

**PRAYERS**

**Butch and Chris** – Both continue to recuperate and are doing well.  
**Chance** – Her sister passed away on Friday. Please pray for her family. The services are set for July 7<sup>th</sup>.  
**Anita** – Recuperating from cataract surgery earlier this week.  
**Carson Lohr** (Connie’s grandson)- Waiting for results from an MRI on his knee.  
**Mozelle Zumalt** (Cindy’s mother) – Dealing with pain from bone spurs.  
**Zack Opheim** – Continued digestion problems.

**Congregation News**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** The surest way to stop a red-hot argument is to lay a few cold facts on it!

**Those Privileged to Serve**

**Sunday Morning Service:**

**6/24/18**

**7/1/18**

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

June 28<sup>th</sup> – Valerie Brist

**Building Cleanup**

LaRocque

**Aberdeen church of Christ**

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**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

June 24, 2018

## TRADING YOUR SOUL FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE

It is my conviction that some people have traded their souls for “harmony with their kinfolks.” No human relationship is worth that price.

The Scriptures tell us “*And he [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence*” (**Col. 1:18**). Jesus is to have the preeminence in the church; He must also have preeminence in our lives since individual Christians make up the church. Anyone or anything given preeminence in our lives above that of Jesus takes us out of His company, His fellowship.

Jesus said, “*He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me*” (**Matt. 10:37**). He also said, “*If any man cometh unto me, and hateth not his own father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciples*” (**Luke 14:26**). Lest any misunderstand, we point out that in the term “*hate*,” Jesus simply means “*to love less*.” We see, then, that preeminence is the key! We must love our parents, children, spouses and family members, of course! But we are not to love them more than we love Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The best thing for us to do with our kinfolk is to bring them to Christ--let us never follow them away from Christ and into doctrinal error and churches that teach the commandments of men (**Matt. 15:8-9**).

The apostle John wrote, “*Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son. If anyone cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house, and give him no greeting: for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works*” (**2 John vv. 9-11**). **1 John 2:4** ties down the need for knowing and obeying in order to maintain fellowship: “*He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*” To trade eternal life in order to appease kinfolks who either do not believe or obey God’s will is simply too high a price for anyone to pay. I pray that we all will avoid doing such.

## An Eye on the cross

A man sat in my office one day weeping because he was losing his family. His wife was tired of his wasting their money on drinking and carousing. She was fed up with his physical and mental abuse of her and their three little children. She had thrown him out of the house and was getting a restraining order from the court to keep him away from his family. "I love my family", he cried, "I don't want to lose my wife and children."

Knowing the whole situation well and realizing it would take a great shock to awaken this man, I said to him, "No, you don't love your family! You need them to fulfill your purposes and to meet your needs, but you don't love them. A person does not mistreat the ones he loves. He will sacrifice all, even his life, for those whom he loves." I certainly got his attention with those words, so I decided to go ahead and drive it home. "You love yourself! You only use your family to serve the one you really love. When you learn to love your family you will not have to worry about them leaving you."

I had confronted many married couples who were having problems with this observation before I realized I needed to make a personal application. Not necessarily with my wife and children; but with my Father and Brother. One day I realized I was mouthing the statement, "Jesus suffered and died on the cross because of my sins," and I realized that I was just quoting a theological fact that I had learned in class. When I stopped and analyzed the statement I was shocked at my lack of emotions when I made that statement.

Jesus was beaten black and blue by the fists of those soldiers! His body was sore, and more than likely His lip was split and His eye was blackened. They placed a crown of thorns and placed it on His head to mock Him, then hit with a stick to drive the thorns into his scalp. They brought a whip down 39 times, cutting His back to shreds! Carrying the heavy cross, Jesus fell under its weight and His sweat and blood mingled with the dust on the road to form splotches of mud on His body. After they nailed Him to His cross, they lifted it and dropped it into the hole. The weight of His body tore at the holes made by the nails. There He hung for hours...naked, bloody and muddy. What an awful sight it must have been! It seems that even God turned away from this pitiful scene. And it was all because I sinned!

Now it is hard for me to say how much I love Jesus, and then continue to sin. I seem to hear a voice that says, "You don't love Jesus, you love yourself, and you are just using Him to fulfill your own selfish needs and

desires! If you really loved Jesus you would sacrifice and even die for Him, instead of hurting and abusing Him." Looking at the cross takes the fun out of sin. Keeping our eyes on the cross is the only way to overcome sin. I now go back often and read of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus, because it redefines real love for me. It also challenges me to go back, look upon the cross and to see if I can say to Jesus, "I love you!"

## The Church of Christ

- 1) You may read about it in your Bible (Romans 16:16).
- 2) It was founded by Christ (Matthew 16:18).
- 3) Its only head is Christ (Ephesians 1:22,23).
- 4) Its worship is as God directs (John 4:24). Thus...
  - a) God is the object of worship (John 4:24).
  - b) It meets to worship on Sunday (Acts 20:7).
  - c) It partakes of the Lord's Supper on Sunday (Acts 20:7).
  - d) It sings in praise to God (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19).
  - e) It teaches God's Word (Acts 2:42).
  - f) It prays (Acts 2:42).
  - g) It gives according to prosperity (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).
- 5) It is made up of those whom God has added to it (Acts 2:47). Thus . . . its members have obeyed Christ's commands (Hebrews 5:8,9; John 14:15) by . . .
  - a) Hearing the Word (Romans 10:17).
  - b) Believing the Gospel (Mark 16:15,16).
  - c) Repenting of sins (Acts 17:30, Luke 13:3).
  - d) Confessing Christ (Romans 10:9,10).
  - e) Being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

### Are YOU a Member of It?

### Who Am I?

Philip brought him to Jesus.

He was one of the twelve apostles.

He questioned whether any good thing could come out of Nazareth.

Answer last week. **Barabbas**