is more complete.

Rather than being just your Savior (as if that isn't enough), we discover He seeks to serve you and considers you His friend. We begin to understand Him as the Way, the Truth and the Life, while learning that He is the Good Shepherd who seeks to protect those He calls His own.

These are more than just pictures to enjoy. Instead, these pictures demand a response. They are a call to know Jesus better and to live more like Him each and every day. It is a call to dive into the Word and discover more about who this Man is and to take that knowledge and use it to change how we are living. How about you? Are you taking time to look through the snapshots of Jesus' life and get to know Him? Once you do, allow the things you are learning about Jesus to change the way you are living today. Realize there is more to learn tomorrow.

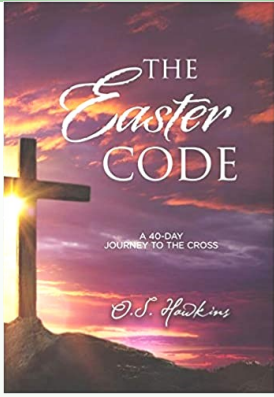
*"Jesus answered, 'I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6*

For more pictures of Jesus check out, Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 20:28, John 10:11 and the whole of God's Word.

~ Pastor Charlie (252)333-4242 mobile



## Lenten Devotional



In the next week or two you will be receiving a porch drop that contains 2 copies of a Booklet entitled *The Easter Code* as well as a church brochure. One copy is for you to keep and enjoy. The other copy and the brochure is for you to pass on to a friend, family member, neighbor or co-worker that you would like to invite to church on Easter Sunday. They will be delivered in convenient door hanger bags so you need only to remove your copy and porch drop the remaining copy yourself. Invite them to join you in the 40-day Lenten Devotional and then Celebrate with you on Easter Sunday as we look to the Empty Tomb and remember the Hope of our Salvation!



## Thank You

Dear Berea Family,  
We wanted to sincerely thank you for all the cards, flowers, food, thoughts and most especially prayers during this very difficult time. Words cannot express how truly grateful we are for each of you.

Love,  
Chris Mooring & Family



## 7 Years of Service

On February 16, Pastor Jason will celebrate 7 years of service at Berea. We are grateful for his dedication.



- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Cindy Sawyer           | 12 Joshua Wise      |
| 2 Adam Bundy             | 14 Rayman Vallas    |
| 5 Kenan Reeder           | 15 Richard Martin   |
| 6 Jennifer Durham Martin | 16 Sandy Cahoon     |
| 7 Melanie Edwards        | 18 Dottie Pritchard |
| Donna Pritchard          | 19 Erin Mosimann    |
| 8 Willie Godfrey         | 20 Jesse Dail       |
| 10 Bonnie Chappell       | 22 Virginia Gordon  |
| Lacy Reeder              | 24 Ed Winslow       |
| 11 Doug Pritchard        | 25 Chris Mooring    |



# Sunday School Recaps

## Explore the Bible – January 17 (Focal passage: Luke 6:27-38)

This Scripture is too hard to live out so come back next week for a new set of Scriptures to talk about.



Are you still here? Okay, let's talk about it then. Today's Scriptures are so challenging and to make matters worse, Jesus is the one who spoke them. They are "red letter" Scriptures. When I think of my faith, I sometimes like the easy faith.

You know, the believe and receive type of faith but Jesus is clear about the "take up your cross daily," "follow Me" and "no one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom" type of faith too.

That type of faith is hard and in today's Scripture, Jesus gets very specific about living out our faith. I had a pastor that used to say, "If what you've got hasn't changed you, you haven't got it." So, what does the "it" look like?

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those that curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ..." and that is just the first two Scriptures! I'm out! Not really, but I have failed in all four of those and that is just the beginning of this list.

Can you imagine a world where Christians get this right? Can you imagine a United States where we Christians get this right? Maybe we are at the ideal time to begin getting these Scriptures right in our life because we are in a nation that is rapidly turning its back on Christian ideals.

Many are "enemies" of Christians before they even know one. What if they meet us and despite their attitude, we still love them? What if they hate us because some of our beliefs in what Scripture teaches are different than their views and yet we are still good to them? What if right now, in the United States, we are faced with the best opportunity in our lifetime to share the gospel because the way we live is so different and so contrary to the way people around us live?

Out of the thousands of Scriptures in the Bible, this is only a small fraction of His Word for us, and yet, these few Scriptures lived out have the power to transform a nation. Early Christians lived this out even when the most powerful empire in the world was coming against them and what happened?

Some 300 years later, that same empire declared Christ as God's Son. The early Christians were compassionate with one another, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, it was their compassion for those that hated them and mistreated them that changed the world.

We are desperately failing in this area. I was talking with a Pastor today about this very thing except it was not about our "enemies." It was about our brothers in Christ.

How Christians are constantly on Social Media tearing other Christians down. They attack the church down the street, the small church, the big church, the church that does it different than they do and on and on.

If we are unable to have compassion and love for our brothers in Christ, how will we have compassion for "those who hate you, curse you, mistreat you and strike you on the cheek?"

At the end of 2020, everyone I talked with couldn't wait for 2021. They were ready for all the bad things that happened in 2020 to be behind them. Maybe 2021 will be much better, maybe it will be the same, but the important thing for us is how we will respond.

Will 2021 be your year to live with compassion? Will it be a year to show the love of Christ despite what "the world" throws at you?

## Bible Studies for Life – January 24 (Focal passage: 1 Timothy 4:1-10)

While our text for this week contains Paul's pastoral admonitions and instructions for young Pastor Timothy, they should not be viewed as irrelevant to those of us not in vocational, gospel ministry.

The Apostle Paul delivers some sound spiritual advice for all who are living in the "latter times" (1 Timothy 4:1). And while we know that the "latter times," is a reference to the period between Christ's ascension (Acts 1:9-11) and His promised return, it sure seems like the Day of His return is drawing near!

Therefore, as we look for the "blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13), there are some things we need to be doing. Matter of fact, our text tells us three major disciplines we need.

First, we need to be able to detect apostasy (1 Timothy 4:1-3). Now Paul makes it clear that this was not his opinion, but it was a Word from God, as he says, "Now the Spirit explicitly says . . ." There is no denying that the Holy Spirit is still addressing this subject because the church is still filled with those who profess Christ but do not possess Him, nor He them. Matter of fact, the word for "depart" is where we get our word "apostasy."

Paul gives us two signs of apostasy in the church. There is demonic teaching and deceptive teachers. And what we need to understand is that the false teachers and false teaching Paul describes are not just "mistakes" made by "misinformed," "well-meaning" teachers, but something that comes from the pit of hell.

These people have had their hearts "seared," making them unfeeling to the Spirit of truth. In other words, the origin of apostate teaching is hell, and its author is the devil.

Paul addressed this in Acts 20, when he warned the Ephesian elders that "savage wolves" (Acts 20:28) would come from within the church with false teaching with the intention of "drawing disciples away." (v. 30). Now, here in 1 Timothy 4:2-3, the apostle gives a small sampling of the problems false teachers and their teaching bring to the body.

In other words, we need to be on guard against teachers and teaching that lead people astray and cause others to depart from the faith "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). And Southern Baptists are not immune from this danger.

Next, we must discern the truth (1 Timothy 4:4-5). In other words, we have no right or privilege to add to, or take away from what God says. Apparently, there were some in Paul's day that added to the Word of God, declaring that marriage was bad, and certain foods were not sinful. Yet Paul says, if God has sanctified it, who are you to say otherwise?

Third, we are to disciple the brethren (vv. 6-8). That is what these last verses are about. The Word of God admonishes us to teach sound doctrine in order that the brethren would also be able to identify error in the church. In verse 7, we are told to reject unsound doctrine, because it is "pointless," and "silly" (CSB). Other translations say unsound doctrine is "profane," "useless," or "godless."

Finally, we disciple the brethren, to train them for eternity. Whereas it is good to keep physically fit, spiritual health is even more important because the benefits reap eternal blessings.



## How to pray for President Biden, Vice President Harris and Congress

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As Christians, we have a responsibility to pray for the leaders of our nation. Regardless of the president's political party or positions on various issues, I have been faithful to pray for each president and vice president for decades. Our first and highest allegiance is always to the lordship of Jesus Christ and then to the words He gives us in the Bible, the Word of the living God, regarding how to live.

Therefore, how should we pray for our new president, Joe Biden, and our new vice president, Kamala Harris? I want to share some considerations as you and your church pray for each of them daily. Yes, we need to pray for them daily. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, *"First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."*

1. Acknowledge to God that He has placed them in these positions of authority. Daniel 2:21 says that God changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and establishes kings.
2. Ask God to protect President Biden and his wife as well as Vice President Harris and her husband from the forces of evil that may desire to do them harm.
3. Appeal to God that He will provide His wisdom to President Biden and Vice President Harris so they will see what God desires and be influenced by those around them who will give them the right counsel.
4. Ask God to empower them to make decisions that will protect our nation at all times, leading us to be able to live tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity.
5. Appeal to God earnestly that President Biden and Vice President Harris and all of their administration will find ways to work with both houses of Congress, bringing resolution to the most pressing needs facing America today.

Even as Jeremiah instructed the people of God who were in exile in Babylon, we need to remember what the Bible says in Jeremiah 29:7: *"Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."*

God is able to sovereignly engineer people and circumstances to fulfill His will. All the leaders of our nation need to lead with a spirit of humility, respect for one another, a spirit of understanding and a determination to cooperate for America's common good. Only God can bring a spirit of peace in their relationships together. This cooperation is necessary to collaborate for the good of our nation.

We need our leaders to be filled with God's wisdom. We need our leaders to be filled with the courage to continually lead and protect our nation.

Regardless of who the President or Vice President, the Speaker of the House or Majority Leader of the Senate may be, we need to pray for our nation's leaders. Regardless of the political party in power, they are subject to God's power and we need to pray for them. Praying for President Biden and all the nation's leaders has nothing to do with their party affiliation. It does, however, have everything to do with your personal responsibility as a Christian.

America needs prayer today more than ever before. While we are facing multiple crises, our greatest problem continues to be spiritual. In fact, our spiritual crisis is the foundational cause of most, if not all, of the other ongoing issues confronting our nation. Proverbs 13:34 states, *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."*

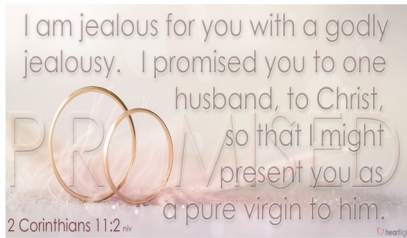
This is why we must continually call out to God to bring spiritual revival upon His church and spiritual awakening in America. By His grace and for His glory, we need God to bring the next Great Awakening to America now so the nations will hear about Him and know Him personally.

Now is the time to lead.

*Written by: Ronnie Floyd, SBC Executive Committee President*



## Sermon Recap: January 17 - A Faithful Fiancée - 2 Corinthians 11:1-15



Moses was on the mountain talking to God for a long time. So one morning the Israelites woke up, enjoyed their manna breakfast and begged Aaron to make them an idol to worship. The very people who had seen God lead them out of Egypt, had heard God's voice and had eaten the manna were deceived into thinking they needed something more.

This story isn't unique to Ancient Israel. Paul wrote today's passage upset with the Corinthians that they, like Eve in the Garden, were easily deceived by Satan's disguised minions. Paul wanted to present them as a pure bride to Christ, but they were so easily deceived.

We're no better. I doubt history will look back on 2021 as the year when mankind finally figured it all out. If our great-grandmother Eve could be so easily deceived into eating the forbidden fruit... If German soldiers could be deceived into attempting to annihilate the Jews... If mankind, basically since the beginning and even now in many parts of the world, could be deceived into thinking slavery was a good idea... If even our own American forefathers could be deceived into what is frequently called "the genocide of indigenous peoples" (something that also still goes on today in places like China)... If all these can be deceived we can too. We are too.

Paul used the language of marriage to describe our deception. God is righteously jealous for our souls when we fall for Satan's deception. Believing the lies of our age is tantamount to spiritual adultery as we sleep around with false truth claims and hook up with falsehoods from the pit of hell. It's easy to do. Our world tells us all paths lead to God, that how we feel is always right, that morality is relative and that absolute truth is a thing of the past.

We must actively fight against deception. We must stay close to the truth so we can spot a lie a mile away. How do we do that?

Read your Bible... every day! Use a devotional to give deeper insight and study it to discover God's truth... the ONLY truth!

Feed your mind with right thinking. Find ways to consume the "news" that is based on a Biblical worldview. For me, I frequent the information provided by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention ([erlc.com](http://erlc.com)) and their associated podcasts. They seek to: "connect the agenda of the Kingdom of Christ to the cultures of our local congregations for the sake of the gospel." I listen daily to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president, Al Mohler, on his podcast called "The Briefing," where he gives "a daily analysis of news and events from a Christian worldview." I also read our state Baptist newspaper, the Biblical Recorder, that gives "the information and inspiration you need."

Where is *your* truth "blind spot?" Where are *you* most easily susceptible to deception? How will *you* intentionally seek after truth in all things? I pray we will actively seek truth in God's word and through His people.

## Sermon Recap: January 24 - Weak Enough To Be Strong - 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10

The 4th Sunday in January is "Baptist Men's Sunday" and while we were unable to do the "normal routine" we did hear from Fahey Harrell about the activity of the Handyman Ministry this year. I am so proud of our team! They have continued to be very active even during the Pandemic. They have built more ramps in this year than we have had in-person Sunday School classes. When everything was whittled down to the essential and most important things, the two things that remained were Worship and sharing God's love by helping people. What a powerful testimony!

There are two contrasting Greek Epic Poems that talk about how to avoid the seductively beautiful songs of the murderous mermaids known as the Sirens. Odysseus, in Homer's Odyssey, decides to fight the temptation by plugging his sailors ears with beeswax and having himself tied to the mast of the ship. Odysseus' plan to avoid temptation or to blockade the ability to succumb is effective.

The Argonauts, in Argonautica, have a secret weapon. On board their ship is the greatest musician of their time, Orpheus. When the Argonauts approach the Sirens, Orpheus plays louder and more beautifully than the Sirens. The Argonauts avoid their doom by focusing on the "sweeter song."

Paul describes his own ministry in a foolish way. He brags. I wouldn't recommend it but Paul brags on how great his ministry is and how laudable his work. But what he's bragging about is suffering. Beatings. Stoning. Shipwreck. Paul brags about his numerous near death experiences. Paul is focused on a "sweeter song."

Paul avoids pride, with the help of a messenger from Satan, by leaning into his own weaknesses and focusing on God's strength. Paul realizes that God gets more glory, is able to best show off His strength and that he himself is more satisfied when he is at his weakest.

Do we take pleasure in our weaknesses? After all, it's when we come to the end of our rope that we are most reliant on God. Do we fight tooth and nail against our struggles? Or do we look to the "sweeter song" that awaits us in eternity? Do we stand on our own strengths and our "nest egg?" Or do we allow God to use it all and allow Him to make our weaknesses strong? Do we brag on all we can do? Or do we allow God to do things in us that we can't so we can brag on Him?

I pray each of us will turn our focus heavenward and allow God to change our wants. I pray we desire His eternal "sweeter song" more than a lush retirement, a fat bank account or all of the luxuries of the 21st century. I pray we are "Weak Enough To Be Strong."



Berea Baptist Church

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