

## **SERMON**

DATE: Saturday/Sunday, January 12-13, 2019

SERIES TITLE: STEADFAST: *Joining God in the Work of Building His Kingdom*

SERMON TITLE: Prayer that Counts

SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 1:4-11

[4] When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

[5] Then I said: "LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

[6] let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you.

[7] We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

[8] "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,

[9] but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

[10] "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

[11] Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.

January 19-20, 2019

Title: Prayer That Counts

*This is the Prayer that counts:*

**1. Prayer to an awe-inspiring God.**

- This prayer is natural, immediate and spontaneous.
- This prayer is persistent.
- This prayer is directed to our God who is near, powerful, and compassionate.

**2. Prayer about destructive sin and debilitating wickedness.**

- The Lord is always more eager to forgive our sins than we are to confess them.

**3. Prayer fervently prayed for God's favor and blessing.**

- Nehemiah looked up in dependence, looked inward with penitence, looked back with gratitude, and looked forward with confidence.
- With prayer, Nehemiah knew he would be clearly led and given all the resources necessary for total obedience to God's will.

# Lagniappe

I want to share with you an incredible opportunity that we have coming up at First Baptist Church Covington.

Beginning Monday, January 28 at noon and continuing through the evening of Tuesday, January 29 - the Louisiana Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference (ECON) will meet on the campus of FBCCov.

People from all over Louisiana will be attending. This conference is not just set up for ministers. In fact, it is planned with local church people in mind.

**Monday Afternoon** will be a message by Chip and Fred Luter.

**Monday Evening** will be a time set apart for reaching students and young people with the Gospel, presented by Ed Newton, an effective and well-known youth pastor.

**Tuesday Morning** there will be a Message by Eric & David Hankins

**Tuesday Afternoon** - Senior adults are targeted with music by David Phelps and a message by Argile Smith.

**On Tuesday night**, we get to hear Lee Strobel. Lee Strobel is one of the best known Christians in America. He came to know the Lord out of a heart of cynicism and unbelief when he set out to prove Christianity wrong. From that experience, he has written *The Case for Faith* and *The Case for Christ*.

Many of you will know gospel singer David Phelps. He will lead in a concert as part of the Tuesday afternoon and Tuesday evening programs. Benji & Jenna Cowart, David Logan and the SE Louisiana Church Orchestra will play important parts in the whole conference.

ECON is for you - please plan to attend. There is no fee for the conference, and you are invited. You can find the entire schedule next week in the Vision.

This is the first time this conference has been held in our region. Let's take advantage of an incredible opportunity.