

When the Saints...

The Superbowl is here. Unfortunately, the Saints will not be playing in it. As you might know, the Saints lost the game that would put them in the Superbowl. They didn't just lose, they lost as a result of a controversial no call by the referees. A flag should have been thrown, and the Saints should have won the game.

People are still upset about it. It is all you hear about on sports media. Even our governor, John Bel Edwards, wrote a letter to the NFL, expressing his displeasure of the outcome. I was upset about the outcome, but I took a deep breath and reminded myself, "It's just football. God is still in control. Life will go on."

Is it possible that we care way too much about football? Is it possible that for some, football has become an idol? Is it possible that stadiums have become houses of worship? It is as if our identity is tied to a football team. If they lose, we too feel like losers. If they win, we feel like winners. If there is hope for a good season, we are filled with hope.

Let's remember that the game is just a game. Our identity is not tied to a team, but rather Jesus Christ. Our hope is not built on a winning season, but rather on who Christ is. Let's remember that we are the true saints, the ones called and set apart (Ephesians 1:1). Yes, I will watch the big game. I will be rooting for the Patriots to lose. Yet, if Tom Brady wins yet another Superbowl, life still goes on. The sun will still rise, and God will still be good!

Your Pastor,

Jason R. McNaughten

Grown Up Prayers

I remember as a child praying to God every night. My prayer time was at the same time every night just before I went to sleep. I prayed the same prayers every night until I got to high school and college when my prayers changed.

I believe that our prayer life should grow as our Christianity grows. As we mature, our prayer life needs to branch out. Like a tree or bush that must be pruned in order to grow, our prayer life must change.

As an adult I no longer pray for God to bless my mommy and daddy every night. Instead, God has grown the time, location, and content of my prayer life. Instead of praying at night, I pray in the morning. One day I read Psalm 5:3: **"In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly"** – which caused me to change my prayer times. Philippians 2:3-4 taught me to pray for others: **"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but for the interests of others."** Coupled together, these verses changed my life! No longer was I just praying for myself, but I am waking up praying for the needs of others.

Finally, God showed me Matthew 9:11: **Give us this day our daily bread.** Using this verse, God reminded me that one small part of the Lord's prayer focused on our physical needs. Therefore, our prayer life need not focus only on our health or the health of others. God wants our prayers to mature as our faith grows! Let this be our prayer for 2019. May God strengthen and grow your prayer life!

Youth Pastor,

Joshua Peeler



February

2 nd Ted Davis	13 th Margaret West
4 th Peggy Tidwell	16 th Mary Fontenot
6 th Brandon Chenevert	19 th Tom Stuart
6 th Zach Pourciau	20 th Roger Moore
8 th Wendy Jumonville	24 th Tyler Couch
8 th Cheryl Lee	24 th Joanie Jarreau
8 th Betty Noland	24 th Karla Weston
9 th Matt Lee	25 th Edna Feirman
11 th Sarah Moore	

Dr. Jason R. McNaughten, Pastor
Dr. Josh Peeler, Youth Pastor
Beverly Stuart, Ministry Assistant

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Sunday Bible Study: 9:15 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
Wed. Services: 11:30 AM, 6:00 PM

Online Giving

Give @ www.fbcnr.org

Or text to 225-283-6911

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Semi-Annual Bus. Mtg., Feb. 3, 12p.m.

Observance of Lord's Supper, Feb. 3

Joy Luncheon, Wed., Feb. 6, 11:30a.m.

Nursing Home Ministry, Feb. 6, 1:15p.m.

Joy Breakfast, Weds., 9a.m., Feb. 13, 20, 27

*First Baptist Church
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