



HAZELGREEN BAPTIST

EXALTING CHRIST

Welcome to Hazelgreen Baptist Church. We are glad you've chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out the welcome card provided by our ushers.

We are an Independent Baptist Church that teach and preaches the Word of God.

Pastor John Reed

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Weekly Services & Meetings

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

SUNDAY SERVICE: 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: 6:30 PM- 7:30 PM

Dates To Remember:

- Missions Conferences, August 29th @ 9:30,
Luncheon @ 12 & August 30th @10 am
 - September 6th, Lord's Supper

Welcome and Announcements for 8/2/2026

Announcements

Congregation Song- "Our Great Savior" pg 17

Special Music-Lisa Ivins

Doxology: Page 815

Offertory Music- Lisa Ivins

Congregation Song- "Holy Holy Holy" pg 3

Sermon-The Study of Romans,

"Humanity as Fallen Sinners" Romans 1-3

Closing song-"Blessed Redeemer" pg 326

Lord's Supper

Communion Song- "Jesus Paid It All" pg 205

Pastor's Corner

Thoughts on when a Pastor and family leaves.

Only around 1% of U.S. Protestant pastors leave the ministry each year, according to Lifeway Research. Most who eventually stepped down never felt their position was in jeopardy. Among former pastors in the study, 4 in 5 (81%) felt sure during most of their ministry at their last church that they could stay as long as they wanted.

"Because social media tends to spread current stories that are far from normative, we run the risk of becoming convinced of falsehoods about pastors today," said Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway Research. "This research study provides uncommon access to a reliable sample from four denominations of those who left the pastorate early, and the most frequent reason for stepping away from the senior pastor role is God's leadership to do so."

The Top Reasons Pastors Leave Ministry

Among pastors from the four denominations who stepped down, 2 in 5 (40%) say their exit was related to a change in their calling. The other leading causes:

- **Conflict in a church** (18%)
- **Burnout** (16%)
- **Family issues** (10%)
- **Personal finances** (10%)

Smaller percentages point to illness (6%), being a poor fit with a church (6%), not finding a church that fit well (4%), denominational issues (4%), or the church closing (3%). Only 1% blame a lack of preparation for the job.

Here is the number that should reframe the conversation. While pastors stepping down over a moral or ethical issue generate the most headlines, only 3% of exits are connected to one. The typical former pastor did not fall. He concluded God was leading him somewhere else. That distinction matters for how churches talk about, and pray for, the leaders who leave. It also echoes the patterns in these common reasons pastors quit too soon.

The **BI vocational** pastor is one of the most unique, gifted, and selfless individuals in the Church. That's because they serve churches that can't compensate them with full-time pay (or they choose to stay in another job to save the church money). They often earn income from other means, like a job in the secular marketplace or private income.¹

Sometimes churches offer a small salary, so the pastor either lives on a meager budget or juggles a second job. Often, however, there's no salary at all—many pastors work full-time to support themselves and their families while carrying all the responsibilities of a staff pastor. And the numbers of churches with **BI vocational** pastors are increasing.

In his article “The Hidden Truth Behind BI vocational Ministry,” Matt Henslee affirms that BI vocational ministry is growing. He

says it's “far more common” than most really understand. In fact, a recent Lifeway Research study found that 26 percent of pastors said they were BI vocational.

But even though more and more men and women consider themselves BI vocational ministers, it's not a new concept.

Biblical support for BI vocational ministry

BI vocational ministry was common up until the 1950s when churches began to encourage and support paid pastors, and many denominations began to prioritize seminary education.² But before that shift, Dennis Bickers says many ministers “served churches as the people moved west, supporting themselves as farmers, store owners, schoolteachers, and many other occupations while also providing pastoral care to their congregations and leading worship on Sunday mornings.”³

However, the “birth” of BI vocational ministry goes back even further to the apostle Paul, who supported himself financially by making tents.⁴ Scripture tells us that when he was in Corinth, Paul lodged with Priscilla and Aquilla, who were also tentmakers ([Acts 18:3](#) see also [1 Cor 9:1–15](#)). The three worked together during the week, earning their living, but every Sabbath, Paul ministered in the synagogue. As a tentmaker, he had a “marketable skill that was needed wherever God might lead him to minister.”⁵

In his book ***The Tentmaking Pastor: The Joy of BI vocational Ministry***, Bickers writes that Paul “continued to make tents as he traveled from city to city” so he would not be a financial burden on those he was ministering to. He reminded the Corinthians ([1 Cor 4:12](#); [2 Cor. 11:7–9](#)) and the Thessalonians of this—that while he ministered in their cities, he “work[ed] with his hands and [was] dependent on no one” ([1 Thess 4:10b–12](#)) and was not “preaching the gospel for money” ([1 Thess 2:9](#); see also [2 Thess 3:8](#))—he provided for his own physical needs.

I pray God's blessing on Kevin and his family