

## PRAYERS

**Butch and Chris** – Chris’s numbers are down but they have not scheduled surgery yet.

**Wilma** (Anita’s Sister) – Is now in rehab after her fall.

**Connie LaRocque** – Doing better after surgery and is traveling.

**Mark** (Linda’s family) – Making good progress in rehab.

**Chance** – She is in the hospital with Kidney issues. The DRs want her numbers to go down or they will send her to Sioux Falls.

## Congregation News

**Great news** – Elaine Marlow was baptized this past week. Colby has been studying with her. She lives in Veblen. Here is her contact information: Elaine Marlow, P.O Box 305, Veblen, SD 57270, 605-738-2389

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** A brat is one who acts just like your children do--but they belong to someone else!

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### Sunday Morning Service:

2/25/18

3/4/18

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

#### Bible Classes

#### Sunday Morning

#### Wednesday Evening

Adult	Tom Bright	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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Aberdeen, SD 57401

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[www.aberdeenchurchofchrist.net](http://www.aberdeenchurchofchrist.net)

#### 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

February 25, 2018

## JESUS' PRAYER FOR UNITY

Jesus prayed for unity in **John 17:20-21**, *“Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word; that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me.”* This was just hours before Jesus died on the cross. Don’t you believe that unity was important to Him? Sadly, many today teach and preach and pray, thanking God for “all the different churches.” Apparently, the unity of believers is not as important for such folks as it was to Jesus.

Jesus also said, *“And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18)*. Did you notice that Jesus used the singular (church), not the plural (churches)? Consider also what Paul wrote: *“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling” (Eph. 4:4)*. In using the term “body,” Paul refers to the church: *“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Col. 1:18)*. Paul, by inspiration, says that there is only one body, one church.

I know that some try to use **John 15:1-7** to defend their various denominations, but they are misusing this passage. Their claim is that the branches Jesus speaks of are denominations. Not so!--look at the passage carefully. Jesus speaks of the branches as individual men: *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for apart from me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned” (verses 5-6)*.

Paul shows us the way to unity: *“Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10)*. In order to achieve this unity, we must all *“preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (2 Tim. 4:2)*. Are we all willing to do that? We must promise to do our part.

## WHAT I BELIEVE ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

I have been asked, "What do you believe about the Scriptures, the Word of God?" This is a pretty simple question, but the answer is multifaceted--to answer it fully requires more than just one answer. Here is the best I can do with the question:

**1. I believe God's Word is inspired--God breathed (2 Tim. 3:16-17).** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

**2. I believe God's Word is accurate--down to the very last jot or tittle (Matt. 5:17-18).** "Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished." A jot or tittle is similar to the dotting of the "i" or crossing of the "t" in English.

**3. I believe God's Word is truth.** Long ago Pilate asked Jesus "What is truth?" (John 18:38). We are not left in the dark as to what truth is. The answer to Pilate's question is found in **John 17: 17** when Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth."

**4. I believe God's Word bears witness of Jesus (John 5:39).** "Ye search the scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me;"

**5. I believe God's Word is able to build us up (Acts 20:32).** "And now I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified." God's Word **will** build us up when we read, study it, obey it and continue to live by it.

**6. I believe God's Word is understandable (Eph. 3:1-4).** "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus in behalf of you Gentiles,--if so be that ye have heard of the dispensation of that grace of God which was given me to you-ward; how that by revelation was made known unto me the mystery, as I wrote before in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ;" Did you catch that? Paul said when we read what he wrote, we can perceive his understanding. It does require serious study, but God's Word can be understood!

**7. I believe God's Word is not to be added to (Rev. 22:18).** "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book.

*If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:"* I know this passage refers specifically to the book of **Revelation**, but it certainly applies as well to God's Word as a whole.

**8. I believe God's Word must not be taken from (Rev. 22:19).** "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

**9. I believe God's Word must be believed (2 Thess. 2:12).** "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Remember: Jesus said, "...thy word is truth" (**John 17:17**). Those who do not believe the truth (God's Word) will be damned.

**10. I believe God's Word must be obeyed (Matt. 7:21).** "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." If the will of the Father is not found in God's Word, just where do you think it can be found?

**11. I believe God's Word will judge us (John 12:48).** "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." We will **not** be judged by what the preacher said or by popular opinion. We will be judged by God's Word.

**12. I believe God's Word will never pass away (Matt. 24:35).** "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." There is also this: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever...But the word of the Lord endureth forever" (**1 Pet. 1:23, 25**).

These are the twelve answers I gave. How would you answer the question?

### 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!