

And is this type of statement going to increase one's opportunity to share the gospel or begin a discipling relationship? Ok, one more question: will this statement unite or divide? It may seem trivial to some but I believe these things matter because the gospel is attractive but so many times it is the messenger whom one resists not the message. I want the gospel I share to be pure and to be authentic. Trite, inconsequential, and misleading statements do not help the gospel cause.

To bring these current issues into focus we must determine what is the root of the issue and the potential seen and unseen affects upon society and then we must respond to those from a Biblical worldview. We should be less interested in engaging in political arguments and more interested in applying the Bible to our own lives and teaching others how the Bible applies to their lives. This takes effort, especially in our information saturated culture where everyone knows a little about everything. Our biblical literacy must be ever increasing because Scripture deals with all these issues. Pertaining to scandal the Bible says to live holy lives, Hebrews 12.14, "Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord." About taxes, Jesus said in Mark 12.17, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And as for changing capitals and international diplomacy Jesus said, "about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Peter said, "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." As you look around, as you read or hear the news and as you respond do so with Paul's advice in Ephesians 5.15ff, "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Tupos

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Upcoming Opportunities

Jan 5-6 Workday/Lock-in

Jan 13-Winter Jam

Jan 19-21 ReVerb

We are in need of four families who are willing to open their homes to our Jr/Sr High School students during the weekend of ReVerb, January 19-21, 2018.

If you would like to host these students, please see Marc for more details.



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pre JAM party

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New Hope Baptist Church

To Know Jesus & Make Him Known

WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

Morning Worship Service

100 Angels We Have Heard on High
Scripture Reading - Ephesians 5:14-16

Awake My Soul

HIZ KIDZ MESSAGE

93 It Came upon the Midnight Clear
Come Alive (Dry Bones)

AUTOPSY OF A DEAD CHURCH -
Revelation 3:1-6

91 Silent Night, Holy Night

New Year's Eve @ the Creek

(Robertson's Camp)

Supper starts @ 5pm

*Bring a side dish & Dessert

Since I have been writing on the important issue of Advent and its meaning I have not had the opportunity to comment on the current social, economic, or political issues for 4 weeks. A lot has happened in four weeks... more scandals at all levels of society, tax law debates and changes and changes and more debate, the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by the US President. Many of these things have resounding effects on our nation and the world and yet each issue, while important to understand from a Biblical Worldview, remind me of motivational posters, billboards, and bumper stickers. Ever seen these cultural icons? "God answers Knee-mail". "Honk if you love Jesus, text if you want to see Him". Cute, but in all likelihood not going to open the door to a discipling relationship. The billboards I have seen are somewhat better probably because a billboard costs more than \$2.95 so the cost makes you think more carefully about your message (there is a sermon in that). These billboards usually have a Bible verse and express the gospel in a sentence. Motivational posters are either ridiculous and so far out of context one might think a raccoon could be saved be reading them. My favorite one of these is in a local hospital and says, "May you live all the days of your life." To which I said, I will do just that! Here's the point: Do we think about the message we are sending? Because we are always sending messages.

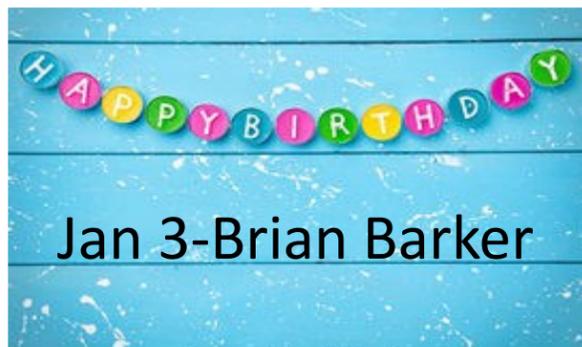
Some of the messages we are sending have more to do with social, economic, and political issues rather than the gospel. While our view of these issues should be entirely dependent upon our view of Scripture, our relationship with Jesus and the desire to be a witness for the gospel should be our priority. Thus, what we put on our vehicle or in our yard and what we say verbally must be seasoned with salt. Let me give a couple examples. "If Jesus had a gun, He'd still be alive today." What is the point in this statement? Theologically it has some major flaws: Jesus is alive today. He rose from the dead. He could have called down a legion of angels He has that power, Jesus had to die for sin or we could not have forgiveness. So, is the statement really about Jesus or about one's political view on guns? We know the answer to that question so let me pose two more questions: Is it Biblical to use Scripture in this way to express a political view?

Surely there can be no greater joy than that of saving souls.
LOTTIE MOON

New Hope's Goal: \$6,500
 Given to date: \$3,359.57

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING*
 info.org/lmo

The nursery needs volunteers for Wednesday nights. Usually there are two or three babies. Who doesn't love babies? See Julie or MaryAnn to sign up.



Jan 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Passion Conference			4	5	RENT A YOUTH
7 Guest Speakers Shannon & Elizabeth Bradley	8 7pm Deacon's Meeting	9 House & Grounds Meeting 7PM	10	11 Meal Delivery: Linda Smith	12	
14	15 6pm Stewardship Meeting	16	17 Business Meeting 7p	18 Meal Delivery: Helga Shackelford	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Meal Delivery: Margaret Bennett	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 February Meal Delivery: Cyndi Fischer	2	3



You have chores, we're ready to work!
 We raise money for camp, and that project you've been putting off can finally be finished.
 Two birds. One stone. Win-win!

Sunday Services
 Nursery.....22
 Morning Worship.....189

Giving Record
 Tithes & Offering.....\$27,728.00
 Designated.....\$3,877.37
 Budget Needs/Week.....\$7056

1999 State Road 64 East - Wauchula, Florida 33873
(863) 773-2101 - www.newhopewauchula.com
 Rev. Christopher M. Bishop - Senior Pastor - 781-5572 (Cell)
 Rev. Marc Pollard - Student Pastor - (318) 286-5032 (Cell)
 Rev. David E. Radford - Minister of Music - 781-9675 (Cell)

COUNTING COMMITTEE - DECEMBER 2017
 Johnny Trammell, Alma Durrance, Debbie Wheeler

WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Sundays
 9:30 A.M. Media Center Open
 9:45 A.M. Sunday School - Education Building
 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service - Sanctuary
 Kids' Church K-5
 6:30 P.M. Evening Worship - Sanctuary

Wednesday
 5:00 P.M. Women's Bible Study
 6:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Live (TUPOS)
 G.A.'s, R.A.'s, Mission Friends - Kids Bldg.
 Women's Bible Study
 Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study - Ed. Bldg.

USHERS OF THE WEEK
 Marlon Pendergrass
 David Moore
 David Suttles
 Justin Davidson

DEACON OF THE WEEK
 December 31-January 6
 Winston Smith 832-0684
 January 7-January 13
 Damon Hughes 781-0679



If you're visiting us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor packet in the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.
We're so glad you're here!

Resolutions for 2018

- Love God with all that I am. Luke 10:27
- Love others like I love myself. Luke 10:27
- Pray all the time. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- Turn from evil, do good; seek & pursue peace. Psalm 34:14
- Encourage others and build them up. 1 Thess 5:11
- Meditate on God's word day & night and live by it. Joshua 1:8
- Rejoice always. 1 Thess 5:16
- Give thanks in ALL circumstances. 1 Thess 5:18
- Be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, & patient. Colossians 3:12
- Be still. Remember He is God and He is in control. Psalm 46:10