

**PRAYERS**

**Butch and Chris** – Chris and Butch continue to recuperate.

**Chance** – She is dealing with the effects of dialysis.

**Congregation News**

There will be a men’s business meeting after Worship this morning.

Next Week is Pot Luck. Please plan to bring a dish and share a meal with everyone. Please stay after the meal for the afternoon singing.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Conceit is the only disease known to man that makes everybody sick except the person who has it!

**Those Privileged to Serve**

**Sunday Morning Service:**

**4/8/18**

**4/15/18**

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

**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**

Crawford

**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

April 8, 2018

## Worthy of all Praise

I fear that many take God and their relationship to Him for granted. We get comfortable with our spiritual routine. We go to worship. We pray. We read. If you will, for the next few minutes as you read these words, consider your focus upon God. Consider your relationship with Him. Consider your attitude in worship. Consider your growth as a Christian.

God is worthy of all praise and honor. John recorded, “Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were created” (Revelation 4:11). Let that sink in for a moment. The single motivating factor for my attendance at any worship service should be that God is worthy to be lifted up and magnified. It has nothing to do with how you feel about it. It makes no difference what you think about the worship. It doesn’t matter whether or not you are pleased or displeased. The emphasis is not upon our enjoyment. It matters not whether you are comfortable or uncomfortable.

God is worthy of your praise and adoration. He is worthy of your undivided attention. It has nothing to do with what He has done for you during the week. It has nothing to do with whether you are on a high or low. He is no less worthy on one Sunday than on another. He is no less worthy if company drops by. He is no less worthy regardless of your excuse. Whether you feel good or bad, whether you are excited or depressed. God is worthy to be glorified and revered because of who he is - the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens, the earth and all that is therein.

There are too many today who feel that the worship service is for them rather than to honor God. Too many are looking “to get something out of the service.” Too many are looking to be pleased, satisfied. You must also understand that, because of His worthiness, He has every right to determine how you are to honor Him and glorify His name. You have no right to decide what is pleasing to Him. You have no right to determine what honors Him. You do not honor Him, you do not glorify Him, you do not magnify His name when you take it upon yourself to change the manner of worship He has prescribed.

The next time you are in services and the song is too slow, the sermon too dry, the prayer too long, or the Lord’s supper too repetitive, focus upon God. It is for the purpose of glorifying Him that you are there to begin with. Regardless of what you personally get out of it, honor Him with your worship.

## “Follow Me”

The invitation that Jesus extended to Matthew is as timely today as it was almost two thousand years ago. “Follow me” is the standing invitation that heaven extends to all men. It is an invitation to enter into a relationship with God and Christ that is far and above any and every human relationship. That same invitation is expressed in some of the most beautiful language imaginable in at least two other passages in the New Testament: “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heaven laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30). “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that heareth, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely” (Rev. 22:17). Yet there is something about those two words, “Follow me!” Two words, yet the implications of those words could fill a dictionary, and when expounded upon would surpass the largest of encyclopedias. Consider the following.

From the standpoint of the Master Who uttered those words, it is a call to submit to His leadership. He does not lead from behind, but rather, as the Captain of our faith, He marches forward leading His army into battle, ultimately to rest on the banks of the Jordan having once and for all conquered every enemy, not the least of which is death itself (1 Cor. 15:26). Having “been in all points tempted like as we” (Heb. 4:15), He now sits on His throne taking “captivity captive” (Eph. 4:8), and assuring us that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward” (Rom. 8:18). “Follow me!” No coercion, no force, no high-handed tactics. Only two simple words: “Follow me!” With those two words, He has captured the minds and hearts of men for generations; men and women who are willing to die for Him. Willing to go where He leads without question, complaining, or murmuring, they go forth conquering and to conquer. John Quincy Adams once said, “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, and do more, you are a leader.” Jesus was, and still is, the ultimate leader, and from Matthew Levi to the lowliest saint in the kingdom of God, the acceptance of the invitation to follow our Lord has never disappointed those who have truly heeded that call and followed in obedient faith.

That brings us to the second point. From the standpoint of the disciple, those two words, “follow me,” present a challenge to the one and only

thing that can keep us out of heaven – our self-will. So far as the disciple is concerned, he must be willing to consecrate himself fully to the Lord, “deny himself, and take up his cross daily” and follow Jesus (Matt. 16:24), “*casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*” (2 Cor. 10:5). The element of self sacrifice is an absolute essential if we are to accept the invitation to follow Jesus. Without full and complete surrender to the will of God and the determination to weather the storms of persecution that come our way, following in the steps of Jesus will soon become wearisome and complete abandonment will follow as sure as night follows day.

James Hastings is credited with the following:

In every life there must be a cross. ‘Follow me’ came the call to those early disciples, and they arose and followed Him. And as His road led Him to His Cross, so for some of them their following led them to their crosses. And for all of them their following of Him meant increasing self sacrifice. They emptied themselves of their own desires and wishes that they might fill them with the desire for His purposes. They saw the Cross along the road they had to travel, but they did not shrink.

“Follow me” is the call that comes to all men through the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:14). There is more to this call than simply claiming to follow Jesus. It is more than having our name on some church roll, for even some of the most devoted ‘followers’ of Jesus later learned that their “mighty works” were of no avail (Matt. 7:21-23).

“Follow me” is not a frivolous call, nor is it a futile call. It is one filled with promises and blessings the likes of which we may never fully appreciate this side of heaven. We may have to “suffer hardship...as a good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 2:3), as we attempt to “*walk in the light as he is in the light*” (1 John 1:7), but fellow sojourner, be assured that the promises that stand behind the call to follow Him are as strong as the Rock of Gibraltar.

No, we cannot see heaven with the physical eye; but neither did Abraham see that “*city which hath the foundations, whose builder and maker is God*” (Heb. 11:10) with the physical eye. It has been said, “Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.”

Thank God that Jesus spoke those two words to Matthew. And thank God that He continues to speak those words to all of us, and to generations yet unborn. “Follow me!” The question is, “Will you?”