

## PRAYERS

**Richard** – Father of Valerie Brist – He has kidney issues

**Donna Melhoff** – diagnosed with advanced cancer

**Chris Bonen** – Her cancer has returned. She is undergoing treatment.

**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:

Next Sunday is Potluck. Please plan to stay and share the meal. Also, plan to stay for the afternoon singing service.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Long tongues will mean short friendships

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### Sunday Morning Service:

2/10/19

2/17/19

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

#### Bible Classes

#### Sunday Morning

#### Wednesday Evening

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

#### Birthdays & Anniversaries

February 12<sup>th</sup> – Anita Bonen

February 11<sup>th</sup> – Shawn and Valerie Brist

#### 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](mailto:tlbj@sbcglobal.net)

# Aberdeen church of Christ

February 10, 2019

## The Church and Life

It was twenty centuries ago that Christ and His apostles began a system of spiritual power that encompassed the earth and blessed the world. **Daniel 2:44** affirms the perpetual status of the kingdom and Jesus promised its glorious establishment (**Matt. 16:18**). In spite of persecution by Rome--in spite of the jealousy of the Jews--in spite of economic poverty and a startling message, the gospel of Jesus Christ swept the ancient world by storm.

The ardent zeal of those devoted servants of the Lord emblazoned a noble page in the volume of ancient history. The spiritual army of the Lord made many valiant conquests for the Captain of our salvation (**Heb. 2:10**). Shining as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (**Phil. 2:15**), early Christians took seriously the task of living “*soberly, righteously and godly*” (**Titus 2:12**). The simple organization of the Lord’s church made clear its autonomous (self-ruling) government. Adhering strictly to the divine principles of self-governing procedures as set forth in **Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5-6; Acts 20:28, 32** and **1 Peter 5:1-4**, there was no need for earthly headquarters, bureaucracy or hierarchy.

In **Philippians 1:1** we read simply of elders, deacons and all of the saints. Worship in the first century church of our Lord was conducted “*in spirit and in truth*” as **John 4:24** clearly stated. In a reverent manner, as the Scriptures directed, the body of Christ “*continued stedfastly*” in the doctrine the apostles taught (**Acts 2:42**). The first day of the week was especially set aside for the Lord’s Supper and the contribution (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2**). Twenty centuries ago, the church Christ established by His shed blood was strong in its exposure of error (**2 Tim. 4:2-4**), as well as its proclamation of truth (**1 Tim. 3:15**) and especially in ardent evangelism.

**Acts 5:42** and **Acts 8:4** tell us of the daily teaching that caused the “*Word of God to grow and multiply*” (**Acts 12:24**). Christians of that day prayed fervently and boldly (**Heb. 4:16; Jas. 5:16**) even as they joyously sang praises to God (**Acts 16:25; Col. 3:15-17**). Christianity was not a “church house” religion to them. It was not a “way of life,” it was life! Paul said, “*For to me to live is Christ*” (**Phil. 1:21**). What say you, reader, what say you?

## In One Generation

Joshua's days were glorious ones. He was a minister to Moses, servant to God, captain of the host of Israel, and conqueror of Canaan. The people were faithful during his time (Jud. 2:7). Then there arose an unfaithful generation (Jud. 2:10). Things can change very quickly. If children are allowed to grow up without God's Word, the same thing will occur in the Twenty-first Century. Apostasy can and does happen. It happened to the church at Ephesus (Eph. 2:1; Rev. 2:4; cf., Gal. 5:4; 1 Tim. 5:12). But in Judges 2, we find certain things which brought about apostasy.

From our text we see that the first step to apostasy was their spiritual illiteracy (v. 10). This ignorance of God's Word has and will bring a great fall to many people. It is said that the Bible is the bestselling book of all time. The American Bible Society sold 70 million Bibles in 2000. I wonder just how many are read and studied. Of course, we know that there is no way to know God without the Word, and one cannot please God without knowing Him (Heb. 11:6; 2 The. 1:8). Someone has said, and rightfully so, "we have never before gone to worship so often and studied so little." Spiritual illiteracy is rampant today. The Word must be studied so as to be "furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:15-17). If we are not really careful, we too will raise a generation which knows not the Lord and His Word. Keep your Bibles open and we will not find the doors of heaven closed.

From Judges 2 we also find that apostasy came because they abandoned God. "They forsook the LORD God of their fathers" (v. 12). When we raise a generation of children without the Word, we have serious problems because they will abandon the God made known therein. Safety is found when we stay near to God. James 4:8 states that we are to "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." God never abandons us. It is our decision to move away from Him (Isa. 59:1-2). We can help save a generation by teaching and showing our allegiance to our Father in heaven.

The people went into apostasy also because they degenerated into idolatry (vv. 12-13). Notice that they "followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them" (v. 12). Sin is progressive. It begins with thought and progresses into action. As Israel began to fellowship the people around them they began to act like those idolatrous nations. We are warned against such (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 The. 5:22; 1 Pet. 2:11). A generation can be saved if we will practice the age old principle of running from all evil circumstances (Pro. 5:4; 14:16).

Apostasy brings about the anger of the Lord (vv. 14-15). It happened to Israel when there arose a generation that knew not God. We face the same problem today. We must not raise a generation that rebels against God and His Word. It can be overcome with the disposition of Joshua when he said, "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Jos. 24:15). Apostasy must be avoided because there is a heaven to gain and a hell to avoid. May God be our guide as we raise our families. If we will allow Him to rule in our lives, generations will be saved.

## A Special Relationship

We need a community around us. Years ago, when speaker of the house Sam Rayburn heard that he had terminal cancer, he shocked everyone when he announced that he was going back to his small town in Bonham, Texas. Everyone said to him: They have got the finest facilities in Washington, D. C., why go back to that little town. Rayburn's words have been quoted so often that some of you have probably heard them. He said: "Because in Bonham, Texas, they know if you're sick and they care when you die." We need community.

The Lord's church provides a special community. Consider the words of Paul, "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free and have all been made to drink into one Spirit...And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually" (1 Cor. 12:12-13, 26-27). Christians form a special community, a family - the body of Christ. Loving fellow Christians "know if you're sick and care when you die." Are you a faithful member of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13)?

## 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!