

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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APRIL 2010: 'LOVE SO AMAZING, SO DIVINE' "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

"Were the whole realm of nature mine that were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." These thought provoking words are from Isaac Watts' hymn; "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross". I want us to think of this question. Have we Christians in the 21st century lost the wonder and amazement of Easter, of the cross event?

The Apostle Paul states: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18) I as a Christian, as I examine the cross event, I may wonder; "Why did He do all of this? I sure don't deserve His sacrifice or His love. My Jesus suffered so on that cross. Why? Why? Why did He really have to do what He did? And what about the bodily resurrection, what is its importance?

Oh my friend, these questions are the places to start to discover answers to eternal truths. We will find out how the sovereign God of this universe loves us. It will be a humbling experience as we discover who we were, and now, who we are in Christ.

The fact is Jesus had to die on that cruel cross. In other words, Jesus was born to die. Because of His virgin birth He could be the spotless Lamb of God, the only perfect sacrifice able to cover the sins of people throughout the ages. Within the Trinity there was no argument of what had to be accomplished. Jesus prayed in the garden; "Not to My will, but Yours be done." Peter, in his sermon on the day of Pentecost said; "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." (Acts 2:23) Jesus did not have to be taken to the cross kicking and screaming. He allowed Himself to be taken and treated so, all the while forgiving those who crucified Him. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

Jesus did what He did because all of humanity was under the eternal judgment of God. "It is a fearful and terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Heb. 10:31) There was nothing mankind could do to turn away the fieriness of God's wrath. But, God had His eternal plan already in play. It was at the right time, not early or late. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son...to redeem them under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Galatians 4:4&5)

And how important was His resurrection? To put it simply, if all the above took place minus Jesus' bodily resurrection these would be meaningless events in time. We must grasp the truth that we serve a risen and living Lord Jesus. Without the resurrection of Jesus, we all would be dead in our sins without hope for eternal life.

It is true that we do not deserve all that the Lord Jesus has done, but that is point, we don't. It is at this point where we experience the love, mercy and grace of Jesus. The Holy One died for the unholy ones. He died in our place. Can we better understand these mysteries? To the world it is nonsense. But, to the eyes of faith, it is truth for all times. Praise God for His great love expressed in the cross event!

He has risen! He has risen indeed!

Meredith

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

April 1 (Maundy Thursday)	Hebrews 9:11-16; 22-28 "Who is This Jesus?"
April 4 (Easter Sunrise)	Mark 16:1-15 "The Empowering of the Resurrection"
April 11	I Peter 1:3-12 "Realized Hope"
April 18	Romans 1:7-18 "Not Ashamed"
April 25	I Peter 1:17-25 "The Control Focus"

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH

April 9	Mr. and Mrs. Mike Paladino
April 18	Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Cranford
April 23	Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Goulder
April 26	Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Owen

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH - Margaret Sherrill Circle

April 4	Easter Sunday Lilies
April 11	In Memory Of MR. JIM CLARKE Given By Mrs. Linda Clarke

NURSERY ATTENDANTS FOR THE MONTH

April 4	Margarette Alsbrook
April 11	Linda Boswell
April 18	Ashley Goulder
April 25	Molly Huffman

PLEASE NOTE: We need information for the Brighton Light. We would like to make the church newsletter more interesting and informative. If you have any news about you or your family or any suggestions or ideas, please contact the church secretary.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any ideas or suggestions for the church website, please contact Chris Gravley, webmaster, at 901-372-3995 or e-mail at chris_gravley@bellsouth.net.

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Verlie Wells, IV. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Verlie.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a church wide work day on Saturday, April 10th at 8:00 A.M. Please be sure to come out and participate in this event.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! THE HARRIET LINDERMAN CIRCLE will be having their "Spring Chicken Dinner" Fundraiser on Saturday, April 24th from 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. There will be lots of fun for everyone so you don't want to miss this! Donations will be accepted at the door. Please come out and support this circle and enjoy the great food, fellowship, and entertainment.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a Joint Worship Service with the area ARP churches at the Graceview ARP Church on Sunday evening, April 25th. There will be a joint choir. There will be refreshments and fellowship following the service. Feel free to bring finger foods. Dr. Cavin will be delivering the message at this service.

PLEASE NOTE: We are collecting Kleenex and baby wipes for Dunlap Retirement Center. There is a basket in the Fellowship Hall for the donations. Women's Ministry

THE BONCLARKEN GIFT BRUNCH will be coming soon so get started on those handmade items now. Monetary donations will also be accepted instead of handmade items for the Gift Shop.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held on Sunday, June 20th – Thursday, June 24th this year. If you would like to help with VBS in any way, please contact Linda Boswell.