

The Branch NewsLETTER

"I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15:5

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Number 38

From Your Pastor's Heart

Following the Sunday morning worship service on February 4, 2024 my health began to decline and by Tuesday, I was admitted to the hospital with serious intestinal issues and there I stayed for a total of four days and weeks more recovery at home. Like anyone else, I don't enjoy being sick or in the hospital, but sometimes God chooses to slow us down so that he can get our attention and talk with us for a while.

When I was awake, I found that I was spending the time praying to get well and out of the hospital and listening to what God was saying to me during this time. My thought process kept returning to our church and how God wanted us to focus during the next several months. **The theme that the Lord continued to impress on my heart was "Spiritual Renewal."**

I walked across the hall to the nurses' station and asked for a pen. With that pen and some paper towels I began to write down what the Lord was laying on my heart before I could forget it. With that said, I believe that beginning in April and continuing through October, God wants Live Oak First Baptist Church to focus on **"A Journey toward Spiritual Renewal."** Each month will have a different theme and the messages each week will focus on that theme.

What I want us to do **now** is to **begin praying for a great spiritual awakening in our church.** May we pray first for ourselves that God would grow us in righteousness and second to pray for others that may also be blest by God with a time of spiritual renewal. Finally, I want you to pray for your pastor as I seek God's leadership in leading us on "A Journey toward Spiritual Renewal."

Pastor Cooper

EASTER IS FAST APPROACHING (March 31)

This Memorial Sunday is also known as Resurrection Sunday.

It is a time of remembering the death, burial and

RESURRECTION of Christ

Who He is...John 14:6

Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"

Recognize your need.

What faith in Him brings... Ephesians 2:8

"For by grace are ye **saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Faith in Him brings salvation. See also Romans 10:9

When you are saved...when you have given your life to the Lord Jesus...

What the **first step** of obedience is...Romans 6:4

"Therefore we are buried with Him by **baptism** into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in NEWNESS OF LIFE.**"

Then...consider this...

Romans 7:6

"But now are we delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in **NEWNESS OF SPIRIT**, and not in the oldness of the letter."

Need to be saved? Commit to Him today.

Saved? Turn to Him today to RENEW your commitment.

WHO KNEW? EZEKIEL DID!

Are the things which are happening at the present time, in Israel, the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy that is given in Ezekiel 38 and 39?

Ezekiel talks about the “Word of the Lord”, which came to him, with things the Lord showed him were going to happen in the future. Read these verses. Read of these things the Lord showed Ezekiel; which were to happen, specifically, to Israel.

With all the antisemitism going on in the world, at the present time; with the war in Gaza, with Israel saying they “will not quit until Hamas has been destroyed”; because Hamas is determined to “wipe Israel off the face of the earth” ... I feel, this is an indication the time has come for this prophecy to be fulfilled.

You can also read other relevant scriptures found in Revelation and Matthew.

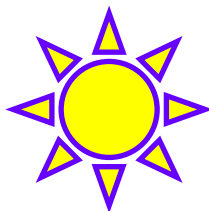
In Matthew chapter 24:5-8; 23-25; 30-33, Christ said, 5 “For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ: and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24 For there shall rise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold I have told you. 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. 32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree: When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh. 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door.”

In my opinion, the many, current, world situations; which are happening concurrently, and which were prophesied by Christ (in the scripture above) to happen at the “end of the End Times”, are a very high indication that the time of fulfillment is near.

I find affirmation of these thoughts in my study of the scripture and from my research in many study Bibles and commentaries by authors such as Henry Morris, John MacArthur, Charles Spurgeon, A.W. Tozer, and others, with the final word being the Word of God. I encourage you to study on your own. Be strong in the Lord. Form opinions and feelings based on what you read in His word.

Richard Filleman; Deacon Chairman

**MARCH 10
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
BEGINS**



**SPRING” AHEAD
ONE HOUR!**

MARCH 2024

Church Life

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7:00	5 Cubbies 6:30	6 Prayer Service 6:30	7	8	9 (Non-member) Angela Booker Memorial
Annie Armstrong Week Of Prayer And Offering						
10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS	11 NO SCOUT MEETINGS	12	13 Prayer Service 6:30	14 Scout leaders meet 7 pm	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Newsletter Articles Due Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7:00	19 Cubbies 6:30	20 Steward. Comm. Meet 5:30 Business Conf 6:30 prayer service foll.	21	22	23 RUMMAGE SALE!
24	25 Girl Scouts 5:30 Boy Scouts 7:00	26 Cubbies 6:30	27 Prayer Service 6:30	28	29	30
31	Luz y Vida Iglesia Bautista continues on their regular schedule.					