

THE LINK

God's Word is Practical

I'm in the midst of a sermon series that demonstrates how practical God and God's word is for everyday life. The LORD cares about every aspect of life and wants us to enjoy our time on this amazing planet He created. Another article in this newsletter touches on our topic of friends from two weeks ago.

This past Sunday our text was Ecclesiastes 11:1-3 and we covered three helpful points of financial wisdom from Scripture. First, keep investing (v. 1). Second, keep diversifying (v. 2). Third, keep learning (v. 3). On that final point I mentioned the value of mentoring. A couple of people reminded me afterwards about the value of finding a financial adviser. I totally agree. I would encourage people to seek a "certified financial planner." Look for someone who is not trying to sell financial products but simply charges a fee for their financial advice.

Here are three other wisdom points from that same biblical text, since I will move on to another topic this Sunday.

Avoid Market Timing – "Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap" (Ecc. 11:4).

Trust the LORD – "As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things" (Ecc. 11:5).

Work Hard – "Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well" (Ecc. 11:6).

Make It a Great Week,

Les



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 10
noon – Women’s Bible Study

Sunday, May 14

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School
10:05 a.m. – Kids’ Time
10:15 a.m. – Worship Service

Teachers This Sunday

Nursery

Alexis Collins/ Evalyn Fate

Kids’ Time

Holly Zoll & Angie Bynum

L.O.L.

Traci Heller

Last Week

May 7, 2017

Attendance

Worship Service – 120

Stewardship Report

Giving Toward:

Current Expense	\$5808.00
Missions	\$580.00
Building/Maint. Fund	\$175.00
Deacons Fund	\$40.00
McFarren Scholarships	\$100.00
Total:	\$6703.00

Youth!

Meet next Wednesday, May 17 at the church at 3:50 p.m. We will load up in the Cantrell’s van and car to go to Loren and Judy Wanner’s home. Plan to eat “build your own tacos” and have other fun. Schedule your pick up for back at the church at 5:30 p.m.

Graduates

There will be a reception after the worship service on Sunday, May 21 for our church family graduates. They are: Madison Heller from Bluffton High School and Lydia Yaste from Ivy Tech Community College with an AAS in Hospitality Administration.

One More Week

This Sunday, there will again be the pages for an updated directory of church family and friends in The Gathering Place. If you haven’t already, take a minute to make sure the information for your family is correct. Also, please check others that aren’t able to, like the homebound or out-of-towners. We will print it and have copies available for you, after this final review.



Becoming a Better Friend

How many friends do you have? Answers vary depending on how we define “friend.” We have best friends (BFF), good friends, old friends, family friends, Facebook friends, and everything in between! It’s important to know why God designed friendships and what the LORD has to say about them. Here are a few guiding principles about friends.

God designed friendships - In Gen. 2:18, the LORD says that it is not good for man to be alone. This statement is broader than just marriage and applies to His design for all humanity. The word "helper" used to describe Eve does not describe her as a co-worker, but a companion. The Creator calls us to walk side-by-side with our friends.

Friends can become idols – God has already given us everything we need in Christ alone for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). That means we don't need to seek perfect relational satisfaction in imperfect people. But when we put God and God’s agenda first, everything in life starts coming into alignment - including our friendships (Mat. 6:33).

Friendships can be tough - The early history of friendship is not always pretty. Adam threw Eve under the bus to avoid blame (Gen. 3:12). Then, in the next chapter, Cain kills his brother Abel! Most of us are not murderers (even though the thought might have crossed our minds☺). But we need a realistic perspective and offer others tons of grace. People might let us down, but God always remains rock solid (Heb. 13:8).

Friends can change us – Relationships reveal sin in us and others. When our sin, or our friend's sin, is exposed, we have two options: run away or lean in. The LORD wants to use friendships to humble us and then transform us by His mighty power.

Jesus is our only hope – Many of us look for tips and tricks to improve our friendships. But the reality is that there are no secrets that guarantee problem-free relationships. Rather, our friendships have just one hope – Jesus of Nazareth. The shattered relationship Christ experienced with the Father-God at the Cross provides the basis for our two-fold reconciliation. Jesus reconciles us first to God, which then forms the foundation for our being reconciled to one another.

Your Friend,

Les

This article was adapted from *5 Biblical Principles for Becoming a Better Friend* by Paul Tripp - www.paultripp.com





Homebound Members

Christian Care

Joan Sills – Room 222
Mildred Huss – Room 219B

River Terrace

Phebe Edington – Room 134
Mary Ellis – Room 107B
LaVera Krummen – Room 116

Signature Healthcare

Bonnie McAfee – Room 403B

Markle Health and Rehabilitation

Barbara French – Room 216

As we co-labor with other churches
in our community,
this week we pray for:
First Reformed Church
Pastor Gene Bell

First Baptist Church

260-824-1558

firstbaptist@adamswells.com

fbcluffton.com

 First Baptist Church - Bluffton, Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell
Cell phone: 260-273-9073
Music Director: Sarah Landell
Secretary: Debbie Cantrell

Sunday:
9:00 a.m. – Sunday School
9:50 a.m. – Coffee/Tea Time
10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time
10:15 a.m. – Worship Service