



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

March 7, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor 03/07/21 Part 2-3

We continue this week with our discussion of the Paul's admonition to WALK IN THE LIGHT from Ephesians 5. Last week we looked at Paul's INSTRUCTIONS in vv.8-10, this week we want to look at our RESPONSIBILITIES from vv.11-13. We can conclude from Paul's INSTRUCTIONS that 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 learned last week, we need to regularly open our Bibles and allow God's truth to illumine our hearts with goodness, righteousness and truth.

Today, let's look at our RESPONSIBILITIES as a person WALKING IN THE LIGHT vv.11-13. In v.11 we see a COMMAND which expresses the understanding that we are not to get involved with the works of evildoers, but expose them, "*Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*" The effects of darkness and light are antithetical. From the perspective of the sciences, disease flourishes in the dark, and total darkness brings death to earth's flowers and plants. Similarly, spiritual darkness brings sterility, "*fruitless deeds*" as Paul calls them in v.11. In the spiritual realm, darkness shelters evil and helps it fester, so that "*For it is shameful even to do the things that they do in secret.*" v.12. LIGHT, on the other hand, promotes life. I have read that patio plants flourish in a basement during the winter if we provide them with enough light...even artificial light. Also, I've witnessed that broken bodies heal faster if they can soak up some sunlight.

In view of all this, what are we to do? Paul gives some pretty strong words: "*Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*" v.11 This is where the going has always been rough, especially true today, because our world has put such an emphasis on what it perceives as TOLERANCE. Christians who would make moral judgments are defined as "sub-Christian" or "sub-human." According to the world, Christianity ought to be as broad and accepting as possible. Our culture loves the "open-minded", nonjudgmental, "live and let live" personality. The problem is; God's Word allows us no such luxury. If the Scripture calls something wrong, we dare not call it otherwise falling into moral relativism. Folks, we must call sin what it is and expose it...with-in the church our outside it. For example: adultery is sin, lying is sin, materialism is sin...you get the picture! We need to be the voice of truth when we are in the office, in the classroom, in the shop, or at church. We must be willing to risk being called "negative," "narrow," "judgmental" by the "cancel culture." If God's Spirit is calling us to stand up against wrong, it is up to us to be faithful. Here's what this means to the authentic follower of Christ: *First*, we are not to

ASSOCIATE with the world, *secondly*, we are not to ACT like the world, *thirdly*, we are not to give OPPORTUNITY for wickedness in our lives, and *finally*, we are not to do anything to COMPROMISE our witness. Another thing I see here is the REASON for the commands, because their works are shameful...the reason why is simply stated in v.12, "*For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.*" Notice that v.13 gives as an EXPLANATION... "Light" shows their true character, "*But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible.*" Next time we will conclude with Paul's "wake up call" and the reward. Until then...WALK IN THE LIGHT!

Weekly Goal: \$8,562

Giving This Week: \$6,646

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 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.

Meals

We are blessed to have so many people willing and able to help one another in our church family. One way we have provided help is by providing meals to individuals or families in need. In the event where meals are needed (due to surgery, birth, illness, etc) we would like to have a list of people to contact as we schedule those meals. If you would like to be on our "list to contact" please contact Carol Armstrong.

We are fortunate to have Carol organize these meals, and she would appreciate any interest!

Carol Armstrong
734-439-2713 (home)
734-915-0942 (cell)



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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
- Cox Family, in the home going of Earl
- 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.

MRI March 5 – awaiting results

- 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
March 7	Deuteronomy 3-4	Mark 10:32-52
March 8	Deuteronomy 5-7	Mark 11:1-18
March 9	Deuteronomy 8-10	Mark 11:19-33
March 10	Deuteronomy 11-13	Mark 12:1-27
March 11	Deuteronomy 14-16	Mark 12:28-44
March 12	Deuteronomy 17-19	Mark 13:1-20
March 13	Deuteronomy 20-22	Mark 13:21-37
March 14	Deuteronomy 23-25	Mark 14:1-26

Birthdays	Anniversaries
March 7 – Jerry Austin	
March 8 – Jean White	
March 9 – Chuck Harpst & Pete Belford	
March 12 – Mary Brasfield	
March 14 – Sheldon Slaughter & Maria Dietrich	