

**PRAYERS**

**Chris Bonen** – Doctors will continue to monitor her and retest in three months.

**Richard** – Father of Valerie Brist – He has kidney issues

**All holiday travelers**

**Congregation News:**

Pot Luck is today, following morning worship. Please stay to share a meal and also stay for the afternoon singing service.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Life is a cup to be filled, not drained!

**Those Privileged to Serve**

**Sunday Morning Service:**

**12/16/18**

**12/23/18**

Bible Class	Paul Darling	Paul Darling
Announcements	Tom Bright	Colby Crawford
Song Leader	Colby Crawford	Paul Darling
Opening Prayer	Paul Darling	Paul Darling
Lord's Supper	Colby Crawford	Colby Crawford
Closing Prayer	Tom Bright	Colby Crawford
Sermon	Tom Bright	Colby Crawford

**Bible Classes**

**Sunday Morning**

**Wednesday Evening**

Adult	Paul Darling	Tom Bright
Children	Colby Crawford	Linda McBrayer
Toddlers	Cindy Bright	
Babies	Anissa Crawford	

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Building Cleanup**

McBrayer

**Aberdeen church of Christ**

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**Bulletin Submissions**

If you would like anything added to the bulletin such as prayer requests, news, or events, please make submissions by Friday night to: [tlbj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tlbj@sbcglobal.net)

# Aberdeen church of Christ

December 16, 2018

## Divergent

In the fictional 'Divergent' series, society is apportioned in five factions—Dauntless (Brave), Candor (Honest), Amity (Peaceful), Erudite (Intelligent), and Abnegation (Selfless). At the age of sixteen, individuals make the choice as to which faction they will devote the rest of their lives to best benefit society as a whole. Those who don't fit in are called the factionless while those that possess all five qualities are called Divergent. The Divergent are not considered normal and they are eliminated. In many ways divergence describes Christianity as it clarifies the qualities God expects of all His children, for we are not to conform to this world (Rom. 12:2); therefore Christians must be...

**Dauntless**—As soldiers of Christ, it is our duty to be brave. Being gird with the panoply of God's armor, Paul says we are able to withstand in the evil day, as well as 'to stand' (Eph. 6:13). In other words, Paul is telling us that when we adorn ourselves with the entire armor of God, we can bravely defend ourselves and the truth. We can take a stand and not back down. Notice that the armor of God protects the attacking soldier of Christ, but not the deserter. Possessing a dauntless quality, we will earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3), and fight the good fight (2 Tim. 4:7), while never backing down.

**Candor**—Honesty is always the best policy if we are to please God. The Christian is expected to preach the truth in love, and in meekness, correct those who oppose themselves in hopes that they acknowledge the truth and repent (Eph. 4:15; 2 Tim. 2:25). We have been given a tremendous responsibility to take the gospel into the world, as well as exposing erroneous teachings (Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 5:11). Being candor does not allow tolerance of sin or false teaching. We are duty bound to be watchmen on the wall (Ezek. 33)!

**Amity**—Paul said, "IF it is possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 12:18). Amity follows after the things that make for peace in order that they may edify one another (Rom. 14:19). Only through the attitudes of longsuffering, lowliness and forbearance is one able to live at peace. But notice the glue that binds these attitudes together so that peace may be possible; it is called 'love.' Paul notes that we can do many

things in the name of God, but if love is not the motivating factor, it profits us nothing (1 Cor. 13:3). True, Paul said "IF it is possible, be at peace with all men." There are times when it becomes impossible because of the hardness of another's heart, or if it means defending error to maintain peace. We need more Elijah's who are dauntless and candor at troubling spiritual Israel, in order to keep her on the old paths (1 Kings. 18:17; Jer. 6:16; 18:15). Remember, the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace (Jas. 3:18).

**Erudite**—The Christian should never be pleased with where they are spiritually. It is our duty to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18). We must study to present ourselves approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15) so that we feed upon the meat of the word rather than the milk (Heb. 5:12-14). The Erudite quality finds the Christian being ready always to give an answer to everyone (1 Pet. 3:15) because he continually studies the word that is able to thoroughly furnish him to every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

**Abnegation**—One area that many fail in is that of selflessness. But if we are truly divergent, we must think of others above ourselves (Phil. 2:3). We are obligated to fulfill the law of Christ which says we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Gal. 5:14; Matt. 7:12). Paul said, "let no man seek his own, but each his neighbors good" (1 Cor. 10:24). Possessing the abnegation spirit will help the Christian please God and his fellow man.

While the world does not recognize the Christian Divergent as an example to be followed, we should always think of what pleases God (Rom. 12:1-2). Many Christians are happy to possess qualities of one or two of the factions, but not all, as must be the case, should we desire a heavenly home. The Lord is seeking true divergents to be His followers. Peter said we are to diligently add to our faith all the qualities of the five factions and more (2 Pet. 1:5-8). The question we should ask ourselves, is, are we devoted to one or two factions, or are we divergent?

#### **Welcome to our Assembly. . .**

Whether you are a first time visitor or a long time member of this congregation, we are happy to have you with us this morning. For those visiting, please make yourself comfortable. A good deal of information about this church and its activities can be found on this sheet. We encourage and invite anyone interested to participate in the activities offered throughout the week. If you have any questions about the facilities, our worship service, or want more information about the church, feel free to ask anyone present. Someone will be glad to help you!

## **STUBBORN AS AN AMAZIAH**

So far as I know, it is not a proverb or even a saying, but it could be. No mule has anything on this king of Judah. When he is introduced to us, the Holy Spirit through the penman has these positive words: "He did right in the sight of the Lord" (2 Chron. 25:2a). There are not a great many kings of Judah (and none in Israel) of whom this could be said. Yet, Scripture continues, "...yet not with a whole heart." He honored the law of Moses (25:4), but he showed from the earliest days of his reign a fighting spirit. He assembled Judah, appointed them for battle, took a census, and even hired 100,000 men of the northern kingdom to combat the Edomites.

For a man who gets relatively little notice in Scripture, he was repeatedly given warnings. After hiring the Israelites as mercenaries, Amaziah receives a visit from a man sent by God. The prophet tells him not to let the army of Israel go with them to battle, then tells him, "God has the power to help and to bring down (8). Ultimately, Amaziah would ignore this message.

After routing Edom, Amaziah brought their gods back, "set them up as his gods, bowed down to them and burned incense to them" (14). This provoked God's anger, so He sends a prophet to rebuke the Judean king (15). Amaziah promptly threatens the prophet if he does not be quiet. The prophet replies, "I know that God has planned to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel" (16). Nowhere does Scripture indicate Amaziah even pausing to contemplate the warning.

Instead, his next move is to challenge Israel's king, Joash, to fight (17). Joash, though far from righteous, tells him a brief parable with a clear message: "Now stay at home" (19). Of course, Amaziah did not listen and was humiliated in battle and plundered by Israel (21-24). That is all we know about Amaziah until he slinks off the stage of life ignominiously fifteen years later by conspirators who assassinated him (27).

King Amaziah is one of the best biblical examples of the high cost of stubbornness. What about us? Are we those capable of distinguishing and following wise counsel? Do we listen or do we have to learn the hard way? Beware! Stubbornness can be costly. Various people are actually called "stubborn" in Scripture, and it is never a good thing (see Pharaoh, Israel in Moses' generation, Israel in the period of the Judges, etc.). No one should be gullible, but neither should one be incapable of receiving counsel. Don't be as stubborn as an Amaziah!