

**May 25, 2020**

## PASTOR'S

P O S T S

Good morning church family. I pray all is well. Monday, we celebrated Memorial Day. It is a day I have taken for granted so many years. While I am profoundly grateful for the service men and women who have given their lives for my freedom, I have neglected the value of that freedom and the true worth of their sacrifice. This pandemic has led our nation to adopt safety measures that have limited our ability to exercise our rights as American citizens. In the same process our government has created a value scale for each American. If you are “essential” your right to work has not been limited. If you are “nonessential” your rights have been set aside for the “greater good”. This temporary assault on our freedoms, whether rightly justified or not, can become a tool for us to use as Christians today. I can see two themes lurking just under the surface of what is going on. First, have we as a church created our own value system that rates a person as essential or nonessential for the cause of Christ? Second, can exercising our full rights as a Christian be harmful to the cause of Christ? If we truly take a second to reflect on these two questions, I am afraid we will not like what we find. As the Apostle Paul found out and said, “though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I become like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I become like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings (1 Cor 9:19-23). He also goes on to say that “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize (1 Cor 9:24-27). Life is just as complicated today as it was in Paul’s day. You may find it necessary to both put on a face mask and limit your personal freedoms while standing firmly against a government that seeks to strip the privacy rights and personal freedoms of others. I am not able to give you all the answers, but only can point you to the place that can. The Gospel compiles us to surrender our personal freedoms for the benefit of the lost. Christ gave up the throne and his life for you, are you willing to give up your rights if necessary, to win others? Let us strive to live in this world, but not get caught up with the values of this world. If you are willing you will find at the end of your days an eternal reward that will far outweigh even the best of what this world can offer.

First Baptist Church  
401 S. Main  
Floydada TX 79235



Wednesday Night Bible Study @ 6:30 pm  
Sunday School – Sunday Mornings @ 9:15 am  
Worship – Sunday Mornings @ 10:30 am  
Evening– 6:30 pm

\*Listen-106.1 FM  
\*Channel 12 on Suddenlink

\*Online– Go to [www.fbcfloydada.org](http://www.fbcfloydada.org) and click the ‘watch live’ tab



Little Lulu is at it again! Little Lulu's Drive Thru was a big hit! The kids came through safely in their car and picked up ice cream, a drink and popcorn! It was so good to see their smiling faces! Thanks for the idea and all your help Melissa!!

Stay Safe! **Ludustia**



## UPDATES:

Due to Covid-19, facility closures and/or safety regulations, the following are cancelled for 2020:

- \*Youth Camp
- \*Super Summer
- \*Kids Kamp

We will continue to monitor the situations. Stay connected to us through social media and our website. We will be working on alternative events.



Online giving is available on our website  
[www.fbcfloydada.org](http://www.fbcfloydada.org)  
Click on give tab.



It was wonderful to see some of our students this past Sunday at church as we met for corporate worship with the added safety precautions to help stop the spread of the coronavirus. Over the past few months we have been limited to meeting only virtually through social media platforms and video conferencing apps. There have only been a handful join us over these past few weeks but it has been encouraging to see their commitment to learn and grow in Christ. We have also had a ton of fun. Who knew that Mia was so knowledgeable about world geography? Or that Brae could easily make everyone laugh? There are many other things I could tell you that I have learned through all of this, most of which I probably would not have known if we were still meeting like we had before. God is growing me during this time as well. I am gaining new perspectives on how to minister to these students now and when we are able to meet together in person. This past week I had several students ask me when we were going to have youth group again and unfortunately we are still waiting for that day to come. It is a complicated process that we are seeking God's will and direction in going forward. I am also anxiously waiting for that day to come, but in my experience, nothing good comes out of our forcing things to happen the way we want them. We are going to trust in God's timing because he makes all things beautiful in His time. Hear these powerful words of scripture: *God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.* Ecclesiastes 3:11 NLT.



I was listening to a Bible study on Ephesians by JD Greer this morning, and he was teaching on chapter 5, verses 8 - 21. Everything he said was wonderful, but what he taught on verse 19 really stuck out to me as a music minister! Ephesians 5:19 says, "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord." JD Greer said that this isn't just about singing our Christian doctrine, but it's about expressing our emotions! He said we need to get lost in Jesus when we are singing praises to Him, just like we get lost in a beautiful sunset sky. When we sing we are reminding ourselves of what God has done for us. Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are sermons that we sing, and they are the sermons we remember the most! We are encouraged by Paul in this letter to speak to one another in this way in order to remind one another what God has done for us! This doesn't mean we literally go around singing to each other instead of talking like normal, but we can certainly encourage one another with songs, and when we meet together each week to sing praises to our God, we are singing together about what God has done for us! Isn't that beautiful?

### SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND TIME CHANGE FOR OUR CHURCH SERVICES

- \*Senior Adults are encouraged to attend the 9:15 am service for both safety and seating capacity.
- \*Open church service will begin at **10:30 am**. You may enter the building at **10:20 am** allowing the early service congregants time to leave and the building to be sanitized.
- \*All attendees are highly encouraged to wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth.
- \*All attendees will enter from the rear parking lot entrance by the choir room and sanitize their hands as they enter the building. Hand sanitizer will be provided.
- \*As attendees enter, an usher will show them to their seat. It is important to note that not all pews will be in service at this time due to social distancing protocols.
- \*It is also important to note that all attendees will be required to maintain social distancing between them and other attendees outside their households.
- \*Due to sanitization requirements the coffee bar will be **closed** as well as public restrooms.
- \*We also ask that you remove any personal belongings after the service including Bibles, blankets, and jackets to aid in the sanitizing protocols at the conclusion of each gathering.
- \*Nursery will not be available.

Remember if you are anxious about attending services or have an underlying medical condition that compromises your immune system it is recommended you continue participating remotely.