



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

A few years ago, I was confronted by a question from Dr. Jim Denison, a noted theologian, philosopher, and ethicist. Denison pointedly asked his audience (which included me), “Is Jesus your King or your hobby?” That inquiry struck at my heart and prompted me to make a further examination of its significance. In my quest, I found Denison’s expanded comments online:

If God is your King, you’re breathing his air, wearing his clothes, walking on his planet. He’s your King on Monday, not just Sunday. He’s King of what you keep, not just what you give. He’s King of what you do in private, not just what you do in public.

For many people today, God is a hobby. Our society believes that Christianity is for church and religion is for Sunday. Our faith is to be kept separate from the ‘real world.’ Your neighbors don’t mind if you go to church on Sunday morning, but don’t tell them they have to go to church. Everyone ‘knows’ that so long as you believe in God and live a good life you’ll go to heaven. Less than one percent of Americans are afraid that they might go to hell.

Denison presents two radically different views of God. The “hobby” perspective simply utilizes the Deity for personal convenience and comfort. According to this concept, God is a part of my life. The “God as King” worldview, on the other hand, recognizes that He rules over everything and deserves exclusive homage. In essence, the Lord is the “all” of my life. He is my Boss; He is my Life!

Sometimes, I believe we as Christians can fall into “the hobby” trap both theologically and practically. We think that we can accept Jesus as our Savior without accepting Him as Lord. But my friends, that is not possible. He is Savior **and** Lord. We must yield to both realities. Saving faith leads to a decisive declaration that Jesus is King and a submission to His sovereignty. Even after we are saved, we are to obey His orders. This is not to maintain our salvation; but rather, it is to live a life pleasing to the One with authority.

So, let me pose the question: “Is Jesus your King or your hobby?” Or perhaps allow me to reframe it for you: “Are you *living* like Jesus is your King or your hobby?” Is your relationship with Him just another piece of your life, or is that relationship your *life*? Is church just another thing you do? Is opening your Bible an occasional practice? Have you simply put Jesus down as another activity in your life . . . similar to how you relegate hunting, shopping, fishing, working, golfing, sporting, etc.?

As we move through this season of reflection, let’s remember that Jesus demonstrated His Kingship supremely through His death, burial, and resurrection. He overcame sin and death. He is still alive! And He reigns! Consequently, He has claim over our lives, and He calls us to daily obedience. Let’s bow to Him as the rightful King and serve Him fully!

Don’t forget to spring forward this coming Saturday night and gather with us Sunday morning for a moment to exalt the King together in worship! See you then!

From the Minister of Contemporary Music

Zach Husser

Greetings, church family! I have some really exciting news to share with you all this time. Two weeks ago, Marissa and I added one more to our family! Jonah Matthew Husser was born February 22 at 5:36 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs. 9 ounces, and is made up of all sweetness. Truly, he is a gift and a blessing from the Lord.

This is our first child, and it has been quite the adventure learning how to be a parent. I feel like I've learned a lot of new things (yet, I still probably know very little). One of the best things God has taught me so far is the ability to see each small moment as an act of worship.

The first night at home after being in the hospital for two days was ROUGH. Those capital letters are intentional. Jonah would not lie down in his crib without violently screaming. We had slept very little the previous two nights and the frustration was building. But in the midst of that, the Lord reminded me that I am worshiping Him through trying to comfort my newborn child. After this, I started to see these moments as a blessing because it's an opportunity to be faithful to the calling God has placed on my life (although I still have moments of frustration)!

Also, I want to say thank you to everyone who has reached out to congratulate us! This church is amazing, and we are overwhelmed by your warmth and kindness. I hope the Lord continues to teach us all how the small moments in our life are an act of worship to Him!

Congratulations to:

Reeves and Abby Barr on the birth of their son,
Samuel Rafael Barr.
Proud grandparents are Chris and Lisa Barr.

A thank you card has been received from...

Tony and Paula Osbon; Fred and Vickie Benefield
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)



SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, MARCH 28 | 11:45 A.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL
SENIOR ADULTS,
JOIN US FOR LUNCH
FOLLOWED BY A PROGRAM!
LEARN MORE AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)



HOLY WEEK
BIBLE STUDY
APRIL 3-5
JOIN US HOLY WEEK FOR A BIBLE STUDY DURING A LIGHT LUNCH ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AS WE PREPARE FOR EASTER!
Learn more at events.temple.life



the family of **Laura Ogden**,
mother of Steve (Sharon) Bennett,
grandmother of Preslee Roberts;
the family of **Jill Tatum**,
sister of Dan (Edna) Smith.

Mary Martha Women on Mission
Monday, March 13 | 6 p.m. | FLC Snack Area
Speaker: Nita Green/Fellowship Baptist
Hostess: Renae Dickerson
Mission Project: Life Choices



SOUTH ASIA
MISSION TEAM
APRIL 16-25, 2023
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JOHN KING
AT JOHNK@TEMPLE.LIFE



*Emma Shelton for 5 years
of service at Temple.*



MINISTER OF YOUNG ADULTS Jacob Ambrose

The Temple Marriage Conference was incredible! Dr. Bob and Jenni Paul were able to minister to 75 of our couples on Friday night and Saturday morning. The sessions focused on healthy conflict and very practical communication tools. We want to say a BIG “thank you” to Sally and our childcare volunteers, Zach and the Contemporary Band, and Andy and the Media Team for running the weekend with excellence!



Amanda and I were so encouraged by the Missions Banquet! A faithful sending church is crucial to this process, and we feel so blessed by our Temple family. If you would like to stay up-to-date with prayer requests and other needs, please sign up for our email newsletter at boston.temple.life. We do ask for your prayers this weekend, as Amanda and I will be in Boston visiting with our local sending church, the church where I will do my NAMB residency. Please pray for clarity, for direction on schooling for our children, and for the Lord to work out the logistics of moving across the country! I will be preaching at Temple on Sunday, March 19, so I look forward to sharing the Word with you that morning! In the meantime, please reach out if you would like for me to share with your Sunday School class or small group during our remaining months in Ruston. We love you and are thankful for your partnership in the gospel!

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Spring Break WEDNESDAY MARCH 15

<p>EVENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Bible Study · Prayer Meeting · College Activities · Kindergarten & Under Childcare 	<p>CANCELLED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Family Night Meal · Children's Activities · Youth Activities
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Phone: (318) 255-3745 • Fax: (318) 255-0134
 Website: temple.life

Week-at-a-Glance

March 5-12 - Week of Prayer for North American Missions

March 13-17 - Fellowship Hall Closed

March 13-25 - Holy Land Trip

March 15-19 - New Orleans Construction Mission Trip

Sunday, March 12

9 a.m. Blended Worship | Parent/Child Dedication (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life; Contemporary Worship (*Gathering Space*); Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship | Parent/Child Dedication (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life; Sunday School for all ages

4 p.m. - Bible Drill (JPMR)

5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs); Handbell Rehearsal (Rm 213B)

Tuesday, March 14

6 p.m. - Mary Martha Women on Mission (FLC Snack Area)

Wednesday, March 15

6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting | Bible Study (Chapel)

6:45 p.m. - Temple College Freshman Bible Study (Rm 216)

7 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

8 p.m. - Temple College Midweek (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 16

2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 216)

Broadcast Hours: Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream (live.temple.life)
Family Life Center Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
The Journey Place Playscape Hours: Monday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday 2:30-4 p.m.