



Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 28

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.

The text of Pastor Myers sermon this week will be from the book of Galatians, Chapter 5 verses 1-15.

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.⁷ You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the

truth? ⁸ This persuasion is not from him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰ I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. ¹¹ But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. ¹² I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

We invite you to 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

Join us for our “Virtual Christmas Party” Saturday, December 19 @ 7:00pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7570102283?pwd=YTIIZUs3M2JiZWdOTEpyaVlobkFiQT09>

Meeting ID: 757 010 2283

Passcode: 4aqPAU

December 16, 2020 Newsletter

Merry Christmas brothers and sisters in Christ and friends of First Baptist Church of Niles!

We hope your family and you can join us for the “untraditional Christmas” fellowship this Saturday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m. (either over zoom online or in person at the church building). If you have not filled out the survey yet please take a couple minutes to do so and thank you in advance!

Lord willing, my wife Kaiti and I will be welcoming our second son Haddon Ray Myers a week from today (Wednesday, December 23)! Please pray for Kaiti and for our son Haddon. Along with praying for their health, Kaiti and I would ask that you pray the Lord would grant Haddon new birth in Christ at a very young age and that Haddon would fear the Lord and believe in God’s grace in Christ alone repenting of his sins and having faith in the Lord Jesus that blesses others to God’s glory. Our son Haddon Ray is named after some wonderful men we love. His first name “Haddon” is after the English pastor Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892) who was known as the “Prince of Preachers.” He is a man who God has used to greatly bless me and millions of other Christians as well. And our son’s middle name “Ray” is after his grandfather—Kaiti’s dad—Ray Marsh. Kaiti’s father has a big heart for others and often evangelizes and seeks to bless and encourage towards

Christ whoever he comes across. Secondarily, my grandfather’s first name was also ‘Ray’ (though my grandpa went by his second name Raymond “Wesley” Carlson mainly). We praise God for these men and pray our son imitates them as they have imitated Christ!

Speaking of Charles Spurgeon, in 1882, he wrote these important words: *“The relationship of the law to myself, and how it condemns me and the relationship of the gospel to myself, and how if I be a believer it justifies me—these are two points which every Christian man should clearly understand.”*

So friend, do you understand these two points—law and gospel? Throughout our study of the book of Galatians we have seen Paul continually point out why God gave the law and what the law’s purpose was. The law was not given to justify anyone before God. If a person really could keep the law he or she would need to keep part of the law but all of the law. And if a person could keep the law and attain righteousness on their own in this way, then Christ died for no purpose (Galatians 2:21). But the law was clearly given by our good and faithful redeemer God for specific purposes—and one of them was not ever supposed to be to justify us.

Spurgeon said these vital words in another sermon about law and gospel: *“He who knows the difference—and always remembers the essential*

difference between law and grace—has grasped the essence of theology. He is not far from understanding the gospel theme in all its ramifications, its outlets and its branches, who can properly tell the difference between law and grace.”

The law says, “do” whereas grace says, “done.” The law directs a person to their ability to keep the law and away from the savior Jesus who kept it. The law apart from God’s grace, Spirit and promise will eventually be oppressive and crush you under guilt and shame. But with a biblical understanding of God’s grace and promise in His Son and His Son’s saving work, and with a biblical understanding of the Holy Spirit, we can appreciate the law of God and His gospel.

In Article 22 of a historic protestant Confession of Faith the Belgic Confession we read these glorious words:

“Therefore we rightly say with Paul that we are justified by faith apart from observing the law (Rom. 3:28). Meanwhile, strictly speaking, we do not mean that faith as such justifies us, for faith is only the instrument by which we embrace Christ our righteousness; He imputes to us all His merits and as many holy works as He has done for us and in our place. Therefore Jesus Christ is our righteousness, and faith is the instrument that keeps us with Him in the communion of all His benefits. When those benefits have become ours, they are more

than sufficient to acquit us of our sins. (Belgic Confession art. 22)

Listen well to what your loved ones say when they share why God will accept them and welcome them to heaven. Is it about what God has done by his grace through his Son? Or is the focus more or even partly on what they do for God through their own works. I would urge you to memorize and ask the classic question of the late pastor D. James Kennedy and to *ask often: "When you stand before God, what would you say if he asks you "why should I accept you in my heavenly kingdom?" Listen closely to your loved one or friends response. Is this person approaching God through the law or through God's grace? A.W. Tozer once said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."*

This Christmas make the most of every opportunity (Ephesians 5:16) by drawing out what is on your friends and loved ones minds about God and their relationship to him.

May you ponder the mystery of the coming of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, treasuring the grace God has given us and the righteousness he has given us only in his beloved and perfectly righteous Son. May 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 be firmly rooted in your heart and mind as you praise God: *"It is because of him (God), you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification*

and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: 'Let him who boasts boasts in the Lord.'"

May the righteous God who has graciously declared you righteous in his sight through His Son, strengthen, encourage and bless you this Christmas! Merry Christmas and God bless!

Soli Deo Gloria!

In and for Christ,

Brandon



PRAYER LIST

- ✓ Continuing Prayers for loss: All the families that have lost loved ones this past year.
 - ✓ Continuing Prayers for physical needs: Rita McManus, Maria Hatfield, Gloria-Lynn Fernandez, Betty Matson, Alex Figueroa, Kurt Pazdra II
 - ✓ Continuing Prayers for our Ministry Needs: Pastor Brandon Kaiti, Eva, Audrey and Patrick Myers, Our Deacons, Continued Financial support
 - ✓ Continuing Prayers for our Sister Ministries: BIEM Ministries, Orchard Church, Pastors Davis, Billow, Eddy, Vitel, Ebi and Esther Perinbaraj, Gaetano and Krista Paolino
 - ✓ 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. Pray for safety for those who are attending schools during the Pandemic especially 'Mikey' Lardizabal. 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. Erwin Lickmann pray for wisdom regarding future living arrangements for Elizabeth and himself. George Sargis. Continue to pray for God's great comfort upon our sister Mylin, her husband Errol, their daughters Mikaelle and Mia as Mylin's Uncle Jun (in the Philippines) very suddenly died. He was only 61 and was head of the family. Jun was far more a father to Mylin and her family and they are all struggling. Pray to God for comfort and strength for Mylin's brother Paul and her mother Carmelita as well in this time. We are grieving with them in this time and rejoice that Jun was/is in Christ. Additionally, Mylin's brother (in the Philippines) is now in the hospital with pneumonia, (Likely Covid) and her mother, Carmelita who lives with Mylin's brother there told Mylin that she has a cough. Join us in pray for God to comfort them greatly and strengthen them.

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