



WHAT WE ARE DOING? AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO?

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, “Christ Our Servant-Savior and Lord.” The scripture passage will be Philippians 2:1-11.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being

born in the likeness of men.⁸ And 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.

FBC Newsletter February 24, 2021

Grace and peace from God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord brothers and sisters in Christ and friends!

What or who do you live for? How would finish this sentence: “For me to live is_____”. What did you say? Be as honest as you can about how you finished this sentence!

On Sunday, our brother in Christ and friend Scott faithfully, clearly and compellingly preached from God’s Holy Word and asked us the question—“How do you finish the sentence: for me to live is_____”

Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of Niles

Volume 2/Issue 38

IN THIS ISSUE

For the apostle Paul the answer was clear: For me to live is Christ. Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus the promised, crucified, buried, risen, reigning, interceding one day returning Lord.

Paul had in mind the true and biblical Jesus Christ. But so many people in our day claim allegiance to Christ but clearly do not know him. Or even more disturbingly, know another Christ—which is not a Christ but a demon and an anti-Christ. Often people weaponize Jesus to advance their sinful agenda and support themselves and their beliefs. They proudly put out the contextual-less “judge not” and “love your neighbor” passages at the exclusion of and often against what the Lord said in His holy Word.

One recent example I saw of this is was when a well-known public figure tried cleverly say Jesus never spoke about certain (now) publicly acceptable but shameful sexually immoral sins.

The logic goes something like this:

Jesus never spoke about or condemned _____ (fill in the

behavior/sin/etc.)____ and therefore should you Christians should shut up as well or support this behavior, sin, etc.

First, this is illogical and irrational. Think about it: if Jesus alleged silence=endorsement using this logic one could say that Jesus—at least as recorded in the gospels accounts—did not address a host of other obvious sins (wife beating, rape, etc.). That is obviously foolish and an irrational illogical leap. It is completely unwarranted and lacks integrity as an argument.

But the even larger concern with this kind of logic and thinking is that it confuses who Jesus is. Who is Jesus? He is the Lord incarnate. The Son of the living God. The second person of triune Godhead. Truly God and truly man. Consider the following verses:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

In John 14:9 the Lord Jesus said: “*The one who has seen me has seen the Father.*”

This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. (John 5:18)

I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior (Isaiah 43:11)

for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

Christ, who is God over all, praised forever. Amen. (Romans 9:5)

One theologian helpfully put it this way: “*There is no hidden God...no God*

behind the back of the Lord Jesus.”
(T.F. Torrance)

So when it comes to who God is look to Jesus. Look to the Word of God that testifies to Jesus. The Word of God faithfully: promised, revealed, records, fulfilled and by the Holy Spirit speaks to us regarding who Jesus is. We do not have to guess. We do not have exhaustive truth about who God is, but we have true truth. God does not mislead us. So when the Lord tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16-17: ¹⁶*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

We are to think of Jesus. Jesus the Lord spoke Genesis to Revelation. All Scripture is breathed out by Him. He is the faithful Son of God who does not lie. Together in total unison and complete harmony with our loving Father and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus speaks to us in Scripture. He has spoken clearly concerning what sin is and what God requires. Jesus has come to rescue and save sinners but woe to the man or woman who twists God’s Word to tell someone they do not have to repent of certain sins and that God will bless what in fact he will curse and will judge. Though the quote is likely not from Luther it has been attributed to him and is relevant:

“If I profess with loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except that little point which the world and the Devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the

soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefield besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.” (Not a Luther quote though consistent with what he would have believed)

Let us be true and unashamed Christians—Christians who with the Holy Spirit’s help--faithfully, lovingly, boldly and humbly tell the truth about God and bear witness to His good news. May we declare the goodness and forgiveness of God in Christ to a lost and rebellious world that we were once a part of. Let us never forget they are blinded and deceived and have rejected the true risen reigning Lord Jesus—the God who breathed out all Scripture and who will come to judge the living and the dead—in favor of a Jesus who lets them have their sin without repentance. And may it please our gracious triune God to gloriously draw, convert, convict and save many out of the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of the beloved Son! May we agree with Paul—for us to live is Christ and to die is gain! Soli Deo Gloria!

⁹*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)*

In and for Christ,



PRAYER LIST

- ✓ Continuing Prayers for comfort for the families that have lost loved ones this past year. Including the families of Juanita Cariaga, Brenda Covington and Carmen Pearson
- ✓ 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 recovering from surgery.

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

Photos for the “new” Church Directory will be taken following the February 28 morning service.

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, Mach 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 Be sure to sign-up.