



March 2021



March 2021 Newsletter

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. -John 15:18-21

These words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ were spoken on the night before His crucifixion and around a table of celebration of the Passover. One might think that Jesus would keep the conversation light and airy, but if you have read anything of this Upper Room discourse you will know that it is a mixture of warning and comfort. Jesus' main focus in this chosen passage is to inform His disciples of the reality of persecution and hatred that will come their way because of their faith in and association with Christ. This warning is not just for the eleven (Judas had already left to betray our Lord) who were in that Upper Room, but it is for all of His sheep who have followed Him in the past and will follow Him in the future. It is not a threat or a possibility; rather it is a fact!

If what I have just said is true, and by the way it is, then why are so many Christians in America shocked by the possibility that true followers of God may have to suffer persecution, imprisonment, and conceivably in the United States? One of the reasons for this has to do with the lack of preaching on and the preparation for persecution. So many pulpits today are filled with those who are not concerned with the Biblical task of discipleship, they care more about bodies, budgets, baptisms, and buildings. The need to have measurable means to declare their

worth, value, and successfulness; outweighs any mandate given by God. You are not going to fill your building and coffers by preaching hard truths, the way to do that is to cater to people's felt needs and their desire for messages that tickle their ears and do not prick the hearts (2 Timothy 4:1-5). Outside of Scripture I feel that Spurgeon articulated this point very well when he said: "A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats." A second reason for our shock in regards to persecution is the idea that the establishing of The United States of America was somehow the reestablishment of the Nation of Israel of the Old Testament. Another way to put it is, the sin and idolatry of patriotism. Now I know that many will read this and immediately will bristle with anger and possibly contempt for what I have just written or even for me. You may assume that I do not love my country or that I do not have respect for those who serve to protect it or that I am ungrateful for being born an American citizen...nothing could be further from the truth. My issue with this unholy obsession with America is that it may make us good patriots, but it will make us poor disciples of Christ. We can praise God for our good fortune to have been born in a "land of the free and the brave." However, that praise should never drown out the praise that we should have for being a citizen of a Kingdom that is eternal and not temporary. All we have to do is look at history and it is easy to see the "handwriting on the wall" this nation will not last. The reality is, it never was designed by God to last. It had its moment in the sun like Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Spain, France, Great Britain, etc.; but it will fall by the wayside when God is done using it for His purpose and will. The last reason I will share has to do with the Spiritual immaturity that is evident in the lives of most who claim to be followers of Christ. We certainly can lay some of the blame for this on the first reason given, which was the lack of sound teaching from the pulpit. However, each follower of Christ is responsible in part, for his or her own sanctification and growth in the "grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). We speak often of the "means of grace" at our church. A simple definition of that term would be the Word of God, the Sacraments (Communion & Baptism), and Prayer. These "means of grace" are public and private in the life of the believer and are important to be experienced in both ways. In regards to the Sacraments, those should only be done publicly or corporately. The Word and Prayer can and should be engaged in private and together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. To engage in these "means of grace" in only one way, will stunt your spiritual growth and maturity. God has given us the Word, the Sacraments, and Prayer to strengthen us and to put our focus on

Christ. When we are negligent in our public and private participation in the "means of grace", we are disrespecting the gifts that Christ has given the Church to help her to become strong in her faith and practice. Once again Spurgeon is helpful here: "Never neglect the means of grace; God may bless us when we are not in His house, but we have the greater reason to hope that He will when we are in communion with His saints."

Although, I could give more reasons as to why we are shocked by the possibility of persecution as Christians in America, I believe I have given you enough to ponder and be stirred by. My reason for writing this is not to make you angry, although some of you undoubtedly will get angry, but rather so that I can do my best to be a shepherd of God's sheep rather than a goat entertaining clown. I am sure I am closer to the latter than I care to know or admit, but my desire is to prod myself and those who I have charge over down the path of righteousness. In next month's newsletter article, I will do my best to give some practical actions we can take to ready ourselves for the inevitable.

In His Name & For His Glory,

Pastor Tim



Men's Bible Study—Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study—Saturdays at 8am
& Thursdays at 1:15pm beginning Mar. 4th

Women's Prayer—Wednesdays at 9:30am

Birthdays

6—Howard Schimke
13—Renson Hoffman
14—Lynn Abitz
20—Anna Dohms



Happy Anniversary

No anniversaries this month



St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect non-perishable food items. Place your food items on the table provided in the foyer.



Sunday Evening Services

March 7—Ask PT at 5pm
March 14—Prayer at 5 pm
March 21—Five Solas · Sola Christos at 5 pm
March 28—Prayer at 5 pm



Fox River Baptist Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.

Deaconess of the Month **Carol Smith**

Usher Schedule

March 7
Bob Abitz
March 14
Ryan Smith
March 21
Kyle Tubbs
March 28
Jeffery Smith



Financial Update

February 7-28, 2021
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2606.00
Received: \$ 2191.00
Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month

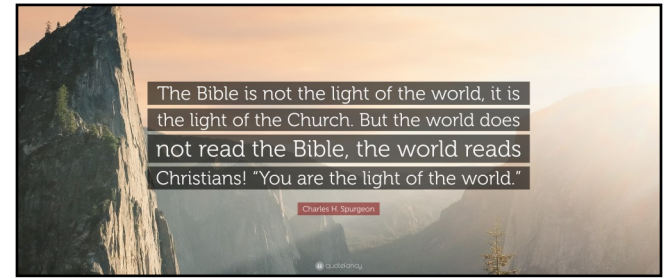
If you have events and need bulletin inserts made please send me the information by Thursday, 9 am, of each week, bulletins are printed Thursday morning

Praises & Prayers

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address:

prayer@foxriverbaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Renee Brown (920)428-5306 eener654@gmail.com



UPDATE

Women's Ministry is planning a project to bless the residents of Brewster Village at Easter. We will give each "villager" a colorful cardboard cup of candy wrapped in cellophane and tied with a bow. Along with the candy, an encouraging resurrection message will be included in each gift. We hope that the congregation will help us by providing candy to fill the cups. Candy suggestions will be forthcoming. We also may organize a "package the gifts" day. All details have not yet been worked out. Watch for more information, coming soon.



Ladies, mark your calendar for March 14, our first women's fellowship event since a year ago! Stay after church for lunch and a craft. A devotion will also be included, so bring your friends.

*Watch for the sign-up sheet for this event.

Bible studies: Saturday morning Bible study is at 8:00a.m. at church. We just began the book of Ruth. It is an inductive study—no study guide to purchase, but we do work through some basic questions. Join us if you can. Or perhaps you prefer a weekday afternoon for Bible study. Thursday afternoons at 1:15p.m., we will be doing a study on "The Pursuit of Holiness" by Jerry Bridges. There is a study guide to purchase. Please contact Linda Hoffman for more information.



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