



First Baptist Church Pelham, Georgia

The Crier

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"Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." Ever heard this cited from scripture? Luke's recording of the beatitudes offers a slightly different perspective than Matthew's. Matthew states, "blessed are THE poor" whereas Luke make it so much more personal with "blessed are YOU poor". The crowd would have been mixed as the biblical context has Jesus positioned addressing a multitude. But Jesus turned His attention directly towards His disciples when He began calling out their personal poverty and prescribed a perspective of blessing where people generally find reasoning of feeling cursed, or ashamed.

Most poor don't reckon their poverty to laziness, but to opportunity. Most poor find reason to be offended at the wealthy for the poor's state of being. Yes, I'm well aware that Matthew addressed "the poor in spirit". But I think Luke targeted worldly poverty by addressing his recording as "blessed are YOU poor" and leaving it there. All the perceived offenses, all the disproportionate opportunities, all the slights offered by the wealthy, none of these things matter in contrast with one standing in possession of the kingdom of God. In other words, Jesus's calling to the poor was simply to let the offenses go and receive the blessings of true wealth.

Each of these beatitudes all point to areas in life where there are certainly opportunities, if not the presence, of offenses that have been given. "Blessed are you who hunger now" brings to our attention that people who can help, won't or don't. There is an opportunity for offense. "Blessed are those that weep" must find a cause for sadness. "Blessed are you when men hate you." Have you ever known of anyone that has hated you? There is offense written all over that. But Luke goes even further to say, "when they exclude you". I'm starting to get offended just writing about this. But then we find "they revile you and cast you out".

My point in all this is these are all offensive acts that are intentionally directed. These offenses are real. What are we supposed to do with this? Especially when the offenses are directed intentionally as a person is living for Christ's name. Perhaps you were raised to fight fire with fire. Perhaps the American way of standing up for your rights is so ingrained that it has become part of our nature. Perhaps an inclination to get even is a familiar response. But get this...Jesus is teaching one big, supernatural, and otherworldly response. **Even when an offense is given, you don't have to receive it!**

Let me say that again, even when an offense is purposefully, intentionally, and hurtfully given, you don't have to receive it! Why? Because this kingdom is not your home. Your reward, your security, your significance, are all tied to the kingdom of heaven, not the kingdom of men. Why do we hold offenses? To keep a record of wrong. To be ready to repay evil for evil. In other words, we somehow think we can be a better arbiter of justice than God will be.

But what really saddens my heart is the propensity, we as children of Adam have to receive offenses even when no offense has been given. Hurt feelings, bruised egos, wounded pride, are more often than not, the derivative of perceived offenses rather than actual offenses given. "He's looking at me" says the offended child in the classroom. "If they won't do it my way, I'm not serving in that church" says the offended member. But we are supposed to be more than children of Adam, we are supposed to be living as children of Christ and the Kingdom of God. As such, we are supposed to be demonstrating that the Spirit of God lives through us. Therefore, the fruits of the Spirit should be evident even when real and true offenses are given and we certainly won't be looking to find offenses through pride and ego.

"They will revile you and cast you out for the Son of Man's sake! Rejoice! Leap for joy! Your reward is great in heaven." (Luke 6:23). And all this I've written about, you can't do it. It is not within your ability to "turn the other cheek". It is not within your capabilities to let God be God over all injustices. Do you remember James told us "Faith without works is dead"? These are some of the "works" that evidence your faith. But they are works of the Holy Spirit, not of you.

When we get mad, get even or just get out of the fellowship because we received an offense (real or perceived) we are showing works of the flesh, not the Spirit. Peter went from cutting off ears and cursing to submitting to God once the Spirit of God controlled his life. That is supposed to be the same evidence portrayed in each one of us.

There is a difference in an offense given and an offense received. An offense might truly be given, but you can choose not to receive it. An offense might be received even when one has not been truly given nor intended. Let God govern how you respond in all these events. You either evidence His Spirit and the fruit of His Spirit living through you or you evidence less of God and more of yourself. If the evidence of your life is chronically more of yourself, then there needs to be repentance that happens. And it will be either repentance to salvation as His Spirit has shown no evidence of change in your life or it will be repentance to Lordship as you relinquish control back to God. True faith is doing things God's way and trusting Him through all of life's events, including being offended.

Just one more thing...do you really want to hold onto the offenses against you by others? Do you really want to hold others guilty? Then you don't want to be Godly, plain and simple. Be very careful, a lack of desire to be Godly is strong evidence that the presence of God does not dwell in you. If you were buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life, then you would desire Godliness because your nature has been changed. Godliness forgives offenses. Godliness actually absorbs the pain from the offense of others. [Romans 4:25 NKJV] "*who was delivered up **because of our offenses***". Would I really have the audacity to proclaim I'm a better judge and jury when it comes to people's offenses against me than God Himself was concerning people's offenses against Jesus? To be Godly is to release people from guilt, even when they don't deserve it. You don't have to receive an offense.

Pastor Leroy



**Saturday
Night,
November
6th**



**Pastor Appreciation
Sunday, November 7th
with covered dish luncheon**

Bring your favorite dishes & dessert.



November 11th

Breakfast

6:30 - 9:00 am

**First Baptist Pelham
Fellowship Hall**

**Need Volunteers to help!
See Harold or Neal**



Fall Festival

**Sunday,
November 14th
5:00 pm**

**Need Candy
and
Volunteers**

**See
Katie Thompson**

**Round Table
at the home of Laura Jane Gray
Tuesday, November 10th @ noon**



**Operation
Christmas Child
Shoeboxes
Deadline is
Sunday, November 21st
Morning Service**

**Beginning this year, please put your \$9 check
in the postage paid envelope and mail and put
the label on outside of the box.**



Backpacks for Baker Co.

**We will have backpacks for
\$4.50 each in the office next
week. Please begin to collect
items to pack. Find "How to
pack a backpack" on the table
in the hallway to social hall**

**Deadline is
Sunday, November 28th**

**Business Meeting & Hymn Sing
Sunday, November 28th 6:00 pm**

Youth Coming Up!

Nov 7

**Family Football & Picnic! 3-7pm Everyone invited
whether you play or not!!!**

Nov 14

Family Fall Festival

Nov 21

Youth Mission Project Following the morning service!

Dec 15

Youth Christmas Party

Dec 29-30

**MOVE Youth Conference by GA Baptist Mission Board
@ Wild Adventures Registration is required**

Our Members Birthdays in the Month of November

4	Glenwood Anderson	27	Annie Lee Wells
5	Lisa Kitchens	28	Sonya Maloy
5	Leroy Williams	28	Lori Williams
9	Lucy Thompson	29	Frances Ragan
11	Melissa Stills	29	Joyce Walton
15	Bentley Palmer		
15	Hudson Thompson		
15	Sophia Barfield		
15	Patty Newton		
16	David Drury		
17	Nell Brim		
18	Will Norman		
22	Mark Harris		
22	Marie Murphy		
23	Marilena Smithwick		
24	Reggie Feagin		
24	Mary Daniel		
26	Lake Adams		
26	Larry Frosteg		



Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed on Friday

Activate The Prayer Chain

Tina Sellers 294-8443
Helen Schmidt 294-2818

Alternates:

Earlean Shiver 294-8073



Deacons of the Month

Ken Newton
229-220-1750

Robert Scott
229-221-7751



Staff at Home

Rev. Leroy Williams 321-292-9650
Pastor

Rev. Harold Smith 229-221-1565
Minister of Youth harold@pelhamfbc.org

Rev. Andrew Chaffer 229-319-0472
Minister of Music revchaffer@gmail.com

Earlean Shiver 336-3445
Ministry Assistant eshiver@pelhamfbc.org

Neal Hilliard 229-413-2721
Deacon Chairman nealhilliard12@gmail.com

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Pelham, GA 31779
Return Service Requested

"In God We Trust"

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
P. O. Box 287
Pelham, GA 31779

Prayer List

MEMBERS

Jean Bodin	medical
Harriett Braswell	medical
John Bullington	hip replacement 10/29
Lenora Jo Butler	improving
Thurman Butler	medical
Jeannette Carroll	medical
June Carter	medical/tests
Dianne Fenn	medical test 11/2
Larry Frosteg	medical
Shirley Humphries	medical
Amy Lock	back procedure 11/1
Helen Schmidt	eye surgery
Philip Strickland	recovering surgery
David Wells	medical
David Willis	medical

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Merrick 2 yrs old (Murphy)	brain cancer
Laken (Cheri's great niece)	covid-some better
Britain Brown	needs kidney transplant
David Burt (Smith)	cancer/spiritual
Ronnie Chaffer	cancer
Jimmy Green (Wilson)	medical/hospital
Randy Harris (James)	liver cancer
Dale Herndon	medical
Patricia Ireland	recovering knee replace
Patricia Ireland (Harris)	knee replacement
Ricky Marshall (Lock)	medical
Jeannie Mellow (Lock)	medical
Gwanna Morrell	medical
Jean Murphy (Monday)	medical
John Murphy (Monday)	medical
Emily Pollock (Fenn)	needs kidney transplant
Todd Sanders (Monday)	leukemia
Greg Shiver (Earlean)	brain cancer
Dorothy Sizemore	bone cancer
James Sizemore	medical
Randy Sizemore (Strickland)	leukemia/ home
Rev. David Smith (Mejia)	cancer
Candace Trimble (Monday)	medical
David Trimble (Monday)	medical
Van Williams (Monday)	3rd degree burns
Ricky Willis (Smith)	medical
Eddie Wilson	needs liver transplant
Renae Wynn	needs liver transplant

Our World City of Pelham City of Camilla
 Our Schools Spiritual needs in our community
 Pregnancy Center

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Marcelene Drawdy, Parkway
 Eunice Hatcher, Parkway #403
 Arvilla Jean, Parkway #409
 Imogene Jones, Parkway
 Charlotte Layton, Parkway #304
 Libby Moats, Legacy Tville
 Joyce Walton, Southern Pines
 Carol Whigham, Southern Pines
 Buddy Campbell, Magnolia Manor, Moultrie

First Baptist Church - Pelham

SUNDAY

9:15 am	Morning Mingle - Breakfast
9:40 am	Children's Sunday School Opening Rally
9:45 am	Adult & Teen Sunday School Classes meet
10:00 am	Children's Sunday School Classes meet
11:00 am	Morning Worship Service and on Facebook @First Baptist Church Pelham

Monday

6:00 - 7:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study on Elijah
6:00 pm	Men's Bible Study

Tuesday

12:00 Noon	Men's Lunch/Bible Study <i>Call church office to order lunch</i>
7:00 pm	Men's Prison Ministry

Wednesday

5:00—5:30 pm	Kid's Choir
5:00—6:00 pm	Supper
6:00—7:30 pm	Children "Answers in Genesis"
6:00 - 7:30 pm	Youth Meeting
6:30 - 7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
7:30 pm	Choir

Masks are at each entrance. Facility will be cleaned and sterilized weekly.



Office Closed

November
24th - 26th

Thank you for all the calls, cards, food, visits & most especially your prayers during our time of healing after our accident. We are so blessed to have such a loving church family. Continue to pray for complete healing. We love you all and may God bless each of you.
 John & Lenora Jo Butler

Weekly Bible Reading for November

<u>Nov. 1-7</u>	<u>Nov. 8-14</u>	<u>Nov. 15-21</u>	<u>Nov 22-28</u>
Neh. 3-4	Esther 3-4	Job 10-12	Job 30-31
Neh. 5-6	Esther 5-6	Job 13-15	Job 32-33
Neh. 7	Esther 7-8	Job 16-18	Job 34-35
Neh. 8-9	Esther 9-10	Job 19-20	Job 36-38
Neh. 10-11	Job 1-3	Job 21-23	Job 39-40
Neh. 12-13	Job 4-6	Job 24-26	Job 41-42
Esther 1-2	Job 7-9	Job 27-29	Psalms 1-2

A Farewell to Kings (Part 2)

***The hypocrites are slandering the sacred halls of truth
Ancient nobles showering their bitterness on youth
Can't we find the minds that made us strong?
Can't we learn to feel what's right and what's wrong***

***Cities full of hatred, fear and lies
Withered hearts and cruel tormented eyes
Scheming demons dressed in kingly guise
Beating down the multitude and scoffing at the wise
Can't we raise our eyes and make a start
Can't we find the minds to lead us closer to the heart***

(Lyrics from the Song "A Farewell to Kings" by the Band, RUSH)

I recently heard a story told by Nathan Jones, Internet Evangelist of Lamb and Lion Ministries that sounded like the beginning of a Twilight Zone episode. Picture a large family gathering around a table at a local restaurant. You can recognize the grandparents, parents, kids, and aunts and uncles. Instead of fellowshiping and catching up with life's events, everyone at the table is on their smartphone. No talking, or interaction except with the waitress who is patiently trying to take their orders and serve them. This story is not surprising and you have probably witnessed similar events as well. Today's technology which does have its benefits also has a dark side that has taken over society and is a major component in the convergence of end time events. We are definitely living in Biblical times.

"See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ." Colossians 2:8

Nathan Jones stated that *"Technology has become a mind-altering device, especially through digital media, reprogramming humanity to new culture or new world order."* Our youth today has grown up never knowing life without technology. Look at these alarming effects on this generation:

This generation spends an average of 6.5 hours (or longer) a day to stay connected
Most have become isolated, depressed, and the suicide rate has risen over 40% with teens under 17
44% of HS Seniors have never gone on a date.
Today's youth struggle with interaction with others because they prefer to converse on their smartphone

Facebook and other social media giants have admitted that they use algorithms to grab as much of your attention in order to lure you in to watching, buying, or reading the things you are most interested in. People are berated, beaten, killed, or dying and most of society just wants to watch, take video, or pictures to post online and upgrade their status. Recently a woman was raped on a subway train by a homeless man and instead of helping most bystanders just took video and pictures with their smartphones. TikTok, a popular social media app that allows users to create, watch, and share 15-second videos shot on cell phones often posts challenges to its users and this past month they challenged students in school to slap a teacher. One of our own PCMS teachers was affected by this challenge. There is no doubt that our society has been "reprogrammed."

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

According to Nathan Jones this is all part of Satan's 5-step Strategy that started back in **Genesis 3** in the Garden of Eden where the serpent enticed Eve to rebel against God and thus began the fall of mankind. Here are the five steps:

Step 1: Divide, Step 2: Focus on self, Step 3: Break apart, Step 4: Divide Humanity, and finally Step 5: Globalize.

Just by looking at these steps you can see that Satan's plan is already in full force. As followers of Christ let us pursue God's will at all cost, fight against the steps of the coming Anti-christ, prepare for His return, and share the Gospel at every opportunity. Let us journey on the path that leads closer to His heart!

"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28)

Bro. Andrew