

PRAYERS

Chris Bonen – Doctors will continue to monitor her.

Richard – Father of Valerie Brist – He has some kidney issues

Congregation News:

Pot Luck is next week following morning worship. Please stay to share a meal and also stay for the afternoon singing service.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: As Christians we should learn two things about our tongues: How to hold them and how to use them!

Those Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning Service:

12/9/18

12/16/18

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

Bible Classes	Sunday Morning	Wednesday Evening
Adult	Colby Crawford	Tom Bright
Children	Colby Crawford	Linda McBrayer
Toddlers	Cindy Bright	
Babies	Anissa Crawford	

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Building Cleanup
McBrayer

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

Aberdeen church of Christ

December 9, 2018

Our Best Friend

Someone wrote the following: "Oh, the comfort, the unsurpassed comfort, of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts, nor to measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are--chaff and grain together--certain that a faithful hand will take them and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and with a breathe of kindness, blow the rest away."

How rare to find (even among our closest friends) the degree of maturity and depth of compassion that allows such openness! Like the writer who wrote the preceding, we long for someone who will not be threatened nor repelled by the honest revelation of what we are. Seldom will we find one to whom we can go with no reservations, but most of us will know someone in our lives who comes close to meeting those qualifications.

Every Christian has such a friend. He came "into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17). He stated that His purpose among men was "that they may have life, and may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). He also said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became one of us, that is, a man. In **Philippians 2:5-8**, Paul wrote, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." He shared the weakness of the flesh that that through experience He could understand our infirmities. He is not only willing, but eager, to have us pour out our thoughts and fears to the Father through His name. Jesus is perfect in love, compassion, forgiveness and in power to encourage. He knows our failures, but that does not cause Him to lose sight of our potential. He is persistent in believing the best about us.

And He is always present. "He ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). He is more than ready to give us His personal, undivided attention. It is regrettable that we have no such friend on earth, but what a tragedy if we do not become friends with Jesus Christ the Son of God! He is the one friend in Whom we can have complete confidence! Jesus said, "Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14). Is Jesus your friend?

Enoch Kept on Walking

300 years. That's how long Enoch walked with God (Gen. 5:21-22). To many, the most remarkable fact about Enoch is that he never died (Gen. 5:24). God took him straight into eternity with Him, sparing him the inconvenience of a physical death. But to me, that's not what is most fascinating. Even more interesting is his walk with God. He wasn't faithful for just 10 years. Or 25 years. Or even 50 years.

Enoch walked with God for 300 years. That is a long time.

What kept him walking for so long? Three things:

1. He knew God's judgment was coming (Jude 14-15).
2. He knew the world was becoming more wicked (Enoch was a contemporary of Noah) (Gen. 6:5).
3. He knew the joy and peace of following close to God.

It could be the more Enoch thought about judgment, the more he was aware of sin. And the more he was aware of sin, the closer he wanted to walk with God. And the closer he walked with God, the more he realized judgment was necessary.

Or it could be the other way around. The more Enoch thought about judgment, the closer he wanted to walk with God. And the closer he walked with God, the more sensitive he was toward sin.

Either way, perhaps you see a negative correlation: **The closer you are to God, the less sin appeals to you.** James said it this way: *"Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."* (James 4:7-8, NKJV).

A clear sign of apostasy, or falling away from God, is a reluctance to call sin "sin." You minimize the seriousness of sin (*"Oh, it isn't that bad."*). You make excuses (*"I'm imperfect; I will always make mistakes."*). You call it by different names (*"Dysfunction"*). You change the subject (*"I just need grace."*).

Only when you walk close with God does the wickedness of sin become evident.

Only when you walk close with God do you recognize sin for what it is – **sin**.

Only when you walk close with God do you think about judgment (Heb. 9:27).

Which, in turn, motivates you to walk even closer to God.

In what ways has sin become less appealing to you?

Verse: Matthew 28:19-20

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world.

Being a "World Changer"

One of the greatest disappointments that Christian's face is the state of the world in which we live. People indulge about every "lust of the flesh... lust of the eyes... and pride of life..." (1 John 2:16) action they can in pursuit of pleasing themselves. The result, of course, is the degraded society in which we live. Concerned children of God ponder how they can make a difference and make a better world for all – how they can be a "world changer." A study of God's Word gives the answer of course, since it has "all things pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). In Matthew 28:19-20 the risen Lord gives all Christians their marching orders when He commands that we are to "teach all nations". Our goal is to have them submit to baptism and it is this event that will change their lives. We are told in Romans 6:1-7 that when one obeys the Lord's commands in this matter they are "dead to sin" (2) and "freed from sin" (7) thus should no longer live in that way. Instead, as we are told in Matthew 28:20, the one who has submitted self to Christ will observe all things He has commanded instead of following the ways of the world.

Yes, one of the greatest disappointments Christians face is seeing people live in the ways of the world. But instead of being discouraged and giving up, we ought to become world changers – we ought to go forth with our marching orders and seek to change the lives of those we can as we work to "teach all nations."

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!