



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

January 10, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor

A few years back we did verse-by-verse study of the Book of 1 Peter together. We found that the apostle Peter was writing a letter to fellow believers, in the middle of the 1st century, who were experiencing extreme persecution at the hands of a pagan culture, much like Christians are facing today in many parts of the world. In the midst of all that had been happening, Peter advocated HOLY LIVING. At a closer look of this short letter, we see at least seven times the word "holy" is used in reference to a believer's "conduct" or "behavior." The word "holy" implies being set apart, being consecrated to God. Literally it means...a person had to be free from impurity, having no hint of moral pollution or spiritual defilement, as well as be free from anything that would offend a holy God. These strong words should continue to challenge us as believers here in the 2021 century.

As we begin a new year together, let's be mindful of the words of the apostle Peter, *"But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct."* (1 Peter 1:15 ESV) How can imperfect, fallen man live up to this command? Here's a quick answer, "SANCTIFICATION", which is not just a word, but a process by which we are all made "holy" through the aid of the Holy Spirit. The apostle Peter wrote to the believers in exile and said, *"according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood."* (1 Peter 1:2 ESV). Later he wrote, *"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."* (1 Peter 2:11 ESV). At the end of this short letter he wrote, *"⁹ Resist him [Satan], firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (1 Peter 5:9-10 ESV)*

As we begin 2021, I would like us to consider the Apostle Peter's four-fold instruction as he admonishes his readers to live "holy lives": First, he says, holy living should be OUR GOAL because God commands us. Second, holy living should be our TRUE IDENTITY as a Christian, he said, *"¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. (1 Peter 2:10-11 ESV)*. Thirdly, holy living serves an EVANGELISTIC PURPOSE, again Peter wrote, *"⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a*

people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light...¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:9, 12 ESV), and finally he said, holy living will allow us to stand before God and give a PROPER ACCOUNT for the way we lived (Romans 14:12).

The Scriptures are clear, we are commanded *"... to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."* (Ephesians 4:1 ESV). Let's make 2021 be the best ever for our spiritual growth by heading the apostle Peter's call for holy living:

Holy living should...be OUR GOAL, our TRUE IDENTITY, serve as an EVANGELISTIC PURPOSE, and allow us to stand before God and give a PROPER ACCOUNT.

The choice is yours...if the Lord tarries, what manner of walk will you choose to live in 2021?

Weekly Goal: \$8,562

Giving This Week: \$15,958

Giving

Many have already asked how our church will continue to meet our financial obligations (utilities, insurance, payroll, and missionary support) during this challenging season. You may provide in your tithes and offerings by one of the following methods:

- If using the U.S. Postal system: Make checks out to **"Milan Baptist Church"** and mail to **P.O. Box 147 Milan, MI 48160**. Submit [online](#). Instructions and a link to the secure online system can be found at www.milanbaptist.org. Contact the church if you have any questions.

Human Sanctity of Life

We will be celebrating Human Sanctity of Life Day on January 17. As we did last year, we are looking to make a donation to Family Life Services in honor of this day. We are taking the following donations:

1. Monetary (please indicate Family Life Services on your envelopes).
2. Wipes
3. Diapers (size 3 or larger)

All donations can be brought to the MAC and placed in the bins available January 3.



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Prayer Requests

- Prayer for our nation during a time of racial tension and for our elected officials during this unprecedented time.
- All those who have lost loved ones
- Church leadership as they make decisions moving forward
- Please be in prayer for Gary Cox, friend of Keuhn and Hasselbring families, surgery was successful but continue prayer for upcoming treatments
- Pray with Kanna and Julie Vladaj for baby daughter Nora, home now but still struggling with some digestive issues
- Emma Jane Hall, in isolation recovering from COVID
- Cami Ratliff, recovering from knee surgery
- Arthur Avery, recovering at Senior Solutions in Saline
- Jamie Scott, tumor growing on her pituitary gland. Going through tests to see which type, could lose her eye sight
- Lee Hayward, in a care facility
- Noah’s cousin, Tiffany, awaiting next steps
- Cliff Kuhn, healing of his incision (continue to heal well)
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer (PRAISE: Carolyn’s cancer in liver is gone)
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenchuk, Stralnic, Van Orman, & Waidleys
- Our MBC Shut-Ins: Shirley Krass (Cambrian), Emma Jane Hall (Senior Solutions), & Alice Ackerman (daughters home)

Ministries/Services

We will be LIVE and in-person at 10 a.m.

Other Ministry Meetings:

- Church Library (Sundays & Wednesdays) following services
- SeniorLife Community Bible Study, Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. (Worship Only)
- Call 2 Prayer, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook
- Men’s Bible Study, Saturdays at 8:00 a.m.
- Prayer Gathering, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
- Kids Worship (K-Grade 6), Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (Pre-K Coming soon!)



HEBREWS 4:12

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

“ONLY 1 IN 6 ADULTS READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY.”

The Word of God is living and effective. It has the power to convict, shape, and inspire us—if we read it. But so often, obstacles like confusion and busyness keep us from reading the Bible and experiencing the life-transforming power of God through it.

Through the Bible in a Year		
Daily Bible Reading Assignment		
Date	Old Testament	New Testament
January 10	Genesis 25-26	Matthew 8:1-17
January 11	Genesis 27-28	Matthew 8:18-34
January 12	Genesis 29-30	Matthew 9:1-17
January 13	Genesis 31-32	Matthew 9:18-38
January 14	Genesis 33-35	Matthew 10:1-20
January 15	Genesis 36-38	Matthew 10:21-42
January 16	Genesis 39-40	Matthew 11
January 17	Genesis 41-42	Matthew 12:1-23

Birthdays	Anniversaries
January 12 – Chuck Bushart & Mark McDonald	January 11 – Mark & Kristin Beck
January 15 – Clark Barton V	January 13 – Doug & Grace Swaney