

ARBC

Sunday, November 13, 2011

Brother Craig: This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice. Let's sing.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Go ahead and greet somebody in Jesus name. Everybody smile because Jesus loves you. Welcome, shake hands with about 5 people. It's a great morning.

Singing continues (Words on Large Overhead Screen) Let the glory of the Lord!

Let's give God a hand for his excellent greatness.

(Applause)

(Orchestra playing The Solid Rock)

(Applause)

Pastor Donnie: Good morning! It's good to see you all here. We are coming into the busy time of year. Things in bulletin:

Today is the last day for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Need to be sent off this week. If filling one at home, need to bring it back tonight.

Tonight is Deacon Ordination; be back for that tonight at 6:00.

Next Sunday is Operation Freedom celebration Sunday. I don't know it's on the paper I just read it. November 20th. We have journeyed through this about 13 weeks now; Financial Peace University classes will finish today as well as the sermons for last 5 weeks have been about that too. Next week is a celebration to wrap it up. Please be here next Sunday morning.

Also next Sunday is week before Thanksgiving and we will have our annual dinner in youth building. Please purchase your tickets. We have adult and children's tickets available. Shiloh High School Chorus will be here, as well as the person over the food co-op.

In 2 weeks, new member's class will have. 1 - 1 1/2 hours to tell you about our church and Baptist doctrine. Sign up for that.

Ladies Ministry is sponsoring a family for the holiday; please bless them with your

groceries downstairs.

Also, continue to be faithful with Rebuild the Walls. Grab a green envelope and pray about what God wants you to do.

Parent's Night Out will be December 16; the youth will be taking care of the kids and are asking for donations to help them with some things coming up.

If you are a guest we are honored that you are here. Sit back and enjoy the worship service but please fill out the part of the bulletin so we will know you were here, also prayer requests will go on that form too. Also if you want to join us for Wednesday Night Supper please sign up for that.

Tonya I think you are going to lead us with the bell choir right?

(Video playing - words on screen)

(Applause)

(Bell Choir playing Come Just as you are)

(Applause)

Pastor Tim: Good morning church! Ya'll doing alright? Nice and chilly when you got up? Wonderful to see you in the house of the Lord, it's exciting to see what God has done in the last 13 weeks. Excited for you to hear what God has done in the lives of some of our folks. Today is the last sermon and some are going Whew! I look forward to see what God will do. This morning is Andy and Becky Castongnia's last Sunday because they are moving to South Dakota. We love you and will miss you. Stand up! Thank you for your hard work.

A few minutes ago we saw a brief video about our veterans, if you have served, stand and let us thank you for your sacrifice. Amen.

We thank God for you and what you have done, we honor you. We want to continue to pray for Joel Davis he has 3 ulcers. I talked to him last night; pray for him and Ms Wilma. Shirley Hilton; Ken Peterson; Lee Howard which is Melvin Howard's mother; pray for strength. Pray for the 3 men to be ordained tonight at 6:00.

Father we thank you for this morning, for the songs to let the praise among your people rise to you. May you be lifted up. Not about what we want but what you want. As we just heard, Come just as you are, we can't fix ourselves we have to come to you first, I pray that we will be drawn to you today. We lift up these on the prayer list; for the ones that had surgery and we thank you for the veterans that have service this great country and

what they have done to pay the price. We pray in your name Amen.

Wonderful Savior.

(Choir/Orchestra playing "Wonderful Savior")

(Applause)

If you know God to be wonderful you can do better than that. He gave his life to save us; he is holy. Stand with us as we sing; Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

We can give God a hand. Blessed be the name of the Lord; the name of the Lord is a strong tower. Help us sing.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Put your hands together!

Let's give God a hand. Hallelujah! There is something about the name of Jesus. As we worship together, help me say Jesus!

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

It's okay to lift up holy hands in the sanctuary!

There is power in the name!

Let's us sing together.

Hallelujah! Before we have a seat, let's grab hands of the person next to you. Touch somebody for the offertory prayer; let's say the lords pray.

Our father in heaven hallowed be thy name

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

One earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day, our daily bread

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom power and glory forever Amen.

(Harmony in Praise singing Still Feelin' Fine) (Words on Large Overhead Screen)

(Applause)

Pastor Tim: Well ya'll liked that. I am supposed to follow that. Let's pray.

Father thank you for this morning as we go on our life's journey, as we have taken this path of Operation Freedom and we may have bumps but with you as our captain we can be fine, as we lean on you. Today through this service, FPU will continue and I pray that this time of celebration, renewal and commitment will be vital. We pray in your name, Amen.

Church, this has been quite a journey for many folks. Finishing up 13 weeks of Financial Peace University; how many have either gone through or are in the process of going through FPU? Praise the Lord for that. With all of the hands that were raised there are about 250 folks that have gone through FPU. Great outreach for our church and community as people learn what to do with what God has given them. Some it hasn't been so easy. Some have made sacrifices. Some of them have had disagreements in the home. I am sure some man would give me an Amen. Maybe the ladies; maybe some have been eating some p b & j. Some may be eating tuna; I am eating too much, I will not lie.

But we have made some changes in our life. Not eating out so much maybe. Not easy for everyone. The real question is has it been worth it? What we have studied the last 5 weeks of worship and 13 weeks of FPU has it been worth it? The people that have gone through FPU we have had dozens of credit cards cut up and they could do that because they had emergency funds set up and not have to use credit cards. 2 families are still in their homes because of FPU that is huge. Going through the class and given the information that would help them to save their homes. Couples that have combined their finances. I know some that she has her money and he has his money, but now it's their money. Lynn has told me for 31 years what's mine is mine and what's yours is mine. (Laughter). Truth is, what God has given us is 100% belongs to God. We are the managers.

We have seen several folks that are now free from debt except their mortgage. Many families are doing budgets; what comes in and where is it going. The budget may change month to month or week to week. You have to be flexible. People are understanding about their retirement and hopefully about their future. As we look back to how God has brought us through; today is a great time of celebration, time to make a financial declaration. Time for us to be weird; not trying to keep up with people; to be different about what God wants us to do with our money. If we do that, we can handle what God has given us forever.

We will state 6 primary commitments; we have talked about them. You have a blue form - not commitment cards; very important to fill out today and make a commitment to God. These are vitally important. Oh here is mine. I have mine ready to go.

As your pastor it's not my job to pry money out of your hands, but it is my job to bring you to God's word....Thank you Brother Craig... He has my back. Like Johnny Carson and Ed McMann. (Laughter). It's my duty to share God's word and what he says about

this important issue of finance. We as southern Baptists are quick to raise our Bible up high and proud. We believe it from the index through the concordance. We are slow to let it be our rule, guide, etc. When will we start doing something with it! Amen. Time to move on. Time to be busy about what God wants us to do.

We as Southern Baptist (maybe not be that long because they are talking about changing the name) are the only Christian organization that has been able to go through a split where the conservatives have remained the majority and been able to hold on to the title of Southern Baptist. They have split off and have changed the name. The point is God has blessed us to be a southern Baptist church. It's time we are about his word. Getting out there being on the attack ready to give a good true word for God. That was enough moving away from my sermon.

We will take a quick look at 6 commitments that will change our life today. I have a stool over here today. Fill out your card with these.

I. Introduction

I will acknowledge daily that 100% of my resources belong to God. We preached that a few weeks ago. Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." If you would watch the screens about God owning it all.

Just as I trust a financial advisor to manage my money; same is true with God putting it in my hands; he owns it all and I am the manager. Before spending money, I stop and think if I am making good use of the money; am I acting like I own it or am I seeking God's advice? I believe God wants our tithe which is 10% but also cares about how we use the other 90%; he is concerned about our time and talent.

Pastor Tim: As we look at our 2nd commitment.

I will assign every dollar a name in a monthly budget, and spend my money on paper, on purpose, before the month begins. I love this scripture. Luke 14:28
28: "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?"

Have you ever done this? Before I knew what the scripture says, I have driven by lavish shells of homes; started but not finished. I will drive by and ask myself what happened to them? What stopped them from finishing that dream home? The scripture is clear; we need to know the cost. Next

Mel & Gloria Buck

We started out with a spreadsheet; it was all of what we owe. Making just payments. But once we allocated to specific needs it feels like we are now in control.

If in control you can make it to the end of the month. And you know what you have and don't have.

I don't think we have had money fights. We have had disagreements about it. If there is a budget there is no reason to have discussion because it takes away the anxiety of where it is going.

Pastor Tim: Having a budget, knowing where your funds are going. I am glad they were able to do that.

It's important to know where the money is going. Like the wise builder. Know where your money is going.

3rd commitment. What a powerful word.

I will eliminate all debt from my life and live debt free from now on.

Proverbs 22:7; "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender."

How true that is; maybe on the lenders side but generally on the borrower's side.

Larry & Chris Peterson

I would say I don't see debt as a blessing; but once you made a mistake then maybe you learned to take a different action. In that regard it can be a blessing because it will let you see where you need to turn. But that itself is not a blessing or a good place to be.

The borrower is the lender to the slave? If you owe money you are a slave to the lender. It makes you think about who you owe money too especially if you know them.

Not that we know of. (Laughter)

Pastor Tim: Thank you Larry and Chris; my word to the young people (like me) the mistake is we come out of high school, go to college and then you fall in love, get married you have been raised in this nice home, good furnishings, and you think that is what I expect. Not realizing our parents have worked 15, 20 30 years to get what they have. Probably for Lynn and I, that was our biggest downfall. Back then, credit was easy. Our parents had nice houses and I like stuff. We bought lots of stuff, and then in 30 days we wondered how would we pay for this stuff. Not one Amen. Alright, we are the only ones that did that! (Laughter).

\
\

Proverbs 22:6 "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." We have used this a lot. We lean on the passage that says we may raise them up in godly homes and they may messed up but will come back to God. That may be true but to train up a child is to be responsible. How important it is, when we look at commitment 4.

I will train my children to handle money God's way. That is what we want our children to

do Yahritza Hill will come up and share with us.

Yahritza Hill: I believe it's important to teach children how to handle money. We teach them how to walk, dress, etc. They are watching you. They are watching you in everything. I have a son in high school getting ready for college. We talk about how he can get scholarships and not get student loans. We talk about the cost of on campus living compared to living off campus. In our neighborhood we have a HOA and he is the kid that cuts the bushes so they don't grow too tall. This last spring he had to work to get money for his baseball dues. He has learned to tithe, etc. Dave Ramsey teaches to give kids commissions; but my kids learned to volunteer for extra chores. Always remember the little eyes are watching you.

Pastor Tim: That is a great word, I am embarrassed to tell you this, but she talked about her son, I remember our kids growing up and when the money was gone, they would say to go to the ATM ; you are doing it right; keep it up.

We didn't talk about training up a child. The principles are right in front of us. We are not called to make our own lives better, but others as well. That will happen generationally. To have our children and grandchildren continue that.

Commitment 5; I will save and invest my money, building wealth slowly through consistent, wise decisions.

Ecclesiastes 11:2 "Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land." You never know what will come to you and your family. Will you be prepared?

Lynn and Jackie Holloman: Social security will not be enough to live the way most people are accustomed. Important to save money for your future. We are behind but working on it. The Bible talks about leaving and inheritance for future generations and that is our goal.

I think part of it is, understanding. I think people hand it over and say you handle my investments. The scripture talks about being diversified; giving to 6 or 7. But knowing what the money goes into is smart. People give their money just because they trust somebody; knowing what it is about and doing is consistently is most important. Well I would hope when we retire can travel or go on mission trips. I think that as far as future generations that is a big goal and we will try to do that. That you can bless your children and your children's children that with God's help we can do that even in our advanced age. (Laughter)

What a great word for us to invest, take care of ourselves and leave something for our children.

Last one says I will give a tithe of my income back to God, trusting Him to meet my daily

needs. Folks, especially young couples; we have all been there with the struggles, but I can testify that for Lynn and I tithing has been one of the biggest blessings in our life. I don't know what you or our staff gives, but your pastor and his wife will set the bar. I can tell you that Lynn and I give 15 to 20% back to ARBC; that is just for the church. For me to stand and do otherwise would be the biggest hypocrite. I am telling you what a blessing it is. Let me encourage you to start giving. The statistic tells something like the average person gives 2%. We have a long way to move forward. If our regular givers would move forward then we would not have to make such tough choices. What excited me is to hear stories from you about being in a restaurant and hear someone praying about their finances and you pay the bill. Or being in the drive through and pay for the car behind me. That is fun! As you are faithful and God provides, you will be able to bless others as well.

Listen as Mac shares his story.

Mac Balkom: Probably after being married, we went to a church and the message was on tithing. We didn't pass the plate, he put receptacles at the exits and said people will give the money. I had a chance a few years ago to retire from Delta and take a lump sum, hard decision. Deuteronomy 2:7; You know the Lord blesses and if you get down to it, it is his money and he just asks for 10%; this is an example of one of the things I learned from Financial Peace University 2 months ago I went to the bank, cashed my check and as I was putting the money in my wallet a voice said "can you give this away". Next day I went to the restaurant and saw a couple there praying about their financial situation so I took care of their bill. I told them the Lord told me to give them this. That is what the Lord wants us to do.

Pastor Tim: What a blessing that is to give. We started off by asking the question is it easy? No, not always. Many have a long way and a long road. But from experience, God's word says we are to give out of the first fruits. I have found that when we come together and it's time to pay the bills, if you put the tithe at the bottom of the bills, there is never enough money to pay it. You pay your tithe first, then everything else falls below it.

Some of you that have been here a long time, will not believe what I am about to tell you. Some of you that have been here a long time and not joined I found out why. Someone came into my office this week to join the church; he asked how much does it cost? We visited another church and when it was time to join, we had to pay and every Monday our account would be debited. I said are you serious? That's a good idea! (Laughter) I didn't say that. But I was shocked at that statement. That is not giving. God has to work in our hearts; he wants us to give joyfully! The translation is hilariously. Not when you wake up Monday morning and look at your bank account and see it went through. Whatever you are in your walk with the Lord, give joyously! Give from the first fruits, not at the end. I challenge you today to do that. We will not have you turn the cards in, but I do encourage you to put the cards away and think about what we have

been teaching these last 13 weeks. More classes of FPU will start up after the holidays.

This is your time. Maybe you are thinking you can't afford the membership fees. Your membership fee here at ARBC is your heart, your life. God wants us to be good managers of what he gives us, but wants us to be involved in Ministry. Someone came up last week and said they wanted to be involved with singles. Praise God. I believe for us to be free in Christ we must be free. Have you accepted him as Savior? Planted your roots here? To move forward in our community. Brother Craig said a few weeks ago, to look out in this congregation and to see a bit of heaven.

It must begin with each of us. Will you stand; we will be singing a great song about that very thing. We will sing I surrender all. Will you do that today? Surrender your heart, and your mind. Let's stand. Will you do it?

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Tim: Amen, church thank you for being here this morning. Tonight is a very special night. We have 3 men coming forward to be ordained as Deacons and we need you to be here, to love them and show them our support. A Deacon is a servant not a board of directors; they are here to serve you. You have to be careful what you sing. I heard a sermon this week. The preacher said we as a church lie the most when we sing hymns or songs because it says "Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to they, I surrender all". Some of your hearts are exactly right there, others fall short and we sing those words. Be careful as we sing, or pray as we worship him. I love you and excited about what God has done. Through our leadership, Lynn, Donnie, testimonies today, thank you for each of them. As we leave give a hug or a handshake and tell them you are glad to see them today.

Praying; father as we leave this place, show us where our greatest disobedience is. Help us to change that area of our lives. Thank you for this church, for Tim, the wonder of being with your people at this time, in this country, bless us as we go our separate ways. Bring us back as we ordain these men. In your name I pray Amen.