

## PRAYERS

Chanice Shanks – improved health

Linda Hall (Deb's mom) – better health and less pain

## Congregation News

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Satan can quote Scripture--for his own purposes.

### Class and Assembly Duties:

#### Sunday Morning Service:

11/26/17

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

12/10/17

Colby Crawford
Paul Darling
Colby Crawford
Paul Darling
Paul Darling
Tom Bright
Tom Bright

#### Bible Classes

#### Sunday Morning

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

#### Wednesday Evening

Tom Bright
Linda McBrayer

#### Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Patrick Rombs
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Clay Crawford

#### Building Cleanup

Darling

### Aberdeen church of Christ

1801 S. Lincoln St.

Aberdeen, SD 57401

605-225-3621

[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

December 03, 2017

## Where Do You Stand?

Where do you stand with God? It is a simple question on the surface, and yet it requires an answer that reaches into the depths of our souls. Some ignore it or consider it irrelevant. Others just do not care. However, those who do, often answer it without sufficient thought or meditation. They assume they are right with God, so they reply in the affirmative without significant reflection on God's perspective. This matters significantly. Feeling like you are saved and being saved are two very different things. Calling yourself faithful and God calling you faithful are two vastly different things. This is what makes David's opening request in Psalm 26 so challenging: *"Vindicate me, O Lord, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the Lord; I shall not slip. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart"* (Psa. 26:1-2). David was willing to have the LORD look on his life with a microscope—not because he was perfect but because he had integrity and faith. He was ready and willing to change whatever he needed to change and do whatever he needed to do. Therefore, he drew attention not to what he did openly, which anyone could examine, but to his mind and heart, which only the LORD could examine.

This draws attention to a simple truth. Our integrity and faithfulness begins within. It is not a simple matter of sincerity but rather a commitment to God's will that swells up within and then is expressed without. Faithfulness responds to God's love with a life lived according to God's revealed truth (Psa. 26:3). Faithfulness does not have anything in common with false religion, hypocrisy, or wickedness (Psa. 26:4-5). Faithfulness lives daily in innocence, anticipating opportunities to worship God (Psa. 26:6-7). Faithfulness prefers fellowship with the LORD to the company of the world (Psa. 26:8-10). Faithfulness focuses on God's mercy and redemption that make integrity meaningful (Psa. 26:11). Faithfulness means that we stand with God and His people (Psa. 26:12).

These principles should form the basis for daily reflection, and we should examine them and ourselves in the light of the specifics of God's Word. We should spend time examining God's truth (John 17:17) and considering

where we still fall short of living that truth.

We should examine our doctrinal ideas, our religious practices, and our very lives to root out inconsistency and worldliness. We should live as God's servants and God's worshippers, considering what He wants from us instead of just what we want to offer Him (John 4:24). We should come to identify with the LORD so much that popular culture seems out of step rather than feeling out of step with popular culture (Rom. 12:1-2). We should remain constantly aware of all that God has done through Jesus Christ to give hope in being "faithful unto death" (Rev. 2:10). And we should obey our LORD with such steadfastness that we show a willingness to stand with Him when all others fail (1 Cor. 16:13). Where do you stand? It is not as simple a question as you might think. But it is a question you should ask yourself regularly, inviting the LORD in to examine your answers now so that you are ready for the final test on Judgment Day.

### **A Cure for Hiccups**

A lady walked into a pharmacy and asked the pharmacist if he had a cure for the hiccups. The pharmacist said, "I sure do," and immediately and unexpectedly yelled, "Boo!" at the top of his lungs. He nearly scared the lady half to death! She looked at the pharmacist and asked, "Why in the world did you do that?" The pharmacist said, "Because a good scare will cure a person of hiccups." The lady then said, "But I don't have the hiccups. My husband does, and he's out in the car!"

Oops! Now there's an illustration of how assumptions can be costly. However, the greatest costs regarding assumptions occur in the spiritual realm. How many people assume they are believing and practicing the things that please God? How many people believe things that they have never bothered to read and study for themselves? How many times do you think God will hear someone say in the day of judgment, "But I thought"?

The Bible says to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

### **A MAN'S TRUE WORTH**

During the presidency of General U. S. Grant, a visiting dignitary from China asked famous people whom he met while touring America, "What are you worth?" The visitor from China was one of the wealthiest men in his country and he thought he was paying a compliment to people by asking about their financial standing. However, the day has long been past when intelligent people judge a person's worth on their basis of their bank account. We have all heard the saying, "You can't judge a book by its cover." Neither can you judge a man's worth by his pocketbook!

I am also told that at the outbreak of the American Civil War, the North tried vainly to enlist the services of Robert E. Lee. General Scott maintained that Lee was worth fifty-thousand men in battle. How many of us are as valuable as such a large number of people? General Lee's value was not in his financial clout, but in his strategic abilities and expertise in the art of warfare. Did Robert E. Lee fight for the South? Yes, He did. And didn't the South lose the Civil War? Yes, they did. But I have heard some historians suggest that the South would have lost a lot sooner, if Robert E. Lee had been on the side of the North.

All of this has been written to make a point: Who we are and what we believe are more important considerations than dollars and cents in determining value. It is possible to be financially prosperous and morally bankrupt (people like Bernie Madoff come to mind--the man who ripped off millions [billions?] from unsuspecting investors in his now infamous ponzi scheme). Such an individual is not worth very much. In **Luke 12:15** Jesus taught "*a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*"

Are you ready to grasp the true sources of enrichment? True values in life are the things worth living and dying for. Any person without these things will not make much difference in the world's welfare. We sometimes sing a song in worship that says, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue." Do **you** have treasures in that realm? If you do, you are truly wealthy and are a person of true worth.