



# WILMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume III, Chapter 1  
January 2023 NEWSLETTER

## Resolved: No More “Stinkin’ Thinkin’ “

As I sit here at my desk on this cold day in December, I contemplate the past year and consider the days ahead. The past year has given me sorrow, sickness, grief, a heavy cross, loss of income, and even the pain of self-pity. Yet, I know that my Lord does not want me to dwell on the negatives of this life. Phil. 4:8 tells me how to think: *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things”*. So, I turn to one of my favorite books - Paul’s Holy Spirit-inspired letter in Romans 8:1-39.

*1There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death..... 35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. **For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Any future event in our lives that we can imagine is answered by God’s Holy Word: there is nothing that shall separate me from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus! You and I have that Love of God because we are in Christ! Let’s praise our wonderful, marvelous, loving God and Lord, Jesus Christ!

Though the Lord does not reveal to us the number of years we have or what trials those years may bring –let us thank Him for what He has given and what He has promised us. Reflect on what we have received, not what we lost....most specially His call of our Salvation for eternity. Our tears are then tears of love, joy and gratitude and not self-pity. I thank my Heavenly Father and His Only Begotten Son for His great, awesome and Eternal Love – which is as real for me today as it was fifty-five years ago – I am surrounded by and in the presence and power of indescribable love, peace, rest, and comfort! No matter the life that God gives us, I cannot possibly love Him as much as He loves me! Romans 5:8 *“But God commendeth His Love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us”*.

Oh, what Love – NOTHING can separate us from the Love of God!

Norman Patterson, Adult Sunday School Teacher

### Upcoming Events

**Saturdays 9 AM – Men’s Prayer Meeting (Luke Faulkner, leader); Visitation 11 AM**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month – Pancakes with the Pastor 9:30 AM**

**January 12 6:30 PM Men’s Bible Study at Patterson’s**

**January 17 6:30 PM Antioch Baptist Institute Winter Classes begin**

**January 22 – Sanctity of Life Sunday**

**January 29 – Faith Promise Sunday**