



Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 33

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.

Pastor Myers continues his sermon series on Sunday, January 10 titled “Wisdom for the way-Family.”

REMINDER:

As we seek to live more wisely under the Lordship of Christ and make the most of every opportunity with the precious time he has granted to us, we will train for godliness and learn of wisdom from God for the journey-the way we are on.

The text of the sermon this week will be from the book of Proverbs, Chapter 2, verses 1-22.

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, ² making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; ³ yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, ⁴ if you seek it like silver and search

for it as for hidden treasures, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; ⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, ⁸ guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. ⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; ¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; ¹¹ discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, ¹² delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, ¹³ who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, ¹⁴ who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, ¹⁵ men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways. ¹⁶ So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, ¹⁷ who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant

of her God; ¹⁸ for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed; ¹⁹ none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life. ²⁰ So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. ²¹ For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, ²² but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

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

January 20, 2021 FBC Newsletter

Grace and peace from God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord brothers and sisters and hello friends of FBC!

Praise God for a wonderfully unifying business meeting this past Sunday! We should never take unified meetings lightly but should always be eager to give God praise and honor for such unity especially in such divisive times in our world. Our Lord desires for his church to of one mind (2 Cor. 13:11; Philippians 2:2) and to make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification (Romans 14:19). Tall order but praise God we have His Holy Spirit, His sufficient and clear Word and are under the Lordship of Jesus Christ who is building His church!

As I mentioned here are some practical applications of Proverbs 1:20-33 below:

Wisdom demands repentance and every single genuine Christian knows this and loves repentance. It is not a burden but a joy.

The German pastor Martin Luther once said that the whole life of a Christian is one of repentance.

Prayerfully and humbly reflect on the following question:

- What misguided naïve thoughts did I repent of before the Lord? Are there any other naïve and simple thoughts presently in me that I need to repent of?
- What have I mocked and delighted in mocking that I need to repent of before the Lord?

- When have I played the part of the fool and hated knowledge? What do I need to repent of in this area?

Don't skip past them. Honestly go through them. If you are struggling to come up with in anything in any of these areas, ask your spouse, sibling, best friend or roommate when they have seen you love naïve/simple ways, delighted in mocking or foolishly hated knowledge?

As Christians we of all people ought to be able to say without shame or fear: "Yes I was very foolish and yes I can point to many sins and different follies I have had to repent of."

Wisdom demands repentance because the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:9) and that fear is not something natural to us as fallen rebellious sinners.

During the preaching of the Word shortly after the Lord Jesus Christ had ascended to his seat the right hand of God the father, his disciples often preached repentance:

¹⁹ Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; (Acts 3:19)

And so we also ought to hold on to the great and glorious hope or repentance. This is God's message to us: that in Christ forgives us fully and no longer holds a grudge against these sins—he invites us to repent. And according to God's Holy and true Word, repentance brings refreshment. When a person turns from their sins and to God, their sins

are blotted out and the promise of times of refreshment are guaranteed. In a fallen world, this refreshment or relief will not be fully complete or enjoyed until the Lord Jesus Christ returns and establishes His Kingdom and we are in his presence. But it is an offer that is sure and certain and will only come to those who repent.

Always remember dear Christian when you share the good news of what God has done through the Lord Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection and you hold out the hope of eternal life and invite someone to repent of their sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are offering them the Lord's refreshment---His relief, His revival to a weary sinner's spirit.

In 2021, we must be ever diligent to grow in wisdom friends.

Can you honestly say (and can others clearly see!) in your life that you are among the wise? Remember the wise love knowledge (Prov. 1:22, 1:29), receive counsel and correction (Prov. 1:30-31), choose to fear the Lord (Prov. 1:28-29) and listen to wisdom (Prov. 1:32)?

How might we grow in wisdom in 2021? Here are some suggestions:

Accurately identify those who fear the Lord in your life. Not people who simply profess to fear and love God but really do. In John 14:15 God tells us, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments (John 14:15). This verse assumes that you and I Christian know God's Word. It assumes we have the revealed commands and are able to accurately assess if people are keeping God's

commands and so loving God. Who in your life does this describe?

1. Spend spiritually significant time and fellowship with these people you have identified who fear the Lord. After you have identified those brothers and sisters who fear the Lord, spend time encouraging, building and sharpening one another (Proverbs 27:17; 1 Thess. 5:11). Do not hide your intentions and remember what God says: "The secret of the Lord is for those who fear him and He will make them know His covenant." (Ps. 25:14) Also consider confessing your sins (James 5:16), praying (Acts 12:5), bearing each other's burdens (Gal. 6:10) and reminding each other of Christ's return (1 Thess. 4:8).
2. Do not isolate yourself (Proverbs 18:1) or cut yourself off of biblical instruction and the community of faith. This demonstrates an unwillingness to receive counsel. This isolation pridefully rejects counsel or correction (Prov 16:18). We are challenged by both people's actions and their beliefs (1 Timothy 4:16) and we need them both to help us and strengthen us! Do not think that because you are in a position of authority, blessing or power that you could not fall to sinful pride. Especially if you isolate yourself away from those who fear the Lord you are saying you don't need the body. So many in history

fell after they became powerful. 2 Chronicles 26:16 tells us of Uzziah who "became powerful" but "his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord His God." (2 Chron. 26:26).

There is much to pray for and much we need God to help deliver us from. May we continue to be wise brothers and sisters in Christ. And in 2021 may we faithfully gather under the Lordship of Christ with those who fear the Lord. May we not isolate ourselves but fellowship with each other and humbly receive counsel and correction and listen to wisdom from the Word of God and those who have the Spirit of God and are letting the Word of God reign in their hearts and lives.

In and for Christ,



PRAYER LIST

- ✓ Continuing Prayers for comfort for the families that have lost loved ones this past year. Including the family of Juanita Cariaga. On her recent loss couple weeks ago and of our fellowship in particular—daughter Virginia and her daughters Rebecca and Jackie and Jackie’s son Rauol, and Wilma and Hermie Cariagal and Albert and Imelda Caraiaga as well as other family.
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for physical needs: Gloria-Lynn Fernandez, Kaiti and Haddon Myers, Brenda Covington
- ✓ Pray for our shut-ins Betty Matson, Rita McManus, Maria Hatfield, Nancy Yatabe, Erwin and Elizabeth Lickmann, George Sargis.
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for our Ministry Needs: Pastor Brandon Kaiti, Eva, Audrey, Patrick and Haddon 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 that God will protect. Pray for safety for those who are attending schools during the Pandemic. Lift up all our health professionals and their families who are on the front line of this pandemic. Remember Mylin and her mother and brother as they continue to recover from the effects of COVID 19.

Pastor mentioned three specific areas of prayer for First Baptist Church of Niles for 2021. Remember these in prayer.

- Continue to fortify the congregation by increased community prayer, provide opportunities for growth as disciples of Christ and introduce times of fellowship with respect to current health concerns.
- Fortify the church membership by strengthening the leadership and solidifying the foundational beliefs, i.e. Statement of Faith. Pastor Myers conveyed Pastor McManus’ heart for the congregation citing I Corinthians 1:10, *“I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.”*
- Nurture a heart for evangelism by reaching the local community and our neighbors. Pray for our upcoming sermon series and consider inviting friends and neighbors as we look into the book of Proverbs in our series: **Wisdom for the Way.**

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