



Monday Morning Missive

Good morning, church. Did you look outside this morning at the sunrise? It was a beautiful experience that was made more exciting by the prospect of 70 degrees of warmth today. It looks like God has done it again – He’s given us a great day. Now it’s our turn to decide how we are going to use it for His glory. Let me give you an idea or two about that. If you are out and about, tell someone that God loves them and so do you. Be ready for the conversation that might follow. Or if you go through a drive-thru, why not “pay it forward” with a note saying the same thing. And if you are stuck at home, just take a little time to tell God how grateful you are for the blessings He has poured out on you. You see, God doesn’t

expect all of us to cross the oceans to tell someone about Jesus; He just wants us to be faithful to do what He is calling us to do each day. So maybe your “ocean” is really just the street in front of your house and your mission field is your neighbor across the road. If you come up with some more great ideas about using this day for God’s glory, I would love for you to share them with me.

Along those same lines, I want to spend a little time focusing on the topic of faithfulness. Most of us understand the concept as it concerns our relationships. We understand that marriage, parenting, and even friendships require faithfulness. And faithfulness, by its very nature, demands that we are 100% faithful. Our spouses wouldn’t expect that we are only going to be 99% faithful. Our hearts demand that our children receive 100%. And friendships won’t last unless we are completely faithful. Why do we think (or at least live as if) God will

accept any less? The Christian life is a call to complete faithfulness. When we surrendered to God's invitation to come into a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus – when He adopted us as His children – He committed everything to us and we committed everything to Him. I'm not trying to make you feel guilty; I want you to see that our lives are the evidence of our faithfulness to the Father. The evidence is seen in how we love others through our service and ministry, how we love His church through our attendance and our giving, how we love Him through our quiet times.

This may surprise you. I have done some figuring, and over any given month of the year, we have close to 400 different people attending church. Some attend 1 Sunday. Some attend 2 Sundays. Some attend 3 or more Sundays. Do you know what would happen if everyone attended at the same time? Can you imagine the excitement that would fill our church? Can

you picture the testimony this would give to our community? Here's what I am asking you to do. Spread the word. Share this e-mail with everyone in your contact list. Put the invitation on all of your social media. Let's make March 8th "Faithful to the Father" day at First Baptist Church. Now, I hope you will be at church every Sunday, but would you put March 8th on your calendar as a definite "yes" to church. Plan to come to either worship service and Sunday School on that day. I have looked at my preaching schedule, and March 8th is the day I will begin my new sermon series, "God's Answers to Tough Questions." Let's get the word out and make this the biggest day ever at First Baptist Church for the glory of the Father.

I don't know if I say this enough to you, but I want to say it here. I have never been part of a more loving, giving, serving church than First Baptist. I am blessed to be your pastor, but even more so, I am blessed to see how many of

you are ready to minister at a moment's notice. Let me give you a case-in-point. Last week, I announced that we would be taking a love offering for the Templeton Family because baby Blakely was in Children's Hospital in Birmingham. We gave almost \$900 in two days to bless this family. They were overwhelmed not only by the gift but by the ministry of prayer, meals, cards, calls, and visits. I am extremely happy to tell you that Baby Blakely came home yesterday. Our God is faithful, and so are you. Thank you.

“Father, my prayer today is that you would pour out the blessing of your presence on everyone who is reading this e-mail. May they know the peace that only you can give, the love that comes from Heaven's throne, and the power to overcome every obstacle that will stand in their path this day. Thank you, Father, for loving us. In Jesus' name I pray.”

**Love you all,
Bro. Ben**

**Dr. Ben Hayes,
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church Dadeville**
bhayes@fbcdadeville.com