



Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 44

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, “The Lord Gives and Takes Away” The scripture passage will be Ruth 1.

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. ⁶Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had

visited his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me.” ¹⁴Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her

gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” ¹⁸And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. ¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?” ²²So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

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

As we seek to honor the Lord in our day we must firmly committed to the truth—after all Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). We cannot bear false witness and we must not pretend that our love is actually pleasing to the Lord if our love does not rejoice with the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6). Many people have been manipulated over the last year in repeated grotesque ways by influencers and authorities. This has tragically resulted in (or exposed) godless fear of one another and our neighbors who need Christ. So many self-professing Christians embraced or are still embracing a Christless, costless near eternally worthless form of living. We must reject it brothers and sisters. How?

1. Resolve to keep the risen Lord Jesus Christ, His eternally hope-filled and unique Word central. Above all what we have in common sister and brother in Christ is Christ. We have been chosen, adopted and forgiven by our heavenly Father and Creator King. We have been purchased and redeemed by the perfect blood of Jesus Christ the Son in whom we are now united. And we have been convicted by, guided by and filled with the Holy Spirit. We are justified together, set apart now and being sanctified by the Word (John 17:17) and share in a future inheritance (1 Peter 1). These are the most vital things we share by far!
2. Resolve to faithfully and fully fellowship with the body—seeking to encourage, serve and

assume the best about fellow believers. Fellowship according to God's Word is vital for the spiritual health of true Christians (Hebrews 10:19-24; Psalm 122:1) but in the last year it has been cut off altogether or severely limited. People have been encouraged to seek their own desires and now find justification to elevate secondary personal preferences above Christ and His Holy and perfect Word. Sadly these newfound secondary preferences have been elevated while other more pressing and real needs of others—eternally lost without Christ or in need of the good works of Christ's church have been ignored (Proverbs 18:1; 1 John 3:19; Titus 2:14; Rom. 13:8-10; Eph. 2:10; Galatians 6:1,10). The idolatry of safetyism has reared its ugly head and excused Christians from full and faithful Christian fellowship. This idolatry denies this is God's Word—he is sovereign and denies this is also a rebellious/fallen/death plagued world. This idolatry also denies the fact that there is a risen Lord Jesus Christ. This is not a call to be reckless or unwise but a call to remember who our King is and what He has instructed.

3. Resolve to discerningly stay informed, humble and open to correction. We reject blind faith and serve a God who has spoken and is real. He is the God of truth. And we honor him by recognizing that “whoever states his case first seems right, until another comes and cross examines him” (Proverbs 18:17). We honor God by not being dogmatic where God is not dogmatic according to His Word. We know in our day there are many opinions thrust at us as authoritative who have “the

truth”. And there is an incentive for us to remain panicked and worried and triggered and skeptical of one another and any claim that contradicts what we have heard or believed or assumed to be true. Let us be a group of believers that is unafraid to lovingly challenge one another and speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25). We must not idolize knowledge or our opinion and must recognize we are members one of another (Romans 12:4-5) who need to protect and care for one another. We must also realize we are finite and fallible and not one of us is not in need of correction at regular points in our lives.

Praise God the COVID reported death count was the fewest since March 2020 this weekend and continue to pray for many millions afflicted by both the virus and the reaction to the virus.

Beginning this week Lord willing, we will begin a new sermon series through the book of Ruth.

My wife found a podcast that tells the Bible story of the book of Ruth ([click here to listen](#)). Obviously exercise discernment but the few episodes we listened to were very engaging and seemed to stick very closely to the biblical account. Pray God is glorified!

May Christ be praised!

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, 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.

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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 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