



# Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of  
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 41

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, “Dogs and Death” The scripture passage will be Philippians 3:11- 4:1

<sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I May attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained. <sup>17</sup> Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on

those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

### FBC Newsletter March 17, 2021

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

This week’s newsletter will unpack more of what you heard Sunday in the sermon about false teachers. We read Paul three times pointing to the Judiazers false teachers in this verse:

*Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. (Philippians 3:2)*

We as part of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ have real opponents because we belong to and represent our Lord. A disciple is not above his master (Matthew 10:24)

Always remember that we are not home yet brothers and sisters in Christ. By God’s grace in Christ Jesus we do have eternal peace with God but a war rages all around us and within us in this fallen and rebellious world. We are the church militant which is why we are called to battle in Scripture (Ephesians 6). Our enemies—the sinful world, the old self/flesh, the devil and false teachers and false teaching are real

and we must not naively roam earth as those who ignore it.

Here is how C.S. Lewis put it:

*There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan. ~ C.S. Lewis*

Indeed. And apart from God's grace, His Spirit who indwells us and His Son who redeemed us we would still be enslaved to sin and following the prince of the power of the air—the spirit now at work in the sons of disobedience—aka Satan (Ephesians 2). We dare not simply trust in ourselves or assume we are always doing what is right or wise especially if it is only in our own eyes.

*Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. (Proverbs 26:12)*

But in a God-honoring wise manner, how can we wisely engage with those who reject Christianity but also those who are false teachers? First recognize we do not have to enter every fight and that would be foolish to do so.

*Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears. (Proverbs 26:17)*

But we are called to be wise and discerning and honor God with all that we honor in light of the fact that we are his ambassadors and we must contend for the faith (Jude 3).

Determine what the person is actually saying. Strive to represent them accurately and fairly but be aware words are not always being defined or used the same way by you as them. For example today we will hear something like “social

justice” and while it sounds good it often means something like “expanding an already bloated and irresponsible government and trusting officials to make massive moral decisions on behalf of others.” Yes those who use the term social justice often mean well but they do not connect good intentions to sound economics or biblically faithful application.

The late Warren Wiersbe of Moody very memorably and helpfully quipped with cults, “They [cults] often use the bible’s vocabulary but not the bible’s dictionary.” This also applies to false teachers within the church. What are they saying and what do they mean?

[Apologist, author and speaker Greg Koukl helpfully has encouraged the use of questions like: “What do you mean when you say \(in this case\) social justice?” prayerfully train yourself to ask that question: “What do you mean by \\_\\_\\_\\_\\_” and then as a follow.](#) This will uncover what the person has in mind when they make a claim. You will be surprised by how very often people do not have well grounded reasons for believing what they do and this is an opportunity for you to lovingly press them.

Another late evangelical leader who dealt with many false teachers was Walter Martin. He wrote in his phenomenal book Kingdom Cults of understanding “cultspeak” and [Dr. Walter Martin’s book “Kingdom of the Cults” is worth owning and is cheap as well! But here is a free pdf I found online.](#) Again though hard copy would be well worth it! Here is an old [interview Dr. Martin did in the 1980s](#) you may be edified by.

When getting to know someone be patient. Hear what they have to say. Don’t assume the worst but also follow the helpful counsel of the late President Ronald Reagan: “Trust but verify.”

How does this person live? If you follow them on social media what do they post and like? What do they laugh at? How do they treat their spouse and children? What do they think about the church of Jesus Christ? Do they seek to divide the church or bring us together under the Lordship of Christ and with a mind to God’s Holy Word primarily?

[This website Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry details some ancient \(and sadly still with us today\) heresies that are popular in summary form—very helpful.](#) Often they have to do with authority, Jesus Christ and God’s nature.

This [broadcast/podcast Cultish does deep dives into cults.](#) Very helpful but also very in depth.

In all things let us not be as consumed with the errors of our neighbors as much as we are the truth of God believed in our hearts. One of the best ways to identify a counterfeit is to know well the true nature of a bill. So we as Christians should strive to know, understand, defend and share the truth about our crucified, risen, reigning and one day returning righteous Lord Jesus.

The biggest attacks today are on the character of God, the Bible and Christ Jesus. Specifically subtle assaults come on the sufficiency, unique supremely authoritative Word of God and the unique necessary nature of redemption through Christ perfect work (life, death on the cross for sin,

resurrection, intercession) and person.

*<sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of <sup>ε</sup>the surpassing worth of <sup>δ</sup>knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I <sup>ε</sup>have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having <sup>ι</sup>a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but<sup>α</sup> that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup><sup>β</sup> that I may know him and <sup>ι</sup>the power of his resurrection, and <sup>ι</sup>may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may <sup>κ</sup>attain the resurrection from the dead.  
(Philippians 3:8-11)*

Much more could be said on these matters for now think on these things to God's glory. Our neighbors need us to be sharp, active and ready to engage. God is pleased by when his people are sharp tools in his hands and so to be sharpened brothers and sister! Stay humble and deeply connected to God's Holy Word. Stay prayerful and keep growing in your understanding, witnessing, engaging in spiritually significant conversations and striving to bear witness for Christ! May it please God to use our church family to be more faithful ambassadors for Christ in 2021 and for many years to come!

*Whoever has the Son has life;  
whoever does not have the Son of  
God does not have life. 1 John 5:12-  
13*

In and for Christ,

Brandon



## 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. Nel and Brendas Daughter Nina recovering from surgery.

**PRAISE:** Betty Matson is back home

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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

### The Chili Fellowship is this Saturday @ 3:00pm

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.

Church Spring Cleaning is scheduled for Saturday, March 27 @ 8:30am. Be prepared to put in a few hours of "enjoyable" work as we get the building ready for Easter and the upcoming wedding of Gene and Kimberly on Saturday, April 10 the church family is invited to this joyous occasion.