

**PRAYERS**

**Zack Opheim** - Recovering from recent surgery and infection.

**Congregation News:**

Potluck is today. Please plan to stay for the meal and for the afternoon singing.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Just about the time a mother thinks her work is all done, she becomes a grandmother!

**Those Privileged to Serve**

**Sunday Morning Service:**

**9/16/18**

**9/23/18**

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**

September 19<sup>th</sup> - Linda McBrayer

**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

September 16, 2018

## CARRYING THE CROSS OR ROLLING IT?

I don't subscribe to it. I didn't ask for it. But addressed to me came a religious newsletter telling of the concerns of a large denomination. As I thumbed through the pages, a certain picture caught my attention. It showed a group of people walking down a road with cars following them. The fellow in front of the crowd was shouldering a wooden cross which looked to be about 8 or 9 feet in length. The article that accompanied the picture said that the purpose of this walk was to remind the people that the way of Jesus was not one of red carpet and luxury, but of the cross. Looking back at the picture, I saw something just barely visible among the legs and feet of the walking crowd. I looked again. There was no mistaking it. There at the bottom of that impressive 8 or 9 feet cross--being carried to teach this important lesson--were wheels! That cross was not being carried! It was being rolled!

The more I thought about it, the more I realized how often this happens. Too many who claim to be Christians have been "rolling the cross." Even worse, I know I've been guilty of doing it, too. There have been times when I wasn't keen on making the hard decisions or making the hard sacrifice. But don't most of us like it that way? If there has to be a cross, if there has to be a sacrifice of some kind, let's not make it too hard. Let's find some way to make it more palatable, more attractive, less difficult.

Jesus said, "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27). In Matthew 16:24 we read these words: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." I don't think that in either of those passages that Jesus meant for our cross to have wheels. At the same time, if you could examine the cross that Jesus bore at least part way to Calvary, I am quite certain you wouldn't find any wheels at all!

Now, dear reader, here is a revolutionary idea...earth shattering: Let us commit ourselves today--in our hearts and actions--to the God of the Bible. Let us determine that we will give ourselves to the whole task of becoming and living and growing and serving as Christians! We need to carry the cross. We need to know and understand that the cross Jesus speaks of in Luke 14:27 is not to be rolled.

## What does abiding in Christ Mean?

In order to abide in Christ, a person must be “in Christ.” How, then, does a person get into Christ? In other words, how does a person get into a right relationship with Christ? The same way a person becomes a Christian.

When a person is born again, he or she is born into a right relationship with God. He or she becomes God’s children — the children of God, and Christ becomes his or her elder brother. So, how does a person get into Christ? Listen to the inspired answer. In Galatians 3:27, Paul wrote, “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Also, in Romans 6:3 Paul wrote, “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” When a person is baptized for the remission of sin, he or she is baptized into Christ, and at that point, they begin to abide in Christ.

In John 15 Jesus said, “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you” (verse 3). The way a person becomes clean is by obedience to the word of Christ. This, too, is associated with baptism. Peter wrote, “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Peter 1:23). Baptism is the new birth (John 3:3-5), and the new birth comes about because of incorruptible seed (the word of God) planted in the hearts of men (see also, 1 Corinthians 4:15; James 1:18). Thus, the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

“To abide” means to remain, continue, or dwell. Thus, to abide in Christ is to continue in Christ. Abiding in Him is more than just the new birth. The new birth places a person in Christ, but we must also continue in Christ to have the promise of life everlasting. In part, this is the point Jesus is making in our text. Remember He said, “for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:6).

In order to be a fervent, active branch, we must continually receive the nourishment that comes from the vine. No superficial attachment will suffice!

To abide in Christ (as a branch attached to the vine) means Christ (as the vine) is the source of life. Certainly, we understand Christ is the creator of the universe. John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made” (John 1:1-3; see also 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2). Not only is He the creator, He is also

The upholder or “sustainer” of the universe. Paul wrote, “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Colossians 1:17; see also Hebrews 1:3). In other words, not only did He create the universe, He upholds or sustains it. He keeps it going and maintains it.

Having said all this, however, Christ is more than just the creator and upholder of the universe. He is the very source of life. “For in him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28). “In him was life; and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4). In John 5:26 Jesus said, “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.” Furthermore, Jesus is “the resurrection of life” (John 5:29), “the bread of life” (John 6:48), “the light of life” (John 8:12), “the prince of life” (Acts 3:15), and “the word of life” (1 John 1:1). For this reason, He offers “the promise of life” (2 Timothy 1:1), to write our names in “the book of life” (Philippians 4:3), to give us a “crown of life” (Revelation 2:10), and provides access to “the tree of life” (Revelation 22:14). It is no wonder why John would later write, “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:12).

In John 10:10 Jesus said, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” Within the pages of the Bible, there are several Koiné Greek words that are translated “life.” One word is “PSUCHE” . This word means breathe and is often used with reference to life that man, animals, and plants have (The Analytical Greek Lexicon). Another word is “BIOS” . This has reference to the period or duration of the natural life. A third word is “ZOA” . This is “life as a principle, life in the absolute sense, life as God has it.” (Expository Dictionary of the New Testament, W.E. Vine). This is the life that Jesus promises to His followers. It is not merely existence. It is not existence in this material/physical world of pain and woe. It is the “abundant life” that flows from vine to branch.

### Who Am I?

She was a resident in Joppa.  
She was noted for her good deeds.  
She was raised from the dead.

Answer last quiz. Onesimus