

NEWS AND VIEWS
MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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I remember the first time I walked to school. My mama had prepared me and I tried to walk exactly where and how she told me. We lived right across the street from the school. I was only to walk on the street long enough to cross it. Then I was to walk on the grass till I got to the door at the end of the building. I was six years old and the school seemed like it was a country mile away. Actually it probably wasn't more than a couple of hundred yards. I remember looking both ways before I crossed the street. And then I looked both ways again. And again. I must be very careful how I walked. That's what Mama said. It's still pretty good advice... whether I'm crossing the street or not.

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16)

There are times when I wish I could have some of my decisions to make over. Making unwise decisions and taking unwise risks can be like a young boy crossing the street. One bad step or poor timing could be disastrous. It's painful trying to recover from some of those mistakes and missteps. It makes one yearn to begin again. The good news is that we *can* begin again. It's what a new life and a new year can reveal to us. We can begin a daily walk-around inspection of our lives with God. When we realize that it is time to get serious about right living, we can ask God to look us over and see if we need a course correction. The Bible says that it takes wisdom to live wisely. I believe we can make the case that it takes a wise man to help to make, and shape, a wise man. And the earlier this process begins in the life of a young man, the better the culture can become.

We are excited about the opportunity Mount Olivet has been given to be a part of this process of training young men to be *biblical* men. We have decided to partner with Iron Academy as they prepare to move onto the campus for the 2017-18 school year. The mission of this school seems to be a good fit with the mission of the church as we both engage in making disciples. Whether you are actively engaged in the week-to-week body life of the church, or have formerly been a part of what the Lord has done at Mount Olivet, please let me extend the invitation to stay connected, or use this occasion to get reconnected. We need all the help we can get... from the Lord, and from His people. It will take a full-fledged Body of Christ commitment to enter into what no doubt will be a great spiritual struggle. The enemy of our souls cannot be pleased with being a part of training young men to be biblical men! As you look around in our culture you see a real dearth of biblical men being trained to be tomorrow's leaders. Praise the Lord that this vision seems to be alive in the hearts of those who lead and teach at Iron Academy.

At 7 pm on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, we will welcome Alan Hahn, the school's founder and CEO, to meet with the church in an informal and informational setting to share his heart about Iron Academy. As I recover from my heart attack and subsequent bypass surgery, I can tell you the news of this partnership seems to be good for my soul. Lately I have been impressed by the Lord that the days are indeed evil, and the time for engaging evil is now. The more purposeful we are in teaching and living the gospel, the more encouraging and invigorating life can be for our congregation, our community, and this pastor's heart.

As they would say at Iron Academy, *Because Biblical Manhood Is Never An Accident*, let's get on board with welcoming Iron Academy on board with God's mission and God's message.

Pray hard, Love more, Give much, and Worship Jesus in 2017! You'll be so glad you did.

Happy New Year Blessings Church,
Pastor Sam