

## Sherman Thatcher Sr. – Testimony

I didn't grow up in a church family but I started attending church on Wednesday evenings with 3 of my best friends when we were in our early teens. Before long I was attending church on Sunday mornings and evenings as well. It was at this church that I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, and I was baptized in the water on the same day as my best friend that I started going to church with. By the time I was sixteen I became close friends with the youth pastor who was also my mentor. I would help him set up for Wednesday Youth nights and other programs that we would do periodically. By the time I was a senior, the youth group had almost outgrown our room. The next year the church and the youth pastor parted ways, and he took another job as a youth pastor in Arizona. One by one my 3 friends and I stopped going to church all together.

I met my wife Holly about a year later. We got married and raised our 2 boys. We would sometimes go to church with some friends or attend a Christmas Eve service but never regularly attended church. After our boys were moved out Holly and I started to drift apart. We never argued, but we never talked about our problems. We then decided that after 26 years of marriage we would get a divorce. Such a sad story. Holly and I began talking again and after a few conversations we realized we had made a mistake, however we waited one day to long and missed the deadline to cancel the divorce. Holly and I remarried that summer. I only bring this story up because I wonder, if we were part of a Church and had talked about our issues and prayed about it, if we would have had to go through that difficult time. In John 16:33 it reads "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." This experience taught us to communicate with each other and never take 1 day for granted.

So how did I get introduced to Lighthouse Baptist. Our Daughter in-law, Mackenzie invited us to attend so we did so. I remember telling Holly afterword that I liked the church and Pastor Josh. Holly and I would come once in a while after that visit, but Holly would go more frequent than I did. At the beginning of the year, I made a commitment to come to church more often and have stuck with it. I'm not exactly sure when it started but I was certain that every other Sermon that Pastor Josh spoke on was meant for me. I say every other because I work every other weekend, so I guess those sermons are for the rest of you. I remember one sermon in particular when Pastor spoke of God calling on you and you don't listen, then God gets louder and louder until he's screaming and pleading for you to listen. I guess you could say I wasn't listening until now because I was ashamed and didn't want to let the Lord down again. When Evangelist Tim Lee came to Lighthouse last month and spoke to us of his struggles, his life and his faith, I recommitted my life to my Lord Jesus Christ. Since that day I have felt a calmness and a sense of peace in my life.

Even though I haven't always deserved it God has blessed me with a good life, a great family. We have 1 precious granddaughter and another one on the way. He has given me countless opportunities to help people in need. I have tried to live life by the values learned from my mother and my early years in the church. I am getting baptized today as a recommitment to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I'll end with this passage, Psalms 105:1 Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. That's how I strived to live my life before I lost my faith and that's how I will live now that I have reclaimed it.