

PRAYERS

Chris (Anita’s daughter in law) – DRs are concerned with her test numbers.

Zack – doing better. Checking on surgery for his hietal hernia.

Chanice – Her blood count is up and Drs are keeping a watch on it.

Linda McBrayer Family - Loss of Dodger, a cousin’s one month old grandson that died from a brain virus.

Linda McBrayer – has been sick for the past week.

Anita Bonen – Dealing with complications from her heart surgery and with an infection in her arm.

Congregation News:

Today is pot luck. Please stay and share the meal. Also, please stay for Sunday singing following the meal.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Envy is nearly always the mother of gossip

Those Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning Service:

10/21/18

10/28/18

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

Bible Classes

Sunday Morning

Wednesday Evening

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

October 22nd – Janice Givan

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

Aberdeen church of Christ

October 21, 2018

How Does That Make You Feel

Back when I was growing up, religion was affirmed and practiced by a much larger percentage of the population than today. While there were those who saw no need for spiritual nutrition, the general attitude toward the Christian community was one of general acceptance and tolerance. The mindset of the 60’s, insofar as the religious scene was concerned, was one of “live and let live.” In the 1970’s, and 1980’s this tolerance for society’s religious element began to wane, and there evolved an “anti” religious attitude among unbelievers. The religious right, sometimes called the “Christian coalition,” or the “fundamentalist movement,” have become despised, and openly opposed. In fact, the religious element is considered in many circles to be out right “dangerous.” Much of this is the result of a pluralistic mindset in which everything is to be accepted. There is no longer truth and error, or right and wrong. In fact, the only ones who are wrong are those who claim anybody is wrong on any particular matter. Judgment is out, acceptance is in.

Some years ago, I came across this little tidbit that expresses precisely the problem we face today in seeking to establish a standard of right and wrong. The author focused upon the particular attitude that has produced a “politically correct” mindset. In an attempt to address the underlying principle that has produced the present idea that there is no definite standard of authority in anything, the author took a look at the overall picture before us: “It is not a pretty sight. From the Fabians to the postmodernists, and from the romantics to the environmentalists, the intellectual elite have been a somber bunch able to agree on only one essential premise: antipathy toward principled reason, bourgeois liberalism, determined progress, and most especially Christian ethics.” Thirty years ago, Christianity was “tolerated,” but today it is under attack. In fact, thirty years ago the tide began to shift away from clear logical thinking to a more subjective type of thinking that produced thrills and chills all up and down the spine rather than a clear and concise conclusion based upon reason and evidence. A recognition of the problem helps me understand why so many, both in the church and out of the church, no longer listen to or seek for a “thus saith the Lord.” Instead, the all-

-important issue is, "How do you 'feel' about that?" Perhaps another timely quote will serve to illustrate. Chip Blankinship, a Presbyterian preacher (US News and World Report, July 7, 1997) in a letter to the editor said, 'I am much interested in preaching from the Bible and upholding its authority...The issue is not whether we view Scripture as authoritative but how we feel led to interpret it'. Say again? Maybe I could try this approach next time I go shopping. If the cash register reads a certain amount, I might attempt to pay what I think is right, and then ask the cashier, "How do you feel about that?" Do you suppose it will make any difference on what I actually have to pay? I don't think so. Or, I could try the same approach in making my bank deposits each week and simply hand the teller a deposit slip that reads \$10,000 without any accompanying check or cash. When asked where the money is I could simply respond, "Well, I feel as if you should credit my account the full amount—and while you're at it, can you give me back \$1,000 in cash?" The possibilities are endless.

But this is precisely the approach that our society is taking toward religion in general and morality in particular. Unfortunately, many of our brethren think the same way when it comes to Christian responsibility. Many, if not all of those congregations of the Lord's church that have abandoned a "thus saith the Lord," and replaced it with nothing more than ridicule and despite for "pattern theology" have started down the road to destruction. In the final analysis, if you cast off the word of God, what is left? What the preacher says? What my creed book says? How I "feel" about the matter? Where do you stop?

Let us take one step closer to home. Attendance is a persistent and perpetual problem among some who lay claim to faithfulness to the Lord and His church. The irony is that some of those who are so inconsistent in their attendance would be among the first to scream if the slightest hint was made to introduce instrumental music into worship. The Bible plainly says, "Forsake not the assembling." A large number of brethren take that, not as a command, but as a suggestion, or as "permission." That's the way they "feel" about it, and all the scriptures brought to bear on the subject seem to have no effect whatsoever. I must confess that such reasoning and wrangling does not make sense. But then, that's the way I feel about it!! Whether we realize it or not, all of us make decisions based upon standard of authority. It is either an absolute, objective standard that will produce orderliness in any given society, or it is a subjective, better-felt than told standard that can, and does, lead to anarchy and a break down in morality and ethical stability.

SIN AND SINNERS

The concept of sin is not very popular among many folks today. As a matter of fact, some would like to see the word removed from the dictionary. This is made evident by the different words and phrases which men use to describe those things which the Bible calls "sin." Man, in trying to determine why the world is so immoral, comes up with all kinds of different philosophies, never wanting to admit that the real reason for all of the immorality can be summed up in that one word "sin." This has been true from the beginning of time and will most likely continue until our Lord returns. When man tries to do away with the concept of sin, he will always fail miserably, and our world will continue on a downward spiral--out of control.

Every man needs to realize that regardless of who he is or what he has or has not achieved, he is still a sinner until he complies with God's requirements of salvation. Those who claim to have no sins or that they don't need Christ are declared by the apostle John to be deceivers of themselves and it is said that the truth is not in them. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

Paul teaches that sin is a universal fact in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God." He also said that the "...wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). James, in speaking of sin, says that "...sin, when it is full grown bringeth forth death" (Jas. 1:15). As much as men try, they cannot get away from the fact that outside of Christ, they stand in a position of being eternally separated from God. Apart from the Word of God man cannot save himself (Jeremiah 10:23).

These things being true, how can man rid himself of the guilt of sin? The answer is given by Paul: "But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him" (Rom. 5:8-9). It is by means of the blood of Christ that we are justified before God (Rom. 5:16-18). Paul wrote, "Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death?" (Rom. 6:3). So how does one remove the guilt of sin? By coming into the death of Christ and that is done by means of baptism: "We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death..." (Rom. 6:4).

God would have all men today do away with all their creeds and simply accept and obey His Word which is able to save our souls (Jas. 1:21).