



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

May 16, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor 05/16/21

I read a quote from Greg Laurie recently, “Christians need to get back to the three key aspects of following Christ: get to know Jesus, follow His plan for discipleship, and use it to tell others what you know”. This reminded me of what Jesus said to Levi the tax collector, *“And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.”* (Mark 2:14 ESV) Would you agree with this statement? The Christian life is the greatest life there is? The Bible says, it’s like a turning from *“darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God”* (Acts 26:18).

I came to faith at age six, as I’ve grown in the Lord...I come to an understanding of what true peace is all about...instead of misery, I feel joy, instead of hate, I have love, and most importantly, instead of a future separated from God in a place called hell, I now have the hope of being in His presence forever in heaven. But the Christian life is more than just praying a prayer and getting “fire insurance policy”, so to speak. The Christian life is following Jesus Christ as your Lord...it is following Jesus not only as your friend but as your master. Here’s the problem: Many Christians never grow up spiritually. They make an initial commitment to Jesus, but never take the time to find out what it means to be a “fully surrendered (dedicated) follower of Jesus Christ. In short, they haven’t actively pursued what the Bible calls DISCIPLESHIP...instead, they still act like “spiritual infants”.

Lisa and I now have SEVEN grandkids, so of course I think babies are cute. But I also know that babies are a lot of work...for example, teaching a baby how to eat is a long, drawn-out process. When they are first born, babies need to be nursed or fed their formula...after formula they work up to baby food. When they get their teeth, they can begin eating baby-sized bites of food that have been carefully cut up for them. Later they learn how to use a spoon and fork. Eventually, as children, they learn how to cut, eat, and ultimately, prepare their own food. This is all part of growing up. In the same way, as Christians, we must grow up spiritually. The Bible warns us, *Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,*” (Hebrews 6:1 ESV) In other words...stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again and become mature in our understanding. There is a place for teaching and preaching...that’s why we strongly encourage the families in our church to attend Bible Study and Worship regularly. Listen how the apostle Paul admonished these 1st century believers in Ephesus... *“so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”* (Ephesians 4:14 ESV)

God has equipped pastors and teachers to build up believers so that we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. However, once we have learned the basics, we need to grow up spiritually, become mature as believers, and learn how to be TRUE DISCIPLES, true followers of Jesus Christ. There are three key steps in learning to following Christ – First, we have to KNOW Him, that’s SALVATION – how we can have forgiveness for our sin and how He will change your life. Secondly, we need to actively GROW in Him, that’s called DISCIPLESHIP. There’s a definite commitment, a cost, to the process of spiritual growth...and, finally, our lives should be lived to MAKE Him Known – that’s EVANGELISM the sharing the gospel and making disciples...fulfilling “the Great Commission”. Where do you stand? Folks, I want to challenge you today...to grow in your faith so that you can become that authentic/mature follower of Christ.

A Nugget from Noah (for Parents) 5/16/21

I want to thank each of you for your continued prayers as Erica and I seek God’s will and glory in this potential time of transition. This has been a difficult road to walk down, but it has been one that has tested and grown our faith. James 1:2-4 has been so important to me as of recently: **“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”** No, we are not part of the Diaspora, facing persecution like the believing Jews of that time; however, I definitely count this time in my life as a trial, exciting as it may be. As Erica and I have processed this transition, a lot of questions have popped in our head—both good and bad—and in both, we have had to stop and re-anchor ourselves on the foundation that we *know*. It’s easy to get lost in the drifting current of the what-ifs and maybes, but to hold fast to what we know has been pinnacle. Our faith is being tested, and I can share with you the successes and failures, but praise God that we can rest assured that this testing will produce endurance....

...but I’m still struggling. Can you blame me? I love our church family...I love you guys! It was so hard this past Sunday when we were encouraged to step out before the Deacon announcement. I have had moments of near panic, wondering if moving forward was truly what God wanted. How can something be so exciting—and we are super excited—yet heartbreaking at the same time? What about the teens? What about my church family? What about the outreach projects we were planning? What about Big Creek? And then there was just my own personal struggle with the idea of leaving people that I love. I’ve recently heard it said that a transition from a church should feel like an amputation, and right now, I’m feeling the cuts and it is hard.....and yet. And yet I have every reason to trust in my Sovereign God. He has a plan for everything that I could possibly be worrying about and more; and if I can trust His sovereign will for my life as it appears that He may be moving my family, I can trust His sovereign will for Milan Baptist.

And so I continue to pray. **James 1 continues on: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him (v. 5).”** I’m going to keep asking God for wisdom here. I’ve often said that you can never go wrong with praying for God’s will and God’s glory. Why? Because both will always be accomplished and displayed. I love you all so much. Five years and counting of exciting, hard, fun, messy ministry...God has richly blessed my family with not only a wonderful ministry, but a wonderful home and family here at Milan Baptist. You all are my brothers, sisters, dear friends, prayer warriors, and co-laborers in the Harvest. Whether we have a month together, or years together, I count it a high honor and privilege to serve alongside you all, and I look forward to seeing how God’s will and glory will be revealed in the coming future. Please continue to pray with me and my family.

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor? Or who has given a gift to Him that he might be repaid? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”—Romans 11:33-36



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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.
- Radtke family, for wisdom and discernment
- Pete Belford, home dealing with health concerns
- Jerry Austin, for physical needs
- Debby Russ, diagnosed with breast cancer, started chemo
- Tiffany, Noah's cousin, prayer for upcoming plans for cancer treatments
- Church leadership as they make decisions moving forward
- Gerri Beehler's sisters, Nancy and Belva, both dealing with health concerns
- Jamie Scott, tumor on her pituitary gland. Another MRI in Fall to determine if surgery is needed.
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer
- All those recovering from COVID
- 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)

Weekly Goal: \$8,562

Giving This Week: \$9,755

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.

Library

We encourage you to visit our church library and take advantage of all of the amazing resources we have to offer! The Library is open on Sundays between Sunday School and Morning Worship and is also open immediately following the Worship Service.

May's Book of the Month: "Slaying the Giants in your Life" by Dr. David Jeremiah

Through the Bible in a Year Daily Bible Reading Assignment		
Date	Old Testament	New Testament
May 16	2 Kings 24-25	John 5:1-24
May 17	1 Chronicles 1-3	John 5:25-47
May 18	1 Chronicles 4-6	John 6:1-21
May 19	1 Chronicles 7-9	John 6:22-44
May 20	1 Chronicles 10-12	John 6:45-71
May 21	1 Chronicles 13-15	John 7:1-27
May 22	1 Chronicles 16-18	John 7:28-53
May 23	1 Chronicles 19-21	John 8:1-27

Birthdays	Anniversaries
May 16 – Jacqueline Luurtsema	
May 18 – Emily Paschall	
May 20 – Sharon Thatcher	
May 21 – Lydia Heinold	
May 22 – Mendy Jackson, Bev Gay, Erica Caballero	

Kitchen Help

Our Kitchen committee is looking for new members! If you are interested in helping with this ministry please contact Gerri Beehler: 734-945-2992 and/or gerbeehler@hotmail.com.