

PRAYERS

Deb Bierman – 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
Linda McBrayer has family members in need of prayers

Please remember all holiday travelers

Congregation News

Potluck is today after morning worship. Please stay and share a meal and stay for singing for our afternoon service.

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Choice--not chance--determines destiny.

Class and Assembly Duties:

Sunday Morning Service:

12/17/17

12/24/17

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

Bible Classes

Sunday Morning

Wednesday Evening

Adult	Tom Bright	Tom Bright
Children	Colby Crawford	Linda McBrayer
Toddlers	Cindy Bright	
Babies	Anissa Crawford	

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Building Cleanup

Darling

Aberdeen church of Christ

December 17, 2017

Blessed Hope

How futile life would be without real hope! Hope is cause for joy (Romans 15:13)! Little wonder then why many in our world lack joy. Sadly, far too many people live day by day not ever discovering real hope. Real hope, in contrast to false hope, is anticipation, a surety. It is not a “wish” or “guess,” but rather it is a sure guarantee. According to God’s Word, real hope involves at least three concepts

First, real hope involves a condition. Hope can be lost by a person walking away from the truth of God’s Word. *“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...”* (Colossians 1:23a). The conditional “if” is a serious part of lasting hope. My eternal hope depends upon my everyday obedience. If a person decides to walk away from hope, hope is gone until that person decides to come back. Thankfully, God is always waiting for the apostate’s return (Luke 15:11ff).

Second, real hope involves an expectation. Far too many Christians face each day as though they “may have hope” or they “wish they had hope.” However, real biblical hope is not a wish or a guess, but it is a promise! What kind of life would the Christian life be if we only guessed or wished for our eternal hope? John promised, *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God? that ye may know that ye have eternal life ...”* (1 John 5:13a). Our hope in Christ is as sure as anything of which we can be assured! *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began”* (Titus 1:2). *“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us? Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil”* (Hebrews 6:18-19).

If you are faithful to Christ, you must be *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”* (Titus 2:13). Last, real hope involves a foundation. The difference between the Christian’s hope and the “hope” of the world is that the Christian’s hope is undergirded and protected by a sure foundation (contrast Ephesians 2:12 with Ephesians 2:20ff? cf. 1 Peter 1:3). The fact that Jesus is the Son of God secures and strengthens the hope of the one who belongs to Him. Life can

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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

now be lived with joy and peace because of the hope we have in Christ. Oh that all would have this hope! The difference between a futile life and a fantastic life centers on real hope. *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost”* (Romans 15:13).

What’s your ID?

The other day I was at the car dealership to get some work done on my wife’s car. When asked about my contact number the service manager asked, “Is it still 478-....?” I told him that was an “old” number I no longer used and then gave him my new phone number. I told him to be sure and note on the record that I had a new contact number and the old number was no longer mine. He said he would, but then said, “I know it’s crazy, but that is your ID at this dealership from now on, even if you have changed your number.”

I began to think about that as I left. I pondered, “How many times do we forget how our actions may give us a permanent ‘ID’ in the eyes of others?” We may change our “number” or manner of life, but many can’t seem to forget the old “number” they once saw identified with me. The actions and decisions I made earlier in my life are, at least to some, my “ID” from then on!

Do you remember Paul? While yet known as Saul he was by his own admission the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). But on the road to Damascus, Paul changed. Recognizing what he had done, he trembled as he cried out to Jesus, “What wilt thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:1-6). But because of his “old number” even when the Lord told Ananias to go to him, Ananias was afraid because, as he told the Lord, “I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem” (Acts 9:10-14). It took further persuasion by the Lord for Ananias to overcome his fear of Saul and go to him, telling him how he could be saved. Though Paul didn’t know it at the time – even though he was a changed man – his past “ID” was haunting him. And sadly that didn’t change – he would soon confront that sad truth in a heartbreaking way. Paul arose from being baptized into Christ and became a valiant servant of God. But we read that “when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple” (Acts 9:26). Thankfully, Barnabas was able to persuade others (including the other apostles) of the genuineness of his conversion (verse

27). Once again Paul’s past “ID” was hindering his desire to do that which was right, even his desire to be with others who loved God. One can only speculate how many other times Paul was burdened with the sad fruit of his past ID. Some even speculate that Paul’s past “ID” was the thorn in the flesh he prayed to God to be removed (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). How many times do you think Paul might have wished that he could make his past disappear? But we all know it just can’t work that way.

But now, what of us? Each day we choose how others will know us. Our daily choices and actions are the “number” that many will use as the permanent ID in their mind as they look at us. Let’s choose wisely. As God has said, “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches...” (Proverbs 22:1).

In The Trenches

Theodore Roosevelt said, “It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotion, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

The apostle Paul in similar fashion says, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58) and, "Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:3).

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!