

## PRAYERS

**Butch and Chris** – They continue to recuperate. Chris is having a hard time rebounding from this round of chemo.

**Chanice** – She is doing better but still dealing with some health issues.

**Linda's Cousin** – had brain surgery this past week.

**Bob Woodring** - Connie's brother in law – Had an angiogram in Sioux Falls on Wednesday.

## Congregation News

We are very happy that Carly Crawford was baptized Thursday evening. Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Nate Thompson!

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Some families can trace their ancestry back three hundred years, but can't tell you where their children were last night!

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### Sunday Morning Service:

**5/06/18**

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

**5/13/18**

Paul Darling
Tom Bright
Colby Crawford
Paul Darling
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

May 6<sup>th</sup> – Nate Thompson  
May 7<sup>th</sup> – Colby Crawford  
May 13<sup>th</sup> – Connie LaRocque

#### Building Cleanup

Darling

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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

May 6, 2018

## **ON COMPARING OURSELVES WITH OTHERS**

Have you ever noticed that usually when we compare ourselves with others, we are content to compare ourselves with those who are weaker--not those who are stronger? Especially this is true in the spiritual realm. "I attend worship services more than he does." "I pray more than she does." "I read my Bible more than they do." Apparently we feel better when comparing ourselves with those who are weaker. But how about comparing ourselves with those who are stronger? How about comparing ourselves with the apostle Paul or with James or with the apostle John? We don't come out looking so good, then, do we? Spend a few minutes comparing the following:

1. "Maybe we better not go to worship this morning--it looks like it might rain" versus "*Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day have I been in the deep*" (**2 Cor. 11:25**).
2. "I don't think I'll go to worship this morning--I kinda have a headache" versus "*And they stoned Stephen, calling upon the Lord, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit*" (**Acts 7:59**).
3. "I've been to services twice this week--I don't think it's necessary to go every time" versus "*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord*" (**1 Cor. 15:58**).
4. "I guess I'll have to start going to worship sometime--a person really should, I suppose" versus "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whose believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*" (**John 3:16**).
5. "I get so tired--everytime I turn around, somebody is saying I ought to give, give, give." versus "*For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for you sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich*" (**2 Cor. 8:9**).
6. **Sunday:** "Missed services because: company came--slight cold--overslept--no new clothes-- touch of a headache--car wouldn't start--or a

hundred other like flimsy excuses.” **Monday:** “On the job at 8:00 a.m. in spite of any or all of the above excuses.

**Questions:**

- 1) Do the above comparisons suggest anything to you?
- 2) Do the implications fit anyone you know?
- 3) Where were you last Sunday? Wednesday night?

The Lord knows and is keeping a record. The final examination (judgment) is coming!

### **The More I Know, The Less I Know**

It is a true paradox. Today, I’ve been married longer than I have ever been. I’ve been a father longer than I have ever been. The same is true for me as a Christian, a preacher, and every other relationship I am in. My experience in all of these has never been greater than it is right now. Yet, as I examine things, I realize just how much I do not know. I am not saying that truth is unknowable, for such a statement would be false and contradictory to what God affirms in Scripture (John 8:32; Eph. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:15; etc.). It is just that I realize how little I understand compared to what needs to be understood, that I find the challenge of putting truth into practice in every situation requiring wisdom and understanding as daunting as I ever have. Yet, despite such a realization, my optimism has never been greater. Why? Because I have never believed more strongly in the power and wisdom of God, nor have I ever depended more on Him for strength and provision where I am lacking than I do today. I feel smaller, but He seems bigger. While the walk on the narrow way seems a steeper, more strenuous, incline each day and the challenges to faith more daunting, more than proportionate to this is my realization that God “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Eph. 3:20). My conviction about what the Bible says has never been stronger. My belief in God’s existence, involvement, concern, and righteousness has never been more than this moment. Yet, my awareness of my finiteness and limitations, the transiency of this life, and the ferocity of the adversary is acute. Incredibly, this doesn’t cause me to despair. It causes me to hope. It takes the focus off me and puts it where it belongs—on Him! He is able to establish me through His Word (Rom. 16:25). He is

“able to make all grace abound to” me, that I, “having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work” (2 Cor. 9:8). The most important thing for me to know, every day in every challenge and responsibility, is that God is able (Rom. 14:4; Phil. 3:21; 2 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 2:18).

Don’t misunderstand me. I am not despairing. I am not even frustrated. I am hopeful and excited. One of the greatest promises of Scripture is, “But He gives more grace” (Jas. 4:6). He will walk with me through the darkest valleys (Psa. 23:4). As He holds my hand and guides me through His word and His providence, He also points me toward His house. He tells me He will help me get home and when the narrow way becomes too steep or arduous for me to walk alone, He will carry me in His everlasting arms (cf. Deu. 32:7). I will keep studying His inspired guidebook and striving to apply it to my life. And as I do, I will increase my dependence and reliance upon Him, confident that “He who has begun a good work in [me] will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). That’s really all I need to know!

#### **Who Am I?**

He was the first king over Israel.

He tried to kill David.

He was the father of Jonathan.

He had mad spells and David played for him on his harp.

Answer to last week      **Paul**

#### **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!