



Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 43

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.

The title of this week’s sermon is, “Hope for God’s People: Vindication and Resurrection” The scripture passage will be Isaiah 26.

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks. ²Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. ³You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. ⁴Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. ⁵For he has humbled the inhabitants of the height, the lofty city. He lays it low, lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust. ⁶The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy.” ⁷The path of the righteous is level; you make level the way of the righteous. ⁸In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for you;

your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul. ⁹My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. ¹⁰If favor is shown to the wicked, he does not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness he deals corruptly and does not see the majesty of the LORD. ¹¹O LORD, your hand is lifted up, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people, and be ashamed. Let the fire for your adversaries consume them. ¹²O LORD, you will ordain peace for us, for you have indeed done for us all our works. ¹³O LORD our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us, but your name alone we bring to remembrance. ¹⁴They are dead, they will not live; they are shades, they will not arise; to that end you have visited them with destruction and wiped out all remembrance of them. ¹⁵But you have increased the nation, O LORD, you have increased the nation; you are glorified; you have enlarged all the borders of the land.

¹⁶O LORD, in distress they sought you; they poured out a whispered prayer when your discipline was upon them. ¹⁷Like a pregnant woman who writhes and cries out in her pangs when she is near to giving birth, so were we because of you, O LORD; ¹⁸we were pregnant, we writhed, but we have given birth to wind. We have accomplished no deliverance in the earth, and the inhabitants of the world have not fallen. ¹⁹Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead. ²⁰Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by. ²¹For behold, the LORD is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.

FBC Newsletter March 31, 2021

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

Years ago I heard [Voddie Baucham](#) share the keys to family worship are simple: Read, Sing, Pray. Doing these three faithfully are surely essential for serious discipleship. They will help us no matter our age or walk with the Lord and in light of this, below are three specific suggestions to help you meditate more:

Meditate on God's Holy Word by committing who He is and what He promises to memory:

Meditation is "a necessary duty, without which all graces would languish and wither. Faith is lean and ready to starve unless it be fed with continual meditation on the promises (Psalm 119:92)." –Thomas Manton (1620-1677)

What are you thinking deeply about and meditating on today? Is what you are thinking about today or even right now God's Word? Or at least in agreement with and drawn from God's Word? J.C. Ryle once said that when a man becomes a Christian he has peace with God but battles rage almost everywhere else. This surely includes the battle for our minds. A serious daily battle between the old self/old sinful/fallen flesh man and our new, Spirit-born natures in Christ. I would strongly encourage you to pick up and read the book I mentioned Sunday: [God's Battle Plan For the Mind: The Puritan Practice of Biblical Meditation](#). This gem of a work helps us value and more deeply prioritize the easily

neglected but vitally important spiritual discipline—see if your public library has it for free (it may!).

Consider meditating on God's perfect character and promises—[here is one excellent list of 65 truths about God we just looked at Sunday before the worship service gathering](#). A few of the ones off the list I just skimmed and meditated on: God abounds in goodness, God does not change, God hates sin, God is faithful, God is jealous, God is our helper.

Consider memorizing Scripture together as a family, with your roommate or with another brother or sister in Christ. [Fighter Verses is an excellent fun way to memorize and meditate](#).

Sing the actual words of Scripture together with others especially the younger:

Another way to meditate on God more especially with your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews is to sing and meditate with the aid of these excellent, fun and straight Bible only songs. The following are from Philippians (just click the verse and it will take you to the songs):

[Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. \(Phil. 4:8\)](#)

[do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with](#)

[thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.](#)

[\(Philippians 4:6-7\)](#)

¹² [I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.](#) ¹³ [I can do all things through him who strengthens me.](#)

[Philippians 4:12-13](#)

Try and pithily remind yourself of the hope in Jesus alone and live to make his glory known:

Person 1: He is risen!

Person 2: He is risen indeed just as He said he would!

This was a common Easter time responsive back and forth around my home growing up (and no doubt many other Christian homes!). Praise God for Jesus promised resurrection ([Psalm 16:10; John 2:19-22](#)) and hope found in Him alone ([John 3:36](#)).

Years ago I sought to get another responsive phrase about Jesus to else to stick:

Person 1: He came!

Person 2: And He is coming again! Just as He said He would!

Maybe we will try both of these glorious biblical phrases this Sunday!

At our home we will say to our children: *"You're good!"* and they will respond with: *"No! Only God is good! I'm a sinner, I need Jesus!"*

Do you really believe that Jesus offers the only eternally lasting rescue, hope and refuge? Do you really believe that every image bearing man or woman or boy or girl needs Christ and will stand before God soon giving an account of their life and potentially facing the wrath of a Holy God apart from Jesus Christ?

Because the Word of God clearly teaches this friends. And so must we believe it and live accordingly without shame ([1 Thessalonians 5:9-10](#))!

Commit God's Holy Word to memory and do not neglect serious meditation as you faithfully sing, read and pray! Soli Deo Gloria!

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, 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. The persecuted in Myanmar. The persecuted Church around the world.

UPDATES: Brenda Covington recently lost her second sister and brother-in-law as well as her and Claude's niece and their daughter with shingles.

Carmen and Lee just lost their son-in-law Matt. Keep Lee, Carmen and Matt's wife Laura in your prayers.

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

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

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 for approximately nine weeks. 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: Wednesdays @ 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 for approximately six weeks, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee plus will be available.

The congregation is invited to attend the wedding ceremony of Gene and Kimberly, Saturday, April 10 @ 3:00pm

In closing, during our “spring cleaning” last Saturday, we came across a number of pictures from the history of Niles Baptist that I wanted to share.



No, this is not a picture of the Puritans first Easter Service nor is it Pastor McManus’ inaugural service at First Baptist of Niles in 1967. (However, that is Pastor and Rita McManus welcoming the congregation after a “special” Sunday Service.)



Can you guess who this is? (Hint: Her husband is a deacon.)