



Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 36

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 has started a new series from the Book of Philippians. The title of this weeks sermon is, “How the Gospel Advances.” The scripture passage will be Philippians 1:12-18a.

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.¹⁸ What then?

FBC Newsletter February 10, 2021

Grace and peace from God our Father through Jesus Christ our risen Lord brothers and sisters and a very warm hello to all our First Baptist friends!

“Salvation is to be found in none other save Augustus, and there is no other name given to men in which they can be saved.” Ame—wait WHAT!?! Hopefully you did not “Amen” that just now! But it does sounds awfully close to a verse in God’s Word you may have been thinking of. In Acts 4:12 Peter confesses and proclaims: *“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* This statement would have been viewed as a direct threat to the supreme power of Caesar. One historian, Ethelbert Stauffer notes Caesar Augustus “saw himself as the world’s savior who was to come” and observed that the religious principle of the Roman Empire, from the days of Augustus on, was salvation by Caesar. “Caesar is Lord” was a common belief and refrain

throughout the Roman Empire. Caesar after all represented the Roman Empire and its military which protected and defended all Rome’s people and vanquished her enemies.

But the truth is that Jesus is Lord over all—king of kings and Lord of Lords. In parts of China, I have been told the one book that is not allowed to be preached is the book of Revelation. Why this book? Because Revelation highlights repeatedly and vividly the supremacy and Lordship of Christ over all including all governments and earthly authorities—the communist party knows Jesus is Lord and will judge them and despises this opposition. When you hear “Jesus is Lord” what comes to mind? Perhaps Jesus as king over all. Jesus as ruler and judge. Jesus as the unique and supreme one. Jesus as conqueror of sin, death, the devil and hell. Yes and amen—all these are accurate and connected to Christ’s exclusive Lordship!

The early church of Christ continued to face hostility for this exclusive claim. Dr. Stephen Nichols said, “In the 90s Domitian ruled as emperor over Rome. His cruelty rivaled that of

Nero. He insisted that he be worshiped as a god”¹In our context of the 21st century when you tell someone “Jesus is Lord” it may not have the same instant affect on them as it would have had in the 1st century but make no mistake it will lead to people despising you. Be prepared brother and sister in the risen Lord Jesus. Paganism is on the rise and we need to be prepared as the early church was for what is coming. There is nothing new under the sun which includes persecution (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

Dr. Michael Kruger notes in the second century Christians were regarded as haters and a threat to a stable Roman society.² Why? For helping others and being nice? No, not at all. The church has overwhelmingly never been hated by the world for taking care of the poor, feeding the hungry or clothing the naked. No people in the world hated Christians and still hate Christians because of the message they declare: “Jesus is Lord.” As Christians we are those under His Lordship and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord of all and there is no way we could worship a false god or a political or ruler like Caesar. This is offensive to people who reject Christ alone as unique and supreme.

Kruger again notes: *“Because of their refusal to worship the Roman gods. Christians were insistent that only Jesus was worthy of worship. And to not worship the Roman gods was to run the risk of invoking their displeasure. So, Christians were viewed as reckless and callous to the welfare of their*

fellow man. They were called “haters of humanity” (Tacitus, Annals 15.44).³

Philippians 2 beautifully captures Christ’s Lordship with these words: “being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him *the name that is above every name,*¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus *every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*¹¹ and every tongue confess that *Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Philippians 2:8-11)

The promised suffering servant of Isaiah 53 is our Lord and the Lord to whom all will bow and swear allegiance (Isaiah 45:23). Years ago a mentor pastor friend of mine helpfully and memorably put it this way: “All will bow to the Lord Jesus. The question is this: will you bow today as a willing servant or in the future as a defeated rebel? (Colin Smith)” Indeed! May we proclaim that Jesus is Lord and there is none other this week. And may we live and serve zealously in light of who our Lord—the only Lord is and forever will be!

SAVE THE DATES

All Men of the church are invited to call in to a Zoom Meeting with Pastor beginning on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30pm. The topic of the meeting will be Biblical Eldership and what Scripture reveals about eldership, clearly define what Biblical Eldership is and according to the New Testament concept of eldership **Elders** lead the church, teach and preach the Word, protect the church from false teachers, exhort and admonish the saints in sound doctrine, visit the sick and pray. Providing a path to build Church Leadership.

Call information:

Topic: Biblical Eldership

Time: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 @ 7:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.com>

Meeting ID: 873 1076 7885

Passcode: 269498

To join by audio: 13126266799

Meeting ID: 873 1076 7885

Passcode: 269498

All current and prospective members are encouraged to attend an in-person follow-up discussion around the topics of the current Church Constitution, By-Laws and Statement of Faith. The discussion will be held on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 9:45am downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee plus will be available.

¹ <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/who-lord-christ-or-caesar/>

² <https://www.michaeljkruger.com/are-christians-intolerant-haters-lessons-from-the-church-of-the-second-century/>

³ Ibid



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 in particular—daughter Virginia and her daughters Rebecca and Jackie and Jackie's son Rauol, and Wilma and Hermie Cariagal and Albert and Imelda Cariaga 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. , Nel and Brendas Daughter Nina having surgery the first week in February and for the Nels safety in travelling.

Maria Hatfield update. Pray for Maria's physical healing and she has some injections coming up and pray for her son Joey who had a teenage son who was killed a couple years ago and with COVID and his grief it has been a really hard last year and he is struggling. And Leonard-Maria's husband's salvation!

Betty Matson was in the hospital and has been transferred to the Fairmont Care Rehab Facility: 5061 N Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60630. (773) 604-8112 Pray for Bettys recovery and reach out to her.

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

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

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

1. 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.
2. 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."*
3. Nurture a heart for evangelism by reaching the local community and our neighbors..