



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

February 28, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor

In Ephesians 5:1 the apostle Paul calls for all Christians to “*be imitators of God*”. That means that we have been commanded to imitate Christ in every area of our lives. Paul outlined this walk in at least three ways: The *first way* is to WALK IN HIS LOVE vv.1-7. He presented a contrast between TRUE and COUNTERFEIT forms of “love.” He reminds us that we have a reliable PATTERN to go by, the Lord Jesus Christ. The *second way* that we are to imitate Christ is to WALK IN THE LIGHT vv.8-14. Here the apostle changes the metaphor to a CONTRAST between LIGHT and DARKNESS to make his point. It’s a contrast of the NOBILITY to which believers have been advanced from (the NEW MAN) and the DEPRAVITY from which believers have been raised (the OLD MAN). And the *third way*, we are to WALK IN WISDOM vv.15-17, “*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.*” These first 17 verses of Ephesians 5 are critical verses for us to grasp, if we are to be an authentic follower of Christ.

I would like us to focus our attention the next two weeks on Paul’s admonishment to WALK IN THE LIGHT. Notice first his INSTRUCTIONS, where he gives his REASON, because true Christians have been changed v.8a “*For at one time you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.*” He follows with a CHARGE, to “*walk as children of light . . . and try to discern what pleasing to the Lord*” vv.8b-10. In v.9 we find the phrase “*the fruit of light,*” which is the EVIDENCE of *new life*. This is what godly character looks like: He uses three words: first the word “*good,*” which pertains to our relationships with others; next the word “*right,*” which pertains to the quality of being right and just (our integrity); and finally the word “*true,*” which pertains to honesty and trustworthiness. Micah 6:8 ESV says, “*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*” 2 Corinthians 5:9 ESV says, “*So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.*” Kent Hughes said, “When the light of Jesus is refracted through the prisms of our lives, there will be sanctifying shades of life for others to see.” Jesus said, in the Sermon on the Mount, “*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*” (Matthew 5:14 ESV). Here’s what I’ve learned, the more luminous our integrity (our goodness, righteousness, and truth) the brighter the light. For this to work, we need to spend time alone with Jesus, who is known as “*the Light,*” in prayer exposing our lives to his presence so that His image, His character, is burnt into ours. We also, need to open our Bibles and allow God’s truth to illumine our hearts with goodness, righteousness and truth (Philippians 4:8). Next time we plan to look at our RESPONSIBILITY, as Christians, to WALK IN THE LIGHT.

A Nugget from Noah (for Parents) 2/28/21



“#4...We wake up before our devices do, and they ‘go to bed’ before we do.”

When I was a kid, I loved to read before bed. I have many memories of using my obnoxious industrial lamp (you’d have to see it to understand), staying up late reading some new adventure...with many nights of hearing “Go to bed, Noah!”.....and then came the smartphone; a digital tumor that—ironically—is not dependent upon us, but we seem to be so dependent upon it. As if we couldn’t get enough of it in our daily lives, we invite our technology to be the means of our bedtime and morning routines.

I felt like for this chapter, Andy Crouch was grabbing my shoulders, looking me in the eye, and shaking me while he shared his thoughts on the above principle. Granted, even he admits that this is one of the commitments that his family has struggled to commit to the most, but I believe the principle is still massively important (121-22). His premise is rather simple: we as humans desperately need proper sleep, technology in the bed(room) hinders that quality and quantity of our sleep; therefore, technology needs to be removed by putting it away (far away) before bedtime and starting our day before running to it (111-18). That’s it, but let’s take a moment to do some soul searching here...

- *How many of us go to bed with our cell phones next to us?*
- *How many of us have TVs or computers in our room?*
- *How many of us impulsively mess around on our phones before bed?*
- *Do we know when our teens go to bed, and if they have technology in their room, what they are doing on that technology in the late hours of the night (sobering)?*
- *What do we do when we first wake up?*

“But Noah, I need this to calm down!” No you don’t. “What if I get an important email/message?” It can wait. “My kid could be doing worse things.” True, but they also could be doing better things. “I don’t think having/doing this is hurting anybody.” It might not be, but at the end of the day, is it really helping? “To make the kind of changes you’re suggesting would require A LOT of work in the family.” Are they worth it to you? “My kids won’t be happy.” Again, are they worth it to you? The book of 1 John has some serious things to say about the things of this world—things that I would argue are made readily available by our technology. He says that the “**desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the pride of life**” are from a passing world that holds no value compared to the Father’s eternally good will (2:16-17). Give me thirty minutes, and I could give you quite a laundry list of temptations and sins that exist from technology that gratify our flesh, eyes, and pride—especially when we choose to interact with our technology at the wrong times in the wrong places. Here’s a novel idea to close on: what if we chose to begin and end our days in fellowship with our Creator? Parents, are you ready to be the example in this?



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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
- PRAISE, Daniel “Danny” Radtke arrived and mom and baby are doing great!
- Cox Family, in the home going of Earl Wednesday afternoon
- Darling family, in the loss of Elgin
- Tonya Paschall, recovering from a blood clot that caused a stroke, at home
- Melody Morris, recovering from knee surgery
- Tiffany, Noah’s cousin, praise baby is born and prayer for upcoming plans for cancer treatments
- 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
- Gerri Beehler’s sisters, Nancy and Belva, both dealing with health concerns
- Lee Hayward, dealing with severe health issues
- Pete Belford, dealing with severe back issues
- Emma Jane Hall, recovering from COVID
- Jamie Scott, tumor growing on her pituitary gland. Going through tests to see which type, could lose her eye sight
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer
- 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)

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
February 28	Numbers 20-22	Mark 7:1-13
March 1	Numbers 23-25	Mark 7:14-37
March 2	Numbers 26-27	Mark 8:1-21
March 3	Numbers 28-30	Mark 8:22-38
March 4	Numbers 31-33	Mark 9:1-29
March 5	Numbers 34-36	Mark 9:30-50
March 6	Deuteronomy 1-2	Mark 10:1-31
March 7	Deuteronomy 3-4	Mark 10:32-52

Birthdays	Anniversaries
March 7 – Jerry Austin	

Weekly Goal: \$8,562

Giving This Week: \$13,421

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.