

PRAYERS

Richard – Father of Valerie Brist – He has kidney issues

Donna Melhoff – diagnosed with advanced cancer

Chris Bonen – She is undergoing cancer treatment and waiting on results from new blood work.

Janice Givan – she has broken her arm and the medicine is affecting her memory.

Carson Lohr – Recovering from a concussion.

Isaac Napier – Doing better after his concussion.

Congregation News:

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The Bible is most helpful when it is open!

Those Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning Service:

2/17/19

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

2/24/19

Colby Crawford
Tom Bright
Colby Crawford
Colby Crawford
Colby Crawford
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

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

Aberdeen church of Christ

February 17, 2019

The New Testament Church

There is not an institution more important to man than the church we read about in the Bible. Why? Here are several good reasons why this is so:

1. Christ is its head. *“and he [God] put all things in subjection under his [Jesus’] feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Eph. 1:22-23).*

2. Christ loves the church. *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:25-27).*

3. The church was purposed, planned and promised by God. *“to the intent that now unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:” (Eph. 3:10-11).*

4. The church was foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament. *“And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Dan. 2:44).* Please take the time to read also **Isaiah 2:1-4.**

5. The church was purchased by the blood of Christ. *“Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28).*

6. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth. *“but if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15).*

7. God receives glory in the church. *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen” (Eph. 3:20-21).*

The New Testament church is divine in its origin, mission and destiny. The church of the New Testament is the body of Christ into which sinners are baptized (**Eph. 1:23; 1 Cor. 12:13**). Thus the church of the New Testament is essential, important and of primary concern to those who are serious about going to heaven.

Lessons from One Lost Soul

“Sin, not till it is left, will duly sinful seem; a man must waken first, ere he can tell his dream” – Trench.

The rich man arrayed in fine linen and purple is recorded as having lived a luxurious life everyday of his physical life on earth. But waking in eternity’s night, he realized the wasted life of materialism that had brought him into torment. The parable, as told by our Lord in Luke 16:19-31, is one that should waken every fiber of our being to the cold hard fact that we will each answer one day for the choices we have made —either good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10). Our Savior so richly pointed out that *“no man can serve two masters”* (Matthew 6:24). This certainly became obvious to the rich man in torment, because as our Lord says, *“for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

Mammon is representative of the love of riches, and/or pleasures of this world. Both God and mammon demand our total attention - one to our soul’s destruction, and the other to our souls good. The words of the parable of the rich man and Lazarus are heavily laden with solemnity and meaning. Lessons that are intended to give weight to men and women waking from their dream world to discover sin is keeping them from true happiness.

A man may live in the lap of luxury, yet be an abomination in the sight of God (vs. 19). The rich man was finely arrayed in purple linen, dependent only upon the strength of his own hands. Men have always looked upon the “rich and famous,” as models of what true happiness and glory should be. However, this is only in the eyes of the world. God told the Israelites, before their conquest of the Promised Land, *“but thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth....”* (Deuteronomy 8:18). Many, in and out of the church, depend far too much on self and only seek God during times of sorrow, pain and suffering. The Israelites were not long in remembering God’s warning. John reminds us in Revelation 3:17, *“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.”* The rich man did not realize this until it was too late. He believed the false philosophy of men that teaches there are second chances to change our eternal destiny (i.e. Catholicism, Reincarnation, etc.). However, the Bible teaches that the here and now is the only chance we get, *“as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”* (Heb 9:27).

A man may be pitiful and poor in the sight of the world, yet beautiful and rich

in the sight of God (vs. 20-21). *“Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him”* (James 2:5)? Luke implies that the poor beggar Lazarus loved God. Not just loving Him in thought, but in word, deed and truth as stated by the Holy Spirit (Colossians 3:17). Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians of another man who became poor for our sakes that we might be made rich (2 Corinthians 8:9)! Jesus Christ, the Master teacher, became the equalizer to all of humanity. Breaking down the separating wall between Jew and Gentile, bond and free, male and female (Galatians 3:28; Philippians 2:6-8; Ephesians 2:14-16). Many become disgusted at the outward appearance or lifestyle of others - from skin color, to handicap, to social status. James demands that we not be respecters of persons (James 2:1-8). God created us all in His image (Genesis 1:26) and Jesus laid down His life for every man, not just the rich and good looking.

Though saints and sinners live together now, the time is coming for them to be eternally separate (vs. 26). As described in Luke 16:26, the souls of the dead pass on into another state, the sinner to torment and the saint in paradise or Abraham’s bosom (vs. 22-23). The realm in which Lazarus and the rich man found themselves was what is known as Hades, the temporal abode of the departed, wherein they wait for eminent return of the Christ for the Day of Judgment (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). God fixed the Great Gulf; nothing can move or remove it. Not all the prayers in the world or the paying of penance, not even the false doctrine of purgatory can bridge the gap between torment and paradise.

The efforts and prayers of the saints worldwide, from generation to generation is that relatives, friends, neighbors obey the one and only gospel plan of salvation. It was Paul’s heart’s desire and prayer that Israel would be saved (Romans 10:1). Likewise, it is my heart’s desire and prayer that my relatives, friends and neighbors be saved, as I am sure that you also have this wish. Billions are hopelessly lost and separated from God. Some because of their lust for pleasure and riches, and others because they are too hardheaded to listen to the truth! The Jews that stoned Stephen to death had hardened their hearts to the point that they would not even reason through the Scriptures to ensure their eternal destiny (Acts 7).

The soul of the rich man was put into his own hands by God to manage. His own mismanagement caused it to be lost for all of eternity. He wasted his time on luxury, rather than redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:16). There are many lessons to be learned from the rich man, the question is, will we take them to heart and repent?