



Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 2

WHAT WE ARE DOING? AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO?

IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME

Welcome to Volume 2 of the FBCN Newsletter or the "current new normal" editions.

This week's reading will be Psalm 78:1-8 (ESV), titled, **Tell the Coming Generation**

A MASKIL¹ OF ASAPH.

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

²I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,

³things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.

⁴We will not hide them from their children,

but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his

might,
and the wonders that he has done.

⁵He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,

⁶that the next generation might know
them,

the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,

⁷ so that they should set their hope in
God

and not forget the works of God,

but keep his commandments;

⁸and that they should not be like their
fathers,

a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not
steadfast,

whose spirit was not faithful to God.

The scripture that will be used by Pastor
Brandon Myers this week is Titus 3.

**Join us for a virtual prayer meeting on
Wednesdays at 7:00pm.**

Wednesday Bible Study ([Click Here](#))

Meeting ID: 899 2251 1230

Password: 409807

One tap mobile

+13126266799

Meeting ID: 899 2251 1230

Password: 409807

¹ WATSON, RICHARD - BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY

a title, or inscription, at the head of several psalms of David and others, in the book of Psalms. Thus Psalms 32 is inscribed, "A Psalm of David, Maschil;" and Psalms 42, "To the chief musician, Maschil, for the sons of

Korah." The word Maschil, in the Hebrew, signifies, "he that instructs;" though some interpreters take it for the name of a musical instrument. Some of the rabbins believe that, in repeating the psalms which have this inscription, it was usual to add an interpretation or explication to them. Others, on the contrary, think it shows the clearness

and perspicuity of such psalms, and that they needed no particular explication. The most probable opinion is, that Maschil means an instructive song.

Our doors were re-opened on of June 14th and we began services by following the guidelines prescribed to keep all members, visitors and our community safe. Visibly we were ready to welcome everyone back in to worship and I'm sure that some of us might still be experiencing deep emotions around the Coronavirus and are not ready to return. We've checked all the boxes but what else can we do? Our most powerful means to appease our fears is prayer. Prayer can be a powerful tool to provide that inner peace. Sometimes we approach prayer as a last resort, but it's important to start with prayer. To pray for your church is one way to build unity when divisions arise. As was said, there may be some who hold strong opinions on when to return to church and worship together as a church family. We need to be sensitive to the opinions embraced by individuals and the best way is through times of concentrated prayer. Psalm 46:10 declares that we need to, *"Be still and know I am God."* Being still will mean that we need to surrender to our God-given authorities and remember that getting back to some sort of normalcy should be approached as a marathon—not a sprint—by keeping a long-term view in mind (e.g., Scripture talks about finishing the race, not being first in the race). Keeping this in mind will bring us to a prayerful place that will lead to deep thought and wisdom.

Getting there will require humility on our part. We need to HUMBLY examine our possible biases, influences, pressures, strengths, and weaknesses that could have a negative effect on our ability to make wise decisions. Humility helps us to be more other-focused. Scripture is clear that humility is essential to service. Jesus instructs his disciples, *"If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."* (Mark 9:35b). He also preaches it publicly, saying, *"The greatest among you shall be your servant."* ¹² *Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."* (Matt. 23:11-12).

Humility will bring peace and calmness to your heart. Furthermore, grounding

yourself in humility increases your ability to hear, understand, and meet the needs of others. People tend to feel the most comfort when they feel their needs are perceived accurately and when they feel others care about them.

Humility will help us find patience for government leaders. Anger over shelter-in-place orders boiled over, with protesters ignoring social distancing guidelines and packing state capitols and streets. We as Christians today have quite a dilemma. As we study to show ourselves approved unto God, (II Tim. 2:15), we find ourselves struggling to cope with the subject of subjection. Especially when we are being continually bombarded by the media with the following,

"Jesus is my vaccine," said one message on a tractor as it drove past the crowded statehouse in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Monday.

"If I get sick, then I am going to bear the consequences of my getting sick," Andy Lyons told [CNN affiliate WTHR](#). "If anybody else gets sick, they bear the consequences of their free choice without government coercion to do so. That's what this is about."

What does the bible say?

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid

God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience." (Romans 13:1-5)

I like the way R.C. Sproul explains it. "Christianity, despite the claims of many of its detractors, is not a 'pie-in-the-sky religion' that leads to escapism or a shirking of responsibilities in this world. Actually, our transformation by the Holy Spirit raises the bar for how we are to relate to others on this side of eternity. Believers must actively love their enemies in a manner that seeks their well-being (Romans 12:14-21). We must show sacrificial hospitality to other Christians (Romans 12: 13). Furthermore, as this passage indicates, the servants of Christ must be model citizens of the civil government.

We have seen that submitting to authorities does not extend to obeying them when they command us to do what God has forbidden or when they forbid us from doing what God has commanded. This qualification is implicit in the words Paul chooses. Paul says "be subject," not "obey without question." To be subject, or to submit, is an act of the will to give oneself over to those in authority; it is not blind obedience. There may be points at which the state's law conflicts with the law of God. On such occasions, the Lord's commands win. *"If the civil magistrate calls us to sin, we must say no."*

Our returning to church, (in person), isn't only going to affect you. We must make decisions out of humility, which in turn will cause us to love unconditionally.

We must follow the biblical call to love our neighbors (Mark 12:31) after deciding how and when to return to church and in-person ministries. We must act with love so we do not inadvertently cause harm.

The majority of people are taking the pandemic very seriously and adopting safety measures. As you begin to re-enter group gatherings, it's important to start from the idea that people are doing the best they can. Respond in grace and love rather than frustration. One of the

most loving things you can do is always keep safety in mind.

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body... Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many... But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” (1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 24-26).

As Paul wrote in Corinthians, as Christ’s body, we suffer together, we rejoice together, and we move forward knowing that we are both different and united in Christ. As you pray about returning to church, remember to be led by love.

Wisdom is key when it comes to believers making personal and corporate decisions. When we seek God for his wisdom and direction it removes the “me” from the equation and we turn our direction to God. We are currently embarking down a winding path that we have not been on before where we can be certain that the information and guidelines will continue to change. Our only confidence is knowing that the deacons and trustees will ensure that the guidelines will be followed and that all precautions will be taken to keep everyone safe so that everyone can concentrate on worship.

We are called to be the light of the world and to become trusted, caring neighbors who prioritize the health and well-being of all people so that our testimony shines brightly.

Wisdom will help us remember that while we all want to be together in person again, there are different factors involved in that decision. When we gather, we want to do so in a way that doesn’t bring unnecessary risk to ourselves or the vulnerable in our

community. Wisdom will help you make well-informed decisions for you and your family during these times of uncertainty.

— *“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

James wrote this letter with instructions on how to deal with the various afflictions of life. Looking at verse 5 James writes that if we lack wisdom, we MUST ask God who will GENEROUSLY provide it. Godly wisdom is essential if we hope to advance in our Christian walk. Its through and only through Godly wisdom that we are empowered us to apply the Scriptures to our lives correctly.

Secondly, since we are so inclined not to receive sufferings with joy (see v. 2), we need wisdom in order to approach our trials properly. When we are wise, we will remember that God is in complete control of even the most difficult circumstances in our lives. We will not be so quick to question His goodness to us or His work of purification through our trials. This is an important theme that runs throughout Scripture, especially throughout the book of Job.

If we lack wisdom, God will certainly give it to us — if we ask for it in faith (v. 6). In fact, He gives generously to all and without reproach (v. 5). This statement reflects James’ intimate knowledge of the goodness of God. However, it does not mean that God will necessarily do all that we ask of Him when we ask in faith. God does promise that He will always give certain things (such as wisdom) if we ask in faith. But there are some

things (for example, physical healing) that we may ask for, but not always receive until we enjoy the new heavens and the new earth.

Verses 6 through 8 elaborate on what it means to ask for wisdom by faith. Asking in faith means that we do not doubt God; rather, it means that we trust absolutely in God and His power. One who inconsistently hopes in the Lord cannot expect to receive much from His consistent hand.

We saw in verses 5&6 of James 1 that the Christian needs to ask, to come before God who can answer our prayers and provide for us what we need. As we return let us not lay aside our most powerful tool, PRAYER. Here are 10 points by Kent Annan, M.Div. is Director of Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership, that I feel are essential to bring before God as we venture back to worship together.

GOD, GRANT US HEALTH AND SAFETY. Preserve our physical and mental health as we seek to serve you faithfully.

GOD, GRANT US HUMILITY. As we seek wise counsel, teach us what it looks like to submit to you.

GOD, GRANT US WISDOM. Show us the paths that you have prepared and teach us to walk in your ways.

GOD, GRANT US COURAGE. Lead us to make decisions that may be unpopular, grant us courage to do what you’ve called and equipped me to do.

GOD, GRANT US PATIENCE. During these stressful times, we pray that all of us in the church family would practice patience with one another.

GOD, GRANT US UNITY. There may be some within our church, of different minds about how to faithfully proceed. Grant us unity so that we might walk together in mind and thought.

GOD, GRANT US RESOURCES. As we as individuals and families continue to adjust to an ever-changing social and financial climate, bless us with all we need to be faithful to you.

GOD, GRANT US REFRESHMENT. Many of us may feel weary, but you are the one who refreshes souls. Protect our church family and renew our hearts.

GOD, GRANT US LOVE AND SUPPORT.

Pray for the individuals, families, and leaders of our church. Give us the time, opportunity, and grace to love and be loved.

GOD, MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE OF WHICH I'M NOT AWARE. We ask that you would meet the needs of others of which we not even aware.

I encourage you to join us virtually, for prayer and study every Wednesday evening at 7:00pm.



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.



PRAYER LIST

- ✓ Continuing Prayers for loss: All the families that have lost loved ones this past year. Remember those who have recently lost loved ones due to COVID 19.
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for physical needs: Rita McManus, Maria Hatfield, Erwin and Elizabeth Lickman, Gloria-Lynn Fernandez, Betty Matson, Ronaldo Claveria, Anne Benliro's co-worker's husband—Oscar with Covid-19.
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for our Ministry Needs: The Pastoral Search Committee, Pulpit Supply, Our Deacons, Financial support
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for our Sister Ministries: BIEM Ministries, Orchard Church, Pastors Davis, Billow, Eddy, Vitel
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for Spiritual Needs: Leonard Hatfield, Carol Pelfrey's family, Daniel Ruehlman, George Bizadellis

✓ Continuing Prayers for: The spread of the Gospel, Our Government, Our Nation, Our Community, Our Neighbors, Our Families, Pray for our members that have lost employment and for those who still have jobs and need to interact with others on a daily basis. Pray for those still working that God will protect. Lift up all our health professionals and their families who are on the front line of this pandemic especially Mylin and Errol Lardizabal and Liza Mitchell. Carmen Pearson – Her younger sister passed away. Pray for Carmen and her family. Carol Riemers family. BJ's Father-in-law contracted COVID-19

If you have prayer requests or updates on your family, we encourage to submit them to the Newsletter email address at the end of this newsletter.

First Baptist Church of Niles
"The Country Church"
7339 Waukegan Rd.
Niles, IL 60714

<http://firstbaptistchurchniles.org> or
<https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchofniles>
or

firstbaptistchurchniles@gmail.com

Newsletter email: nilesbaptistnews@outlook.com