

**PRAYERS**

**Richard** – Father of Valerie Brist – He has prostate issues  
**Donna Melhoff** – diagnosed with advanced cancer  
**Chris Bonen** – Her recent test numbers were not good. She may be headed back to Texas for further treatment.  
**Janice Givan** – she has broken her arm and the medicine is affecting her memory.  
**Carson Lohr** – Recovering from a concussion. He is doing much better  
**Isaac Napier** – He has been cleared after his concussion.  
**Connie LaRocque** – Her checkup at Rochester was very good.

**Congregation News:**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** The man who says he’s as good as half the folks in church, seldom specifies which half!

**Those Privileged to Serve**

**Sunday Morning Service:**

**2/24/19**

**3/3/19**

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

**Bible Classes Sunday Morning**

Adult	Colby Crawford
Children	Colby Crawford
Toddlers	Cindy Bright
Babies	Anissa Crawford

**Wednesday Evening**

Tom Bright
Linda McBrayer

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Building Cleanup**  
Crawford

**Aberdeen church of Christ**  
**1801 S. Lincoln St.**  
**Aberdeen, SD 57401**  
**605-225-3621**  
**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 24, 2019

## Great Thoughts of Thomas B. Warren

Almost all Protestant denominations teach that the alien sinner is saved (becomes a child of God) at the point of faith in Jesus Christ before and without any further act(s) of obedience. The Bible makes clear that this is false doctrine. It can be seen to be false for a number of reasons.

1. It is false because Jesus said, “Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). This means that no one can enter into the kingdom of God without being baptized in the name of Christ (cf. Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-5; Mark 16:15,16; et al.). If one is baptized (undergoes some religious acts involving water) without understanding that being baptized in the name of Christ is an act of faith that is essential to salvation, then he is not saved, because he has obeyed a mere human doctrine and not the doctrine of Christ. But one must obey Christ to be saved (Hebrews 5:8-9; Matthew 7:21-23).
2. It is false because it affirms (by implication) that the alien sinner is saved (becomes a child of God) by a dead faith. Yet, James 2:24-26 teaches that faith without works is dead. Since whatever is dead is powerless, inoperative, unable to accomplish anything, then obviously no one can be saved by faith only (a dead faith). One is saved only when—because of living faith—as penitent believer in Jesus Christ, he is baptized in the name (by the authority of) Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38).
3. It is false because it affirms that one can be saved without doing the will of God. Yet, Jesus said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). One is not saved merely by (1) being religious, (2) being sincere in religion or by (3) crying out, “Lord, Lord.” While all of the above matters are necessary, they are not sufficient. One is saved either (1) before he is baptized or (2) when he is baptized or (3) after he is baptized. These are the only possibilities. The truth of the matter is that one is saved when (as a penitent believer) he is baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27; etc.). The other two possibilities are false. So, no matter how religious, how sincere, how zealous, and so on a person may be, if he has not been baptized into Christ, then he is not a

child of God; he is not a Christian.

Every child of God (that is, every Christian) is a member of the church of Christ (the church described on the pages of the New Testament, the church which Jesus bought with His own blood). There is not one Christian living on earth today who is not a member of that church. Every other church is of human origin and, thus, is not authorized by God. Salvation is only in the church which Jesus bought with His blood (Acts 20:28).

May every person deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Jesus—not men or the doctrines of men (Luke 9:23).

### **Yes, God Does Understand**

There are times when good people find themselves in very difficult circumstances.

The “ox is in the ditch” and they are not able to do some things that God has commanded because of physical barriers. God does understand!

“We have not an high priest who cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15). God does not put on us more than we are able to bear (2 Cor. 10:12). However, Jesus did say, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God...” (Matt. 6:33). Consider: We go to the grocery, Wal-Mart, and to the gas station every week, but we have not been to the services of the church in 2 years because we are not physically able, and we say, “God understands”.

We pay \$1,000 a month in car notes, \$1,000 mortgage on the house and \$200 is allotted for entertainment, but we are just not able at this time to give more than 3% of our income each week to the church, and we say, “God understands”.

I meet people on the job every day, represent my company, make sales presentations, and give direction to the employees under me. At this time, however, I am not willing to campaign with the church, lead public prayer, or talk to my neighbors about the gospel because I am not good at talking to people. “God understands”.

I am quite able to make sacrifices of my sleep. Getting up at 5 a.m. to climb a deer stand is no problem. I am always the first one to the lake, even if I didn't get to bed until 12:30 a.m. Every workday, I am up by 6 a.m. to shower, get dressed, eat breakfast, send the kids off to school, and make it to work by 8. Sunday morning is my only chance to sleep in. I never seem to

be able to make it to class on time, if at all. “God understands.”

This summer our family went out of town for our vacation. We did quite a bit of research to locate our recreational destinations. We found our condo on the Internet. We called an 800 number to find out about shopping in the area. We picked up pamphlets to find out about local attractions. We left no stone unturned. We did not make it to church on Sunday or Wednesday night. We did not know where the saints were meeting! “God understands.”

Our Creator is a God of love and compassion. He doesn't expect more from us than we are able to do. Our God is also all seeing and all knowing. He knows our limitations and He knows when we do our best. God really does understand.

“God understands!” — do we?

### **Glorifying God**

Our goal in all things is clearly set forth by God when He tells us, “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God*” (1 Corinthians 10:31). Simple isn't it? Whatever you do, do it to the glory of God. But in reality we sometimes struggle with this don't we. It's obvious we need help, and that is just what God gives us! In 2 Peter 3 we are again given the admonition that glory is to be given to God, but preceding it we are given some insight as to how we are able to accomplish this. We are told to “*grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever*” (3:18). We often talk about growth, but usually we only talk about growing in knowledge. But in this passage God tells us there are two areas with which we should be concerned, grace and knowledge. It seems that if we are to glorify God we must grow in both realms. To grow in grace would be to display the influence of God's Word in my life. In the beginning of 2 Peter we read of what many call the “Christian graces” where we are told, “*add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity*” (5-7). When we think of our lives and consider these character traits or “graces” we need to remember that with them we “shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (8) – our knowledge is bearing fruit! Sadly many have “head knowledge” but fail to grow likewise in grace. But without both there can be no glory to Him!