

**PRAYERS**

**Deb** – Having some issues with her eyes

**Butch and Chris** (Anita’s son and daughter in law) – Chris was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and they are waiting to talk with doctors

Please remember all holiday travelers

**Congregation News**

The Brookings church of Christ will hold a 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday singing on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. There will be potluck after the singing. A poster is in the foyer.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** If you don’t know, simply say so.

**Class and Assembly Duties:**

**Sunday Morning Service:**

**12/24/17**

**12/31/17**

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

**Bible Classes**

**Sunday Morning**

**Wednesday Evening**

|          |                 |                |
|----------|-----------------|----------------|
| Adult    | Paul Darling    | Colby Crawford |
| Children | Colby Crawford  | Linda McBrayer |
| Toddlers | Cindy Bright    |                |
| Babies   | Anissa Crawford |                |

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Building Cleanup**

Darling

**Aberdeen church of Christ**

**1801 S. Lincoln St.**

**Aberdeen, SD 57401**

**605-225-3621**

**[www.aberdeenchurchofchrist.net](http://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

December 24, 2017

## The Sin of Complaining

Many of us are so spoiled that we complain at the least inconvenience. If the traffic light catches us, we complain. If the waiter takes too long to serve us, we complain. If it rains, we complain. If it doesn’t rain, we complain. I am reminded of the man who always complained about the way his wife prepared his eggs for breakfast every day. If she fried them, he wanted them scrambled. If she scrambled them, he wanted them fried. One day his wife decided that she would outsmart him and she fried one egg and scrambled the other. Sure enough, he began to complain about his eggs and his wife asked what was wrong. His reply? “You scrambled the wrong one!”

There is little of a positive nature that can be said about constant complaining. Usually our complaining does no good whatsoever because it does nothing to change the situation. On the other hand, it causes us to place more importance on the situation that it deserves, thus making us more unhappy. Our complaining will often make others unhappy because they get tired of listening to us or they begin to complain with us.

Constant complaining signifies a lack of gratitude because the complainer often sees only what he is complaining about and forgets all his blessings. Instead of complaining, wouldn’t we be so much better off counting our blessings? Some estimate that 75% of the world would gladly exchange places with 99% of us. God has blessed us greatly. Let us never forget that.

When I see others around me who have problems much greater than mine, but who never give up, I am made ashamed of the way I complain about minor things. Those who continue under adverse circumstances--never quitting--are an inspiration to the rest of us. Such folks do more good through their influence than they ever could through complaining about their problems.

We must never give in to our problems. God will help us bear our burdens and we will shame others who complain about such matters. *“Do all things without complaining and disputing” (Phil. 2:14, NKJV).*

## Two Different Types of Attitudes

How important it is that Christians have the right attitude? Attitude greatly affects one's relationship with God. A proper attitude is demonstrated through proper obedience and service to God. Examine the following attitudes and see which ones you possess:

**It will not work.** If it is scriptural, it does work – if we will use ourselves in God's vineyard. There is no stronger positive plan than God's plan. Those who try to belittle God's ways of doing things belittle God (Col. 3:17).

**We tried that before.** If it is scriptural, keep trying. Just because something has been tried once or twice does not mean the plan fails, it means we have not worked the plan diligently.

**It cannot be done.** This is brother or sister pessimist! They can give five to ten excuses that tend to discourage and hold back the Lord's work. With God on our side, it can and will be done! (Rom. 8:31; Phi. 4:13).

**Let us do it later.** How this must please old Satan. If we put spiritual matters off long enough, the devil knows we will have eternity to spend with him! (Pro. 27:1; Mat. 25:46).

**You do it.** This is the attitude of brother/sister scapegoat. He tries to "pass the buck." He does his/her best to push off his/her responsibility onto someone else (Gen. 2 – Eve tried this!).

**I will do what I can.** This attitude is expressed and demonstrated by Christians who are willing to use their talents. They gladly do what they can when they can (1 Cor. 15:58). I have faith we can do it. That is great! This rubs off on others and causes others to see that their faith can grow also. After all, diligent faith pleases God (Heb. 11:6).

**I want to help.** How God must love to hear this positive attitude expressed. Wanting to serve God is the key foundation to rendering proper service.

**It will be alright.** This attitude means those who believe this pray and labor to see that things do work out to God's glory. How we need more brethren that think this way (1 The. 1:2-3).

**We will be successful.** Brethren who feel this way will not allow the devil, trials, or heartaches to stop them. They will (with God's help) press onward and upward (Phi. 3:13-14).

Which attitudes do you express by your mouth and influence? May God help us to remove negative thinking from our lives. May we be more involved – more dedicated, because, after all, we do not want to possess any attitude that would hinder the work and worship of the Lord's church.

## The Sensitive Plant

Several years ago, I read of a small and very unique plant referred to as the "sensitive plant." This plant derived its name from its unusual ability to react visibly when touched. When a person reaches out and touches the plant it will actually quiver and close its leaves in response. Each time it is touched, however, it will react less and less, until it can finally no longer be moved to respond. Continued touching brings about a slow, but steady, "desensitizing" of the plant.

What a vivid lesson this should be to all people! The lesson? People are much like that little plant! We can have our consciousness of sin so often assaulted that it takes an ever-increasing dosage of sin to cause us to even raise an eyebrow. Our society today has been fed such a constant diet of vulgar language, sex, nudity and anemic ethics through the "entertainment" media that some folks just accept it and go on. Our nation--our society--is quickly approaching the point where, like Israel of old, we "*do not know how to blush*" (Jer. 6:15).

This situation is described by Paul as that which afflicted the Gentiles in **Ephesians 4:19** when he speaks of them as "*being past feeling.*" Those people long ago had lived with sin so long they become hardened by it and could no longer be made to feel the emotions of guilt, sorrow and shame. All those emotions had withered as a result of their sins! Doesn't that sound like a description of many folks in our society today?

As we seek to spread the saving message of Jesus--which the New Testament calls the gospel--we must ever be mindful of those who are paralyzed by sin. It is this nature--this, old decayed man--that we seek to help them put away while creating a new man in its place (**Eph. 4:22-24**).

And we must remain alert lest we also become too cozy with the world and its ways and find ourselves like the "sensitive plant" and the Gentiles--past feeling.

### 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!