



New Castle First Baptist Church

May 2019

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." (ESV) Lamentations 3:22-24

Greetings Church!

I pray all is going well for you and yours as we enter into May. I have a question for us to ponder: Do you ever feel like you don't measure up? Or that because of your actions, or the lack thereof, you feel that God is just done with you? Or that the Lord is so fed up with you and your shenanigans that you aren't even comfortable coming to him in prayer? If you have felt this way in your walk, or if you are feeling this way right this second as you read this, I want you to know that you are not alone. Many believers have felt this way at one time or another.

The reality is none of us measures up to God's standard either before or after conversion. None of us is good enough. Not only were we all sinners before we came to Christ, but we still sin after we come to him as well. After we surrender to Jesus our title is changed from "Sinner" to "Saint," but we still fail, we still make mistakes, we still commit sins of commission and sins of omission. We are no longer slaves to sin as we were before Christ, but the tendencies are still there and not one of us makes it through a single day completely unblemished.

In the world love, grace, acceptance and forgiveness are often conditional. Nothing is free in this world, right? If someone behaves themselves and does something for us they are worthy of our love and acceptance but if they make a mistake we need to seriously contemplate whether or not we want to keep loving them or simply cut them off. Some of us were raised in homes where the love did not seem unconditional, but rather it had to be earned by good performance or the avoidance of trouble. If we did well, we received love and acceptance in a way we understood. If we dropped the ball, it was not there. Instead of love we may have felt disdain, disappointment or disgust. So, as a result, those principles that we learned growing up we tend to apply to our walk with God. We may logically know that it is our faith in Jesus that saves us as opposed to our works, but then at the same time we feel we have to earn the Lord's approval, grace and love and friends, nothing could be further from the truth.

God loves you! Deal with it! Jeremiah, in the book of Lamentations wrote, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end. The love of God is not conditional. There is nothing that you could do to earn his love. Also, there is nothing you or I could do to lose his love. Nobody on this earth is just one sin from being kicked out of the camp. We may earn greater blessings through our faithfulness (not in a prosperity gospel sort of way of course) and we may do things to earn the discipline of the Lord. But what we do on a day to day basis does not change how God feels about us. He still has perfect love, grace and mercy available to all even though none of us deserves it. And if we have surrendered to Jesus as Lord and Savior we belong to God and there is nothing we could do to change that either. God's love is not conditional. Our salvation is not conditional. God's love is not contingent on us being good little Christians in everything we do, think or say. It is just there. He loves us totally and completely. Godly love cannot be improved upon and it cannot diminish. It is perfect just the way that it is. We just have to believe it and receive it.

Now historically, many evangelicals are hesitant to present such a message. Fear is a great motivator. And if people believe that the love of God is conditional on them doing their part then it sure becomes a lot easier to manipulate them. But we don't labor to earn the love of God. We labor because of it. We don't do what we should be doing so that God will somehow owe us more love or more grace. We do what we should be doing as servants of Christ because we love him and want to honor him because of what he has done for us. Same results, different motivation. Same destination, but a different fuel all together. Fear can be a great motivator. But love can motivate us to do so much more. And we are called to live, walk and serve in love, not fear. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love (1 John 4:18).

Blessings,

Pastor Kevin

MAY MEMORY VERSE

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Circle of Friends

Meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every Month
O'Charley's, Frankfort
May 14th-11:30 am

Confirm with Linda Stewart or Peggy McCarty

May Nursery Schedule

5 Sue Banta & Lynn Adams
12 Aimee Cline & Ginger Nix
19 Emily Payton & Ella White
26 **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Special Thanks to everyone who serves!!!

The Annual Relay for Life Cake Auction will take place on May 19th, at the Fellowship Potluck and

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

NOW COLLECTING:

SEWING KITS///FISHING KITS///SMALL TOOLS

MAY

Deacons of the Month

Jean Kaye Foree 502-845-4947

or 502-706-0331

Larry Bryant 502-845-4615

Twitter @new_fbc

Instagram: @fbnewcastleky

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Bobby Foree-1st Austin Thomas-3rd Thelma Shaw-4th

Paul Newman-10th Conan Stamenkovic-10th

Belinda Stivers-12th Catherine Bryant---13th

LarryBryant-20th Melissa Blankenship-22nd

Don Buckler-23rd Tim Stewart-26th

Judy Jackson-28th Laura Jeffries-29th