

## PRAYERS

**Butch and Chris** – Chris was given a clean bill of health from the DR and Butch is doing good.

**Anita** – Cataract surgery on Wednesday went well.

**Chanice** – She is in Aberdeen Health and Rehab with Kidney issues.

**Zack Opheim** – Continued digestion problems. More tests have been run and they will get results this month.

## Congregation News:

Potluck is today. Please stay and share a meal and stay for the Sunday afternoon singing.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Children these days seem to grow up bigger and faster, yet remain children longer than ever before.

## Those Privileged to Serve

### Sunday Morning Service:

	7/8/18	7/22/18
Bible Class	Paul Darling	Tom Bright
Announcements	Tom Bright	Paul Darling
Song Leader	Paul Darling	Tom Bright
Opening Prayer	Paul Darling	Paul Darling
Lord's Supper	Tom Bright	Paul Darling
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

July 16<sup>th</sup> – Alivia Crawford

### 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

July 15, 2018

## ABOUT THIS THING CALLED MURMURING

If God said something once in the Bible it is important or else He would not have said it. But if God says something over and over, we should really pay attention. God is quite clear and very specific when He commands us, *“Do all things without murmurings and questionings”* (Phil. 2:14). In **1 Corinthians 10** God describes five failures of the Israelites of the Old Testament as examples to warn Christians of five things that can cause us to lose our salvation: 1--Don't lust after evil things (v. 6); 2--Don't become idolaters (v. 7); 3--Don't commit sexual infidelity (v. 8); 4--Don't tempt Christ (v. 9); 5--Don't murmur (v. 10). We can learn a lot about what God thinks of an activity by the activities which keep it company.

After God's call for Moses to deliver the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, Moses went before Pharaoh to tell him to let God's people go (Ex. 3:17). Pharaoh not only refused, but made their work even harder. The elders of Israel then went to Pharaoh to appeal the edict, but Pharaoh refused to listen. As the elders came out from Pharaoh, they turned to Moses and said, *“...The Lord look upon you and judge: because you have made our savor to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us”* (Ex. 3:32). Why should we not murmur?

Consider the following points:

**1. Murmuring discourages others.** The first consequence of murmuring is discouragement. Moses wanted to do God's will, but when the elders of Israel murmured against him (Ex. 5:21), Moses became discouraged and began to question God's will for his life (Ex. 5:22-23).

**2. Murmuring is contagious.** As a result of the elders of Israel complaining and murmuring, Moses also complained. Murmuring and complaining always breeds more murmuring and complaining. It is like a cancer--it keeps growing.

**3. Murmurers love company.** They often operate in groups. In **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John** it is always the scribes, the Pharisees or the Sadducees murmuring against Jesus (Luke 5:30; 15:2; John 6: 41).

**4. Murmuring is sin.** What then will keep us from murmuring? In **Exodus 16:8** Moses said to the people, *“...The Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord.”* Realize murmuring is against God--and it is sin.

## GOD'S GIVING AND OUR GIVING

Do you remember one of the first verses you most likely memorized as a child in Bible class? I remember the words of **John 3:16**, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* The beauty of that verse remains fresh despite its almost constant use in countless sermons and articles. Its message? *"God loved ...therefore He gave."* Matthew and Mark record this great truth in this manner: *"...the Son of man came...to give his life a ransom for many"* (**Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45**) .

Isn't it humbling to know that God and Jesus gave so much and we have so little to give in return? However, God does NOT require that we give beyond our ability (**Matt. 25:29; Luke 19: 26; Matt. 13:12; Mark 12:48; 1 Cor. 16:1-2**). What God DOES require is that we give Him *"...all of our heart and all of our mind and all of our soul and all of our strength"* (**Mark 12: 30**). God does not want our money if we do not give ourselves first. What God does want are sons and daughters who have given their complete selves over to Him. Thus we can then say with Paul, *"...it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me..."* because Christ *"...loved me and gave himself up for me"* (**Gal. 2:20**).

When it comes to giving, many use the example of Israel under the Old Testament and their giving ten per cent of their income. It must be pointed out, however, that the tithe was not all they gave. It has been estimated that they gave God over 25 per cent and sometimes a lot more than that! When considering the amount you will give to the Lord, consider the example that Jesus gave us. Giving is like planting a wheat field--it doesn't matter how much land you have or how much it is cultivated--if you use only a little in sowing, you will reap very little wheat. If you want a large crop, you must sow much seed (**2 Cor. 9:5-9**). That principle applies to the money we give every Sunday and also to our time, our talents and activities. When we adopt this attitude toward giving to Christ, something wonderful happens. The words of Jesus' promise come clear: *"Ask, and it shall be given you...for everyone that asketh, receiveth...If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"* (**Matt. 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13**).

Many of us memorized **John 3:16** years ago. Maybe it is time to memorize Jesus' words from **Acts 20:35**, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

## Improving Our Spiritual Lives

Every person must set some goals in life. Goals are self-challenges, they are incentives and are used to give direction. A Christian must have clear goals and aims in order to "hit the mark." Christianity is not simply a meandering through life with a guide. The faithful Christian will have the Bible as his source of living and his pattern for life. Every one of us needs to continually strive to improve our spiritual lives.

This Improvement Requires...

### Improving Our Knowledge In God's Word

We must study so that we can "rightly divide" the word. This will give us information so that we can identify error as well as to know God's divine will for us. (John 8:32; 17:17; Psalm 119:11, 105)

### Improving Our Priorities

What is the most important thing in our lives? Some folk spend their time filling their lives up with THINGS. Priorities determine and identify just what is most important to us. The Bible tells us that "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21; Read Proverbs 4:23 and Colossians 3:1-7).

### Improving Our Example

Setting our minds to be good examples will help us watch where we are walking. What do others see in me? They should be able to see a faithful Christian (Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 11:1). Do they see someone who practices what he preaches? If I set my mind to be a good example I will watch what I say and what I do! That will certainly improve my spiritual life. Improving our spiritual lives will cause us to "set our affections on things above."

**REMEMBER:** Living for the Lord is the only WAY to Heaven!

### Who Am I?

He was a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews.

He visited Jesus at night.

In a discussion, he defended Jesus.

Answer last week. **Mordecai**