



the lake church

September 8, 2021,

To: The Lake Church Family
From: Pastor Jim

Pastor Jim's Ponderings – for our church family

COMMON SENSE – Going Out of Style?

In times past, common sense seemed desirable. But today, it appears that it is becoming less common and fewer and fewer seem to notice or care. Example: when I was a university professor (for many years), we taught students HOW to think. Today, universities (esp state universities) seem determined to teach students WHAT to think. That's a BIG difference. One is educating, the other, indoctrinating.

To better understand what is going on, I turn to the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:1-6, 8 says: ***“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! History has given us an example of this with the Egyptian sorcerers who stood against Moses in their arrogance. So it will be in the last days with those who reject the faith with their corrupt minds and arrogant hearts, standing against the truth of God.”***

Romans chapter 1 talks about people and nations who turn away from God. They ***“suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”*** (vs 18) ***“Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.”*** (vs 21)

Romans 1:24-25 tells the result of this evil, Godless thinking: ***“God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, and they exchanged the truth of God for a lie.”***

Wow! I wish this wasn't happening today but, as Solomon wrote: ***“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”***
(Ecclesiastes 1:9)

It's worth noting that historically, almost EVERY elected politician in Washington DC has said – on the campaign trail - “I believe in God” or “I'm a Catholic” or “I attend such and such church”



Dr. Jim Brown, Pastor

or something similar. Why? Because until recently, an atheist or non-Christian religious person had NO real CHANCE of winning an election. But that is changing too as we can see with some of the folks on capitol hill.

So – what do we do?

Years ago, I read a book by Dr. Francis Schaeffer, a well-known Christian theologian, philosopher, pastor, and author of the mid-20th century. In the book he pondered the problems of his day. The book is entitled: **How Should We Then Live?** That's a question we need to ask today as well.

In Psalm 33:12 we read: **“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”**

How would you evaluate America today, in light of that verse?

Romans 1:28-29 – **“Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness.”**

Are we there yet? (Sadly, YES.)

So then, HOW should we Followers of Jesus live today? (Here, I'm putting on my Pastor/shepherd hat. Pretend that I'm sitting down with you over a cup of coffee and sincerely suggesting the following to you.)

- (1) Do NOT give in to fear.** *“For God has not given us a spirit of FEAR, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* (2 Tim 1:7)
- (2) Stay in God's Word and in prayer.** This will help keep your mind from playing tricks on you. An idea: Listen to or read my daily devotionals and re-read the ones that were particularly meaningful to you.) Pray, pray, pray.
- (3) Stay FULL of faith, hope, and love!** (1 Cor 13:13)
- (4) Turn OFF the news.** Once you're walk with the LORD is solid, then it might handle the news a little. (Debbie and I disconnected regular cable TV several years ago.) (Read Philippians 4:4-9)
- (5) Instead of the news, try listening to good Christian music** – or any good music that is not filled with horrible lyrics. (Debbie and I do this regularly, as well.)
- (6) Don't miss church.** Hebrews 10:24-25 says: **“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”**

Remember... **EVERY TIME you attend church, it strengthens you spiritually.** We worship together in song, the Word of God is taught, and we talk to one another in friendship

before and after the service. You can't help but leave a service a little STRONGER than when you walked in! Like physical exercise, we ALL need this. Don't miss it!

(7) INVITE friends and neighbors to church. This is the #1 way people start attending a new church. MANY people are OPEN to an invite TODAY because they are fearful and looking for something SOLID to hold on to. *“The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.”* (Psalm 18:2)

(8) Follow these practical daily-living “prescriptions”:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – *“Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing. In everything, give thanks, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*
- James 4:6-7 – *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”*
- Philippians 4:8 – *“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”*

Let me encourage you to stay close to Jesus and other followers of Jesus. Love and pray for one another. Don't become a spiritual casualty.

We're praying for you and cheering you on!

Pastor Jim and Debbie

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### **Message from the Chairman of the Board**

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank everyone who is involved in the setting up and taking down the equipment we use to make the Sunday services successful.

With having to set up at different sites lately, the work and innovation needed has greatly increased. The team, headed by Karen Bonosoro, starts between 6:30 and 6:45 every Sunday to make sure it is all up and running before Susan and the praise team arrive to rehearse the music for the day.

When meeting at a site other than the Conference Center, all of the equipment – mixer board, snake box, speakers, speaker stands, monitors, music stands, mikes, mike stands, camera tripod, usually the keyboard, numerous cables to connect them all, etc. – needs to be transported to the site. Then, because it is different at each site, how the equipment is to be arranged needs to be determined, sometimes requiring great imagination!

After the service is over, it all needs to be shutdown, packed away, then hauled back to our closet in the Conference Center. Fortunately, our team has the closet arranged so that everything will fit back into it without much difficulty.

Karen has recruited a great crew to help, and she keeps things organized. So, a big THANK YOU to all the people involved:

|                        |                     |                |              |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Pam Adamson            | Lorna Aschbrenner   | Karen Bonosoro | Jim Carter   |
| Rich Farmer            | Mike and Jean Gault | Russ Hanthorn  | Geni Hays    |
| Greg Kluthe            | Ken Larsen          | Jerry Mason    | Art Pedersen |
| Michael and Tracy Pear | Jan Rae             | Ed Sparks      | Jay Standard |