



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

May 23, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor 05/23/21

At the close of the Apostle Paul's prayer in the Book of Ephesians (3:14-21), we find a couple of my favorite verses in the New Testament. Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV says, *"²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."* After considering such a marvelous spiritual experience, it is no wonder Paul burst forth in a doxology, a fitting benediction to such a prayer. Paul prays to God the Father, concerning the indwelling power of God the Spirit, made available through God the Son. Paul shares the exciting truth that is *far above* all power available to us! In other words, the power of Christ, like the love of Christ, is beyond human understanding or measurement. And this is just the kind of power we need if we are to have success in the Christian life and have a walk worthy of the calling that we have received. In Ephesians 4, Paul wrote, *¹ therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."* ESV

Why does God share His power with us? Scripture teaches us that it is not for our glory but His only! John 16:14 ESV says, *"He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you."* Know this...praise to Him for this accomplishment is to continue throughout eternity. 2 Timothy 4:18 ESV says, *"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."* (Another Doxology, Romans 11:33-36).

This *doxology* serves as a fitting conclusion not only to this prayer *but* also to this book's first three chapters. Remember when we are experiencing circumstances beyond our control, understand where our help comes from. Just love the encourage words of the Psalmist, *"¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? ² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; ⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; ⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."* (Psalm 121 ESV)

Noah's Nugget 5/23/21

In what could possibly be my final weeks here at MBC (the vote is today; please pray for God's will and glory), I want to give our parents my final imparting nuggets of wisdom and encouragement. There is a slogan that I have I tagged onto the end of letters, videos, and the like, and it simply says: **"Love God. Love Others. Keep Moving Forward."**

Even further, I dissect that phrase to say that we are called to **love God for all that He is, love others for all that they're worth, and keep moving forward in all that we do.** If we want to be godly influencers in our children's lives, living out these three qualities will be pivotal; so let's take time to pick these apart...

We're going to focus on **LOVING GOD**, but my primary text for our first two encouragements flows from the Great Commandment in **Matthew 22:34-40**. When asked what the greatest of the Commandments was, Jesus' response was that **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (v. 37)."** Parents, is this how we love God? Do our children see lives that are marked by heartfelt, spiritual, and intellectual love and dependency on God? If we can't figure out where we land on this topic, come to grips with our shortcomings, and make real progress in our love for Him, the rest is going to struggle. This. Is. The. Foundation....and it is only made possible with the initiation of His love through salvation in Christ Alone (**Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10, Ephesians 2:4-10**). So what are some practical ways to seek to love God?

- Fill ourselves with the right stuff, and absolutely hate and make war against the wrong stuff (**Psalm 1**).
- Rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks in all circumstances (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**).
- Dig into God's Word....DAILY (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)!
- Sacrifice your flesh daily, and meditate on your new identity in Him (**Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Luke 9:23**).
- When you fail, remember Who's interceding and advocating for you, and run to the throne of grace (**Romans 8:34, 1 John 2:1-2, Hebrews 4:14-16**).
- Surround yourself with the right people for the right purpose...easy answer: have a church family (**Acts 2:42, Philippians 1:3-6**).

Read those passages—meditate and even memorize them—and commit to seek after those things, and life-change will happen. But what about our kids? Let's take these 6 principles, and apply it to our ministry to our children practically:

- Fill your household with the right stuff. Make it a haven that your kids don't have to worry about things like language, violence, and sexual immorality. Fill it with skills to be learned, experiences to be shared, and worship to God in all things. I can't begin to tell you how much damage control I have had to do with families who do not pursue this.
- Teach your kids about God's blessings—even in the small or difficult things. Model and help them see God's blessing in groceries, in work, and even in trials of life; and teach them to thank Him.
- Do family devotions. Share with your kids what you are learning in the Bible, and let them see parents who love God's Word.
- Verbalize your sacrifices for God to your kids. When they can't do soccer because it conflicts with church, teach them why those sacrifices matter. When you give money to the church and missions, talk with your kids about what it means.
- Don't hide your faults from your kids. They know you sin, so show them what it means to run to the cross.
- Take your kids to church, surround them with godly people, and tell them why that matters!

So much more could be said, but simply put: Parents, we need to teach our children how to love God...and it starts with us.



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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. Appointment May 28 with her surgeon
- 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: \$6,885

Dire Need in India

As many of you know, there is a dire need in India having to do with the COVID-19 breakout. The Indian medical establishment is lacking in so many ways! Although India is one of the top producers of pharmaceuticals, including the COVID vaccine, its people are not able to get it. Most of it is sold overseas.

As a result, the COVID outbreak has reached a crisis point. Tim & Sandy Hewitt's son, Tim Jr., reports that there is a severe lack of Oxygen Concentrators available. People are waiting in line for up to 10 hours to have access to one, and some are paying a month's wages to use one for just an hour!

What can we do to help? Tim Jr. has found a supplier of Concentrators in Thailand. Working in conjunction with a former team mate in India, Dr. Ravi Barigala, Tim has been able to ship these concentrators to different hot spots in India. The cost of each concentrator is \$1,100.00 including shipping.

Your church leadership would like for our church to participate as a partner in this life saving endeavor and collect a love offering over two Sundays, June 6, and 13, to purchase as many of the oxygen concentrators as we can to help. Please prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you do. Matthew 25:40 ESV says, "...Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

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 David Jeremiah

Through the Bible in a Year Daily Bible Reading Assignment		
Date	Old Testament	New Testament
May 23	1 Chronicles 19-21	John 8:1-27
May 24	1 Chronicles 22-24	John 8:28-59
May 25	1 Chronicles 25-27	John 9:1-23
May 26	1 Chronicles 28-29	John 9:24-41
May 27	2 Chronicles 1-3	John 10:1-23
May 28	2 Chronicles 4-6	John 10:24-42
May 29	2 Chronicles 7-9	John 11:1-29
May 30	2 Chronicles 10-12	John 11:30-57

Birthdays	Anniversaries
May 24 – Steve Luurtsema	May 28 – Rod & Jorene Dietrich
May 26 – Sandy Hewitt	
May 27 – Suzy Shunk	

New Members Class

If you are interested in becoming a member we invite you to attend our next set of New Membership Classes! Join us at 10a.m. on June 13 & 27 for a two-part course. Both classes will take place in the Church Library.

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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.