

PRAYERS

Richard – Father of Valerie Brist – He has kidney issues

Congregation News:

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: What our nation needs is not only better judges, but better judgment!

Those Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning Service:

1/06/19

1/13/19

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

Building Cleanup

McBrayer

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

Aberdeen church of Christ

January 6, 2019

The Right Destination

When we first moved to our new home, we would always use the GPS to direct our path (I still use it quite a bit). This GPS will give turn by turn directions and even has a little monitor that shows you exactly where you are and where to turn. The caveat is that you must put in the correct destination and your GPS has to have updated road maps so when the roads get altered, you can still turn when it says to turn and not end up in a ditch.

The GPS's voice is a woman and she will tell you where to turn, when to turn, and how far you have until you turn. Have no fear, if you make the wrong turn, she will simply holler out, "recalculating" and reroute you from the mistaken turn you took. She doesn't judge you or question your mistakes; the GPS just makes the proper adjustments and doesn't miss a beat.

Finally, after all is said and done, we will hopefully arrive where we wanted to wind up. We'll pull in the parking lot or the driveway and that sweet voice comes on and says, "You are at the right destination," but is that destination really the right place for us? How does that lady know that it's right? What if it was a bar or a casino or what have you... would it still be the right destination? Even though the GPS is a satellite directed compass, it contains no moral compass.

Sometimes we look up from our lives and we wonder, "How did I wind in up in this predicament?" Maybe you say that as the policeman is writing you a ticket, or maybe it's even from behind bars. Maybe you've just witnessed your parents scream awful things at one another, or maybe you are out of work and the bills are stacking up. There are always things that bring us to wonder what sequence of events has brought us here.

Applications Concerning the GPS

- 1. Decide where you are going – Joshua 24:15,** "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
- 2. Ask for directions – John 6:68** (this is just after "many of His disciples" abandoned Jesus in vs.66) "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words

of eternal life.”

3. **If you make a wrong turn, recalculate – Revelation 2:5**, “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.”

4. **Check yourself – 2nd Corinthians 13:5**, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.”

5. **Arriving at the right destination – James 1:12**, “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

Life will always be challenging. Sometimes it will be a blind curve and other times the fog will be so dense you can’t even see the hood of your car. Decisions will be made, some good and some not so good. Do your best to stay on course, and when you realize you have veered off course, make the proper adjustments. Don’t wonder how you ended up in this predicament, wonder how you are going to make this predicament be for God’s glory.

The church is a bright and shining beacon of hope with Jesus as her Head (Col. 1:18). We, as the church, will always point to the eternal GPS – **God’s Perfect Son**, for courage, for hope, for strength, and righteousness. We are here to help you calibrate your compass in the godly format so that your destination is heaven as well. We will close with the words of Paul: **1st Thessalonians 3:11** “Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.”

Convenient Confession

Lance Armstrong went on Oprah Winfrey to confess his doping, but he refused to testify under oath about the cheating. The World Anti-Doping Agency director, David Howman, said of the TV interview, “What he is doing is for his own personal gratification. He’s welcome to do that, no one is going to criticize that component, but if anyone thinks that in his wildest dreams that it is going to have any effect on his life ban then they are in the same fairyland” (Steve Keating, Reuters, 1/18/13). It is reminiscent of baseball power-hitter Mark McGuire’s famous, tearful confession to MLB Network of using steroids. He said it was wrong, but maintained he only did it (cheated) to help mend or prevent his injuries, not enhance his power. But, as journalist Larry Stone wrote, “He confessed because he had to confess” (Seattle Times, 1/11/10). I remember being at a congregation which supported a missionary in Africa. The missionary was repeatedly asked by the elders if he taught polygamists

that they could keep their wives when becoming a Christian so long as he did not accumulate more. Other missionaries in the region reported that he did, that they confronted him, but that he refused to change his teaching. But, the missionary vehemently and repeatedly denied teaching that. Several years later upon retiring from that mission work, he saw one of the men who had served as an elder. The now former elder asked him if he had told polygamists they could keep their wives. He answered, “Of course, but ‘everybody’ did it.” His confession was convenient at that time because telling the truth would not cost him financial support.

Christians are told in 1st John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” James adds, “Confess your faults one to one another, and pray for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (5:16). This is a confession driven by a conviction to please and obey God and make things right with those we have offended.

“Convenient confession” is not convicted confession. Confessing if and only if we are caught is convenient rather than convicted confession. Confession meant to conceal or control the discovery of other and even greater sins is not convicted confession. Pharaoh confessed to get relief from God’s punishment (Ex. 9:27; 10:16). Balaam went from cursing to confessing only when he could see the angel of the Lord (Num. 22:34). Achan only confessed when God picked him out of the crowd (Josh. 7:20). Saul confessed when his back, spiritually, was against the wall (1 Sam. 15:24, 30; 26:21). Time and testing proved the insincerity of these confessions.

Everyone will confess Jesus at the Judgment, when doubt will have died (Ph. 2:11). Each of us is confronted with a sin problem, and at best we will wrestle with it (Rom. 7:14ff). For confession to be effective, the Bible urges honesty and sacrifice. Self-serving, self-preserving confession is convenient confession. “Convenient confession” is not convicted confession.

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!