



pastor's PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

On January 12th, 1962, “Operation Chopper” took place, which was the first helicopter assault of the Vietnam War. It also marked the first time US forces participated in major combat in the Vietnam War.

In time, our military would learn the challenge of fighting the North Vietnamese would be difficult. For example, the Viet Cong dug miles of underground tunnels for protection and for secret transportation. Some were large enough to store tanks. The tunnels were so concealed US soldiers occasionally camped on top of them with no idea the enemy was under their feet.

That is a vivid image of how our spiritual enemy, Satan, battles against believers. He disguises his schemes below the surface, so we are often oblivious that our main struggles are not flesh and blood struggles.

Indeed, believers are born again into a combat zone with a dangerous supernatural enemy – one who has been mortally wounded by the exaltation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, until the consummation, the enemy is still dangerous. That is why Paul warned in Ephesians 4:27 “give no opportunity to the devil.”

Last week and this week, I am discussing some of Satan’s devices/methods. Recently, I was reading Joel Beeke’s *Systematic Theology* and he has a section on Satan’s strategies. Beeke offers ten. Last week, I looked at the first five and today I will consider six through ten.

A sixth scheme of Satan is to use one temptation to drive us toward an imbalanced and sinful overreaction. So he can push believers like a swinging pendulum from complacent presumption over sin (where you do not take it seriously and presume that God will forgive), to despair over sin (where you cannot believe in or receive God’s forgiveness). Or maybe you were raised in an overbearing home where discipline was too severe and your response is to ignore discipline with your own children. The antidote to these extremes is to draw near to God “according to the rule of the Word” (William Spurstowe).

Seventh, Satan may use bad counsel from our own brothers and sisters in Christ or from friends who do not actually know Christ, to discourage us from following Jesus fully. The same Peter who, by spiritual illumination, confessed Jesus to be the Christ also rebuked Jesus and sought to dissuade him from the path of the cross (Matthew 16:16-17, 21-22). Christ said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man” (Matthew 16:23). Of course, Jesus’ cross was one of a kind, final and sufficient. Yet, every Christian is called to “take up his cross daily and follow me (Jesus). For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it” (Luke 9:24). Any counsel that does not encourage cross bearing for Jesus’ sake is from the devil. The antidote to this is to put on the belt of truth (Ephesians 6:14) and to “take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17).

An eighth method Satan employs is to shock us with temptations we never thought would stir us. Peter thought he was ready to go with Christ “both to prison and to death” (Luke 22:33), but Peter did not foresee that Satan would “sift [him] like wheat” (Luke 22:31). Paul asserts, “no temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man” (1 Corinthians 10:13). This means there is no struggle in others’ hearts that we do not share in some dimension or degree. William Spurstowe asserts, “Suspect yourself prone to every sin,” and seek for wise Christians to counsel and pray for you.

The ninth tactic that Beeke gives is surprising but very true. Satan makes strategic retreats so that he may attack again. Christ obeyed his Father and Scripture and in so doing defeated Satan in the wilderness as Satan tempted him with bread, kingdoms, and greatness without a cross (Luke 4:1-12). “And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time” (Luke 4:13). When the devil is quiet, he is reloading. It is never a cease-fire. Spurstowe again, “It is a war without a truce.” So what do we do? “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).

(Pastor's Pen continued)

The tenth and final method Satan uses is false reasoning to burden the believer's conscience with fear and guilt. He is "the accuser" (Revelation 12:10), who both tempts us to sin and then tempts us to despair that God's mercy will not suffice. His accusation arsenal: (1) he causes us to look more at our sin, than our Savior; (2) he causes us to obsess over past sins that cannot be undone; (3) he makes us think our troubles must be punishments; and (4) he makes us think that real Christians could not possibly have the inner struggles/feelings we have.

The positive call to spiritual warfare is to "stand" against the devil's forces while using the "whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:13). To put on the armor of God is to put on Christ by faith in his saving work (Romans 13:12-14) but putting on Christ is more than the act of faith. It is also the work of faith in obedience, just as putting on the new man involves actually practicing the virtues of truth, diligence, love, forgiveness, etc. (Ephesians 4:24-32).

Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian



congregational CARE UPDATE

THURSDAYS AT OLE TIMES COUNTRY BUFFET

I hope to see men of every age on Thursday, March 12th, in the Eagle Room at Ole Times Country Buffet from Noon-1 PM. Bro. Al will interview Buck Baxter, who ministers in some troublesome areas. After "retirement," our Lord gave Buck an exciting ministry to a faraway land of children with great needs. It is an amazing life. He comes back to tell us more of his story of how physical water can turn into living water for a people. Come and bring a friend. It is also a great way to get to know more men in our church. See you soon! Our next meeting will be April 9th, 2026.



cliff's notes ON FAMILY MINISTRY

MEN'S BEAST FEAST 2026

Please mark your calendars for our annual Men's Beast Feast on Friday, April 10th, at 6:00 PM. After a year away, we are excited to gather again for an evening of great food, fun, fellowship, and an encouraging message to strengthen our faith.

SPANISH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

For the past several years, we have hosted a successful Spanish-speaking Sunday School class, ministering to an average of 20-25 people each week. We currently have an opportunity for someone with Spanish-speaking ability to help support this vital ministry. If you are interested in learning more about what this role looks like, please contact me directly.

stay connected

@lakeviewauburn

SENIOR SAINTS MARCH ANNOUNCEMENT

Are you 55 and older? Senior Saints invite you to monthly fellowships, day trips, and lunches. Our next fellowship is Thursday, March 19th, at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Ashley McCrary will share her journey as an ocular melanoma patient, progress in her treatments, and speak on her "Eye on Grace" Foundation. You will not want to miss how God is working through Ashley. Catered lunch is \$10 per person and all lunch proceeds will be donated to the "Eye On Grace" Foundation.

DISCOVER LAKEVIEW CLASS THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Are you interested in joining Lakeview or just finding out more about us? The Discover Lakeview Class is for you. Pastor Brian and Bro. Cliff will walk through what we believe as a church, membership, and our covenant. We need a reservation from you with the number attending for lunch and childcare. The class will follow the morning service in the Fellowship Hall. Please email Laura Gray at lgray@lakeviewbaptist.org to reserve your spot.



the world IN AUBURN

ESL TRAINING | APRIL 24-25

Big news! On April 24th - 25th, we will offer training to teach English as a Second Language. More information to come later, but if you have questions, email Jerry Ferguson at jferguson@lakeviewbaptist.org or Marie Foshee at mfoshee@lakeviewbaptist.org.

fellowship MEAL

SERVING MEALS 4:45 UNTIL 5:35 PM; CLEARING TABLES AT 5:45 PM.

MARCH 11

*SPRING BREAK | NO Fellowship Meal

MARCH 18

Taco Salad Bar, Black Beans, Chips, Peach Cobbler

Fellowship Meals are open to everyone and cost \$5 per person with a \$20 cap per family. Cash or Check only. Menu subject to change.

thank YOU

The family and I would like to thank our church, the Body of Christ, making Dick's Celebration of Life service honoring the Lord. Bro. Al, Bro. Cliff, Pastor Brian, Adam organizing the beautiful choir and orchestra and those who participated, Chad playing the piano, Beth and those who helped her with the luncheon after the service, plus others working behind the scenes, the beautiful peace lily plant, cards sent, visitation and those attending his service — all of it was so overwhelming to us! Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Prov.3:5-6.
Dick Lane's Family

REMEMBER IN prayer

ARBOR LAKE
Nancy Brownfield
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

**THE PHOENIX AT
OPELIKA**
Jerry Clark
Judy Clark
Charles Knause
Jerry Knause

AZALEA PLACE
Barbara Blankenship
Susan Lazenby

AT HOME
Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth
Dennis Clark
Nelda Kennedy
Jane Parker
Janice Powers
Matthew Richardson
Lottie Sides
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango
Ilze West

**BILL NICHOLS STATE
VETERANS HOME**
Ira Hayes

CAMELLIA PLACE
Linda Currie

**CANTERBURY HEALTH
CARE FACILITY**
Dean Baker

EASE HOUSE
Anne Dodge

MONARCH ESTATES
Bill Thornton

SAVE THE DATE FOR MISS PATTY CAKE MARCH 28 | 10 AM



MARCH 8 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE _____ 1,035
EVENING SERVICE _____ 366

MARCH 8 GIVING

BUDGET _____ \$139,440.35
RESTRICTED _____ \$18,517.07

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“ WE BELIEVE THAT GOD’S PURPOSE FOR LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO LOVE THE LORD GOD AND TO EXPRESS THAT LOVE BY MAKING, NURTURING AND EQUIPPING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST IN AUBURN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ”



Lakeview
BAPTIST CHURCH

1600 E Glenn Ave | Auburn, AL 36830



PHONE | 334-887-7094



WEBSITE | www.lakeviewbaptist.org



FAX | 334-826-6512



PRAYER REQUESTS | 334-887-8783