



Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 37

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, “Suffering for the Gospel.” The scripture passage will be Philippians 1:19-30.

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with

you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

FBC Newsletter February 17, 2021

Grace and peace from God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord church family and hello friends!

I hope that you are staying warm through this massive pounding of cold and snow we have been hit with this year! Phew...it seems like I have been saying that exact thing /week after week regarding the weather. Our brother Claude told me earlier today that this is the most inches of snow we have had on the ground since the 1970s here in Chicago! Wow!

Incredibly, God has a view on snow. He wants us to share it! I hope after this newsletter you will never look at snow the same way. First, Job 37:6 says of the Lord, For to the snow He says, ‘Fall on the earth,’ (Job 37:6) and certainly this year the Lord has ordained a lot of snow to fall upon us! But why has God dumped all this snow on us exactly? Without trying to exhaustively account for all of our Lord’s actions (a fool’s errand and highly arrogant if taken too far especially without the Bible), God has given us in Scripture clear truth to cling to regarding his perspective on

snow. Don't believe me? Consider the following:

All creation is made for God's glory and ought to produce praise in us (Colossians 1:15-17). Retired pastor and bible teacher John Piper said, 'No one looks out at the Grand Canyon and thinks, 'boy am I awesome.'" No when we stare out at creation, we are often (rightly) humbled and in awe at the Creator and King who made nature to sing his praises and exalt his majesty. But there is even more that is awesome about God's Word and its relationship to creation and nature! In the Bible, God reveals many images drawn from His creation and then fills these images and experiences we have with his creation with meaning He intends to strengthen our faith in Him. God does this for our good and his glory. A few of these most famous images God reveals to us connected to snow and desires to shape our view of snow are as follows:

Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:7)

In this context, David cries out to the Lord for forgiveness and knows with utter confidence what kind of cleansing the Lord will provide. A perfect and complete cleansing. And that is what all sinners need and can only find in the Lord. When you see untouched pure white snow, remember God's power through Christ—when we confess our sins God alone makes us whiter than snow...and will wash us clean one day forevermore...

Another mention of snow is in Isaiah 1:

*"Come now, and let us reason together,"
Says the Lord,
"Though your sins are as scarlet,
They will be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They will be like wool."
(Isaiah 1:18)*

Here again is the connection of snow to our record. Our sins are ugly offenses, stains against us. They are not beautiful and they require cleansing and forgiveness, punishment and reckoning. But the Lord through the prophet Isaiah reminds us that God is a gracious God who sees and knows our sin but also invites us to find a clean slate, a fresh start and full forgiveness that only he can provide.

Though your sins be red as scarlet, they will be as white as snow. As God references His glorious creation He is such a gracious God that he desires for us to come across these different parts of His creation and be reminded of who the truth the Lord would be praised and Christ's awesome work exalted!

Baptist pastor James Smith (1802-1862) memorably spoke of God's salvation in this way:

*It is as great as it is free, for it is . . .
the pardon of all sin, the
communication of all grace,
deliverance from all evil, and
the possession of all good!*

*What can go beyond this? It is
glorious — as glorious as . . .
the free grace of the Father,
the infinite merit of the Son, and
the presence of the Holy Spirit — can
make it!*

*It is as glorious as highest Heaven, with
all its grandeur and magnificence.*

*Reader! Is this salvation yours? It may
be. If it is not — the fault is all your
own, for God still says, "Come!" Come
and be thus saved.*

*Come, guilty souls, and flee away,
Like doves, to Jesus' wounds;
This is the welcome Gospel day,
Wherein free grace abounds!*

*God loved the world, and gave his Son
To drink the cup of wrath
And Jesus says he'll cast out none
who come to him by faith!*

May we never look at the snow the same again friends! It is an invitation to remember God's faithfulness, mercy and love! The snow invites us to recall that we are before the Lord in Christ cleansed and clean. That snow is our God's verdict upon us. In Christ we are not destined for God's wrath as our sin's deserve. Now, by God's grace we are destined for eternal life because God. Why? Because the one who never lies has promised to make us clean and in Christ He has and will bring this to pass once and for all!

May God's good and glorious Word go forth and set apart more and more men and women and boys and girls to eternal life, leading many to repentance of their sins and saving faith in Christ Jesus alone!

*"For as the rain and the snow come
down from heaven,
And do not return there without
watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and
bread to the eater;
(Isaiah 55:10)*

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 in particular—daughter Virginia and her daughters Rebecca and Jackie and Jackie's son Rauol, and Wilma and Hermie Cariagal and Albert and Imelda Caraiaaga 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.

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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..

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 consecutive Sundays beginning March 14, 2021 at 9:45am downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee plus will be available.

Chili Fellowship. Saturday March 20 @ 3:00pm More information to follow.