

Visit us online at [fbcbluffton.com](http://fbcbluffton.com)

April 1  
2020

# the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter

I am so glad we have each other in the midst of our current circumstances. Proverbs 17:17 is both practical and powerful for us all. "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." Never forget that you are extremely important to God and to other people.

Many of you have been texting, emailing, and calling other people with encouraging words or videos. I sincerely hope our FBC online worship services have been uplifting to several of you. I trust our LINK newsletters have helped you feel connected with your

beautiful church family. Keep on being kind and faithful friends to each other.

This Sunday is the first Sunday of May. I will lead the church family in communion during our online service. Make sure to have any kind of cracker and a bit a juice beside you before you begin watching. Again, our service will be posted Saturday evening. Watch our service at: [fbcbluffton.com/media](http://fbcbluffton.com/media).

Your friend,

Les



## *Friends*

Are the people who  
make you  
smile brighter,  
laugh louder,  
and live better.



# The Messianic Kingdom

This Sunday is Palm Sunday. We often miss the prophetic significance of this event. My online message this weekend will probe why we humans often fail to recognize God's arrival. Had Israel received Jesus as her promised Anointed One, the Messianic kingdom would have begun on earth right then. King Jesus' reign of peace would then have spread across the whole earth.

God's offer for the nation of Israel to receive Jesus as her Messiah was genuine. But of course, the Creator already knew that, as a whole, Israel and her leaders would reject Jesus as King. Thus began the significant events planned before the foundation of the world. God would redeem humanity through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son and our Savior, the LORD Jesus Christ. All who believe in and receive Christ are forgiven and become children of God (John 1:10-13).

Does Israel's rejection of Jesus as King mean the promised Messianic kingdom will never happen? Absolutely not! God never breaks a promise. Someday the Savior will return to earth as the victorious King. Jesus Christ will establish His reign of peace over all of planet earth. Scriptures like Revelation 19:11-20:1-6 and Daniel 2:44-45 make clear that God's promised Messianic kingdom will become a reality when Jesus returns to earth again.

It's important for us to know about this reign of Jesus, which will soon become a reality on this earth. I use the word "soon" intentionally based on passages like Romans 13:11-14. Concerning God's literal earthly kingdom, Psalm 72 is the prayer of a pious father (David) for his son, Solomon. But the second layer of interpretation describes the Messiah Jesus and His messianic kingdom even more clearly.

Read Psalm 72 and jot down your responses to these questions.

Unfortunately, Solomon failed on so many levels to love Yahweh with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength. Do we love the LORD well (not perfectly - but well) as we walk through our days?

The reign of Messiah will alleviate oppression and injustice. How are we being good kingdom citizens in these arenas right now?

Sin's curse was removed when Jesus died on the cross (Gal. 3:13-14). That removal will be even more fully realized on the earth when King Jesus returns to reign. How can these vital truths influence our perspectives and ministries now?

Maranatha! The LORD is coming!  
Keep looking up!

Les

# LINES FROM PRISON

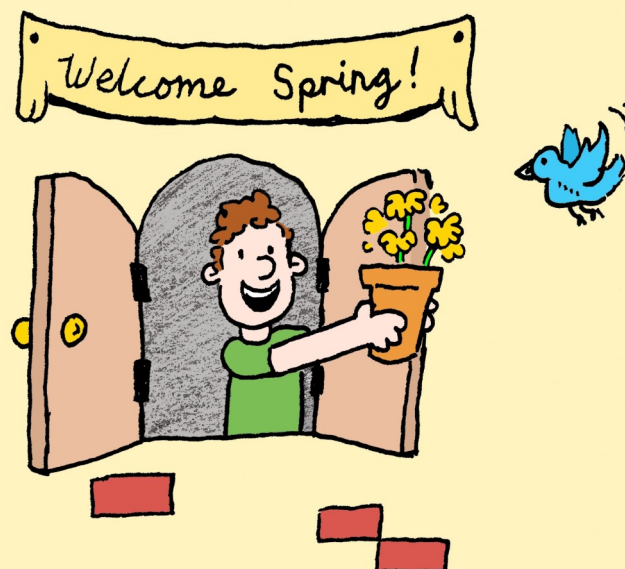
*By Madame Guyon (1648-1717) French mystic, imprisoned in the Bastille and later for life to Blois because of her Protestant convictions.*

A little bird I am,  
Shut in from fields and air;  
And in my cage I sit and sing  
To Him who placed me there;  
Well pleased a prisoner to be,  
Because, my God it pleases Thee.

Naught have I else to do:  
I sing the whole day long.  
And He Whom I most love to please  
Doth listen to my song.  
He caught and bound my wandering wing;  
But still He bends to hear me sing.

My cage confines me round;  
Abroad I cannot fly;  
But though my wing is closely bound,  
My heart's at liberty.  
My prison walls cannot control  
The flight, the freedom, of the soul.

Oh, it is good to soar  
These bolts and bars above  
To Him Whose purpose I adore  
Whose providence I love.  
And in Thy mighty will to find  
The joy, the freedom of the mind.





# Help People Follow Jesus

[fbcbluffton.com](http://fbcbluffton.com)

First Baptist Church

202 W. Cherry Street

260-824-1558



[firstbaptist@adamswells.com](mailto:firstbaptist@adamswells.com)



First Baptist Church-Bluffton Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell

Cell phone: 260-273-9073