

As I write, Jim Johnson is preparing to conclude his challenge to First Baptist Church of Pelham to be a God centered church. Tonight will be his last night with us. I pray that the challenge has been received. For you know as well as I, we all have a tendency to revert back to ourselves as the source and expert in decisions. "I think" are the two most common words formed when decisions are on the table. But scripture calls us to become fully reliant upon God's ways and not our natural tendencies. [Galatians 2:20 NKJV] *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* Notice the underlined parts of the previous verse. We either live by faith or we live by flesh. Either Christ lives through us or we live unto ourselves. The only thing we can actually place faith in is God, and what He has spoken. Through His Word, through His Spirit, through prayer, that's the source where we find what God desires to do through us. It is my prayer that all decisions of FBC Pelham are established in faith and centered upon God.

As I've spent Monday through Wednesday with FBC Pelham and Jim's challenging teachings, I've been moved by the expressions of excitement and love. The number one question I've received is "when are you going to be here". That shows me you all are excited for what is next. I would that I could be here already. As we've been getting the house ready for sale and the children ready for this next step of faith, that time has been drawing closer. I believe we will be able to make the move before, or at least by, the last week of March. This will place us on the field here in Pelham to be able to be in the pulpit Easter Sunday and to be able to start in ministry here before that day.

I am fully convinced that God has some work to do here in Pelham and around. I am absolutely certain that He chooses to work through His body, the church. I am filled with anticipation that FBC Pelham can be used mightily of God. God has empowered and entrusted us with the great commission. Let's love people to heaven. We will as we listen to God and do things His way. That's the way God designed the church.

In Christ,

Pastor Leroy