

Lake of the Ozarks Baptist Association

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The Voice

JANUARY 2018

First, Teresa and I would like to thank everyone for your very generous Christmas gift! It is greatly appreciated!

Second, there some interesting business matters that have progressed and concluded since our annual meeting in September. We will report on all of that at the Executive Board meeting on January 9 at Rocky Mount – I hope you are planning to be there.

And now, though we began a new associational year on October 1, we find ourselves beginning a new year in other ways. This is a time when many people make “resolutions”, so I thought it would be a good time to ask, “Why do you do what you do?”

In serving the Lord we like to think that we do so because we love him – after all, didn’t he say, “If you love me you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15)? And hopefully that is the reason we obey Him. But occasionally things will happen that test our motives, and may even test our obedience.

In regard to tithing, this is just such a time. I have been a tither since I was a kid. Not only does the Bible teach tithing – yes, even in the NT – but my Dad did as well. I’m not sure about the theological integrity of this, but he says that if we don’t give the Lord 10% He will take 30% through loss of income or unexpected expenses. Perhaps that is what the Lord meant in Malachi about the devourer being rebuked. Ah, but that is a rabbit we’ll not chase today. Let us come back to the question of our obedience in regard to the tithe. . . .

Another thing about tithing that has been true since I was a kid is that we could deduct our charitable giving from our income in order to lower our taxes. True, we would have to itemize to claim that deduction, but with mortgage interest, medical expenses, and other deductions added up it was easy to come up with enough to itemize rather than taking the standard deduction. But therein lies the crux of the matter and the impetus for this question . . . Do we tithe out of obedience, or do we tithe for the tax deduction?

Last week Congress passed, and President Trump signed sweeping tax legislation. That legislation greatly increases the standard deduction for individuals and couples. In fact, the standard deduction will now be so high that most folks won’t itemize anymore. . . . but if they don’t itemize, will they still tithe?

Will you still tithe when you cannot take a tax deduction for it? Or to put it more plainly – *do you tithe out of obedience to the Lord or do you tithe for the tax deduction?* And for some the question may be as simple as do you tithe at all?

And aside from this particular question of tithing and taxes, let us also use this as a reminder that that faith and politics are inseparable, that things our government and culture do have implications on how we practice and express our faith. . . . so it is always wise to be involved and be informed and make decisions that – to the best of our knowledge – are pleasing to Christ.

**Your Fellow Servant
Timothy**



**Pastor's & Wives Breakfast
SATURDAY,
JANUARY 13, 2018
8:30 AM
Blue Springs Baptist
Church**

**Chili Cook-off
January 20, 2018
11am - 2pm
1st Baptist Church of Camdenton
\$20 to enter contest
\$5 minimum donation to eat
Trophies will be given for: Spicy class, Flavorful
class and Peoples choice.
Door prizes are given out all throughout the day.
Please come and join us and enter your chili to
win or come and eat.
The proceeds will go to support the Pregnancy
Help Center.
Participants are asked to bring a large crockpot
of chili, 1 box of crackers and sampling cups.
Participants please RSVP to :
573-346-3337**

Attention All!

Mark your calendars!

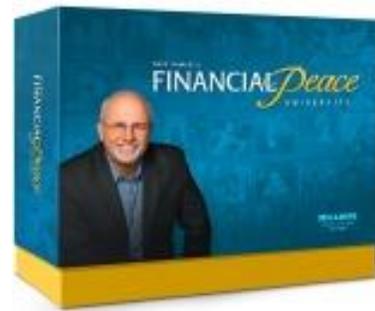
**March 24th will be an
associational discipleship meeting.**

**This meeting is for Pastor's,
Sunday School Directors, and
Teachers.**

**There will be breakout sessions
and loads of beneficial
information for you (Not to
mention food and fellowship).**

**Don't miss out on this free event
sponsored by your Association.**

DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY



**TUESDAYS,
JANUARY 23 - MARCH 20, 2018
6:30 - 8:00**

**TO BE HELD AT
THE FOUNTAIN
104 MAPLE STREET, ELDON**

**Session led by Steve Riegert of
Horseshoe Bend Baptist Church**

Are You Being Called to *Serve*

As the number one recreational lake in America¹, the Lake of the Ozarks attracts 5.5 million people every year. . . . most of whom do not know Jesus. Reaching these tourists is a task greater than the local churches can accomplish on their own. So consider this your Macedonian call – “Come help us!”²

Spend the summer sharing the gospel in resorts and campgrounds, preaching at campgrounds, and even having opportunity to preach in some of our local churches. Opportunities will also be available for assisting churches in Vacation Bible School, camps, backyard Bible clubs, and even learning the “ins and outs” of a food pantry that serves hundreds.

We will provide housing plus \$300/week for 12 weeks.

Interested parties should email Dr. Timothy Faber for more information:

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 9, 2018: Executive Board Meeting, Rocky Mount Baptist Church, 474 Hwy Y, Eldon

January 13, 2018: Pastor’s & Wives Fellowship Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, Hwy Z,

January 20, 2018: PHC Chili Cook Off, 1st Baptist Church, Camdenton

**January 23, 2018: Tuesday nights until March 20 Financial Peace University, The Fountain
104 Maple Street, Eldon**

January 23-25, 2018: Midwest Leadership Conference, Springfield, IL

February 10: Pastor’s & Wives Fellowship Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, Hwy Z, Eldon

March 24: Associational Discipleship Meeting Time & Place TBA

*Associational
Valentine Banquet*
Watch for Information

REMEMBER OUR CHURCHES
WITHOUT PASTORS
SPRING GARDEN
HONEY SPRINGS

*You are invited to the
Pastor Ordination Service
for
Bro. Willis Jones
at
Crossroads Baptist Church
99 Hwy C, Tusculum MO
on
Sunday, January 7, 2018
Ordination Council will meet at 4:30
All ordained men invited to participate on the Ordination Council
Ordination Service will begin at 6:00
Dr. Monte Shinkle will bring the Ordination Message
Fellowship following the service*

