

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

P.O. Box 28

Brighton, Tennessee 38011

Web site address - www.brightonarpchurch.org

E-mail address - baarp@brightonarpchurch.org

Volume XLII

January 2010

Number 1

JANUARY 2010: OUR GREAT GOD: OUR SANCTIFYING GOD "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God," (1 Thessalonians 4:3&4)

I have been speaking a lot about the need for Christians, us in particular, living the life in Christ before others. If those outside of Christ see no difference between themselves and us as Christians, why should they desire to even consider Jesus as Savior and Lord? As one can clearly see from God's Word, God says it does matter how His children live their lives daily, both privately and before others.

There is a natural order for all living things which God put into motion at the beginning of creation. They all we all grow. This idea of our personal sanctification should not be foreign to our ears and understanding. When we become a believer, that is, when we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord of our lives, this will be only that beginning of our journey here on earth. The Shorter Catechism shows us that: "Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image God, and are enabled to die more and more unto sin, and live unto righteousness."

Having been justified by faith (salvation), a new principle is at work in us. God's Word and the Holy Spirit are working out the benefits of this new birth in our lives. Despite the warfare with the world, the flesh and Satan, the Holy Spirit is compelling to advance in the faith. Remember; "It is God which works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure." (Phil. 2:13)

Sad to say that the growing prevailing thought in our society is diametrically opposed to this. Why you may ask? Simply this, Satan as the hater and enemy of God and anything related to Him, stands opposed and is working feverously trying to interpose his will over our Lord's. Satan is always whispering in our ears; "It doesn't matter if you do this or do that. If you seek to live a righteous life, people will turn away from you. They will think you are odd and intolerant."

It is God's good pleasure for us all to experience and have accomplished in our lives His sanctifying work. As we daily allow the Holy Spirit to work this wonderful grace in our lives, we will be pleasing and honoring God and we will be growing and maturing as His sons and daughters.

God be praised, and may we have a blessed and joyous new year!

Your Pastor, Meredith Cavin

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

January 3	Psalm 51:1-19 "Cleansed Heart, Changed Life"
January 10	Psalm 95 "Praise Our Great God!"
January 17	Judges 2:1-14 "How Will Our Children Be?"
January 24	Psalm 103:1-18 "God's Unbelievable Mercy"
January 31	Acts 2:22-40 "Who is This Jesus?"

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH for January is Jerry Molder. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Jerry at 476-1192.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH

January 4 Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gravley
January 8 Mr. and Mrs. Nick Goulder

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Margaret Sherrill Circle

January 3 - Communion
Remaining to be announced at a later date

NURSERY ATTENDANTS FOR THE MONTH

January 3 – Margarete Alsbrook
January 10 – Katie Ruffin
Remaining to be announced at a later date

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.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY of the ARP Church and the Mississippi Valley Christian Education Committee is sponsoring an Officer Training Seminar entitled "Called to Serve". The speaker for this training seminar is Dr. Mark Ross. It will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at the Independent Presbyterian Church in Memphis. The cost of the seminar is \$25 per person. We want to encourage all of the leaders of the church to attend. For more information please contact Dr. Cavin.

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.

PLEASE TURN IN your information for the church yearbook as soon as possible. Please inform the church office of any changes or corrections that need to be made as well.

PLEASE NOTE: We are collecting hand lotion and hand sanitizer for Dunlap Retirement Center. There is a basket in the Fellowship Hall for the donations.

Women's Ministry

WITNESS AND OUTREACH

As one year ends and another begins many people take time to consider where they are in life. People often make lists of New Year's Resolutions. For a Christian, this reflection should focus on our spiritual well-being. Here are some thoughts for each of us to ponder.

Where are you in your Christian walk? Are you a life-long learner on a journey? None of us would begin a trip without preparation. There are many opportunities at Brighton ARP to prepare and strengthen us for spiritual journey. These include Bible Study, ministry, missions, worship, and fellowship. All of these are available to equip, nourish, motivate, and provide encouragement for our membership, family, and friends. Let us pray that we will actively seek to equip ourselves spiritually.

How long has it been since you were contagious? The Bible tells us that the "joy of the Lord is our strength." Joy is infectious. Just this week, I read a newspaper article about the healing effects of laughter. If human laughter can help with physical healing, then the benefits of Spiritual Joy are immeasurable. Let us pray that God will fill our hearts with JOY.

It is my prayer that as we focus on these thoughts, that the Holy Spirit would awaken in each of us the desire to grow and to serve Him more and more. And, that He would show us His Purpose in each of our lives and in the life of our church.

Susan Cavin