

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

P.O. Box 28

Brighton, Tennessee 38011

www.brightonarpchurch.com

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The season of Lent begins on, what is called 'Ash Wednesday'. 'Ash Wednesday' received its name from the custom of Christians rubbing ashes on their foreheads as a sign of penitence. Lent is the penitential season of forty days preceding Easter, excluding Sundays. Lent is derived from the Germanic word meaning, 'spring'.

There is nothing wrong with a repentant heart or attitude. In fact the Bible teaches that the penitent heart is the only kind acceptable to God. But, many have gone to the extreme by self-mutilation, self-flogging or crawling on one's belly up the steps of some cathedral to show contriteness. I'm sure many of you have seen on T.V. or heard about the parades in countries where there are yearly processions of hundreds of people committing these acts violence to their bodies. At the heart of these acts is the misconception that the Lord requires these acts to prove to Him that they are serious about their penitence. In many of their hearts is a prideful attitude which says; "Look at me. I am spiritual." I dare say that many of those who paraded themselves for all to see, by the next week, had gone right back to their old sinful habits, ignoring God's Holy Word and flaunting before others the holy, righteous God.

Just a quick look in the Bible will show us that God does not require these things, but they are just man's efforts to circumvent God's grace; to get God's attention. God's attention has been focused before the foundation of the world in providing salvation to a fallen human race. We don't have to wake Him from a time of daydreaming.

First, God will provide for Himself the Lamb Who will completely cover the sin of His people for all time. Again, from the very foundation of the world this plan of salvation was in His mind and heart. Second, God took and always takes the first step toward a fallen human race, not the reverse. Didn't God provide the lamb for Abraham? All of the Old Testament sacrificial system was but a shadow of what the true Lamb of God would accomplish for sinners, like you and me, something we could never do. Paul reminds us that; "There is no one who seeks after God...There is no one who does good, no, not one." (Rom. 3:10&12b) Simply put, the Holy Spirit comes and convicts one of sin, brings that person to the place where he or she cries out to Jesus for forgiveness, He forgives the person and calls each His child.

The kind of heart attitude that God looks favorably upon can be found in Psalm 51 where David responds to his Lord; "The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart; these O God, You will not despise." Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:8; "For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not by works lest anyone should boast." We give You thanks O God for Your free gift of grace that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. Outside of Jesus there is no hope, but in Jesus there is hope abounding. We praise Your most holy name. Amen!

Your Pastor,

Meredith Cavin

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

- March 1 Revelation 3:7-13
"Who is Like Our Lord?"
- March 8 Revelation 3:14-22
"Self-sufficiency Leaves One Hopeless"
- March 15 Revelation 22:6-21
"He Who Has An Ear, Do!"
- March 22 Matthew 16:5-20
"The State of the Church"
- March 29 Isaiah 5:1-7
"What Happens When the Church Forgets?"

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Harry Hugues. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Harry at 837-4965.

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Harriet Linderman Circle

- March 8 In Honor Of
MISS MOLLY HUFFMAN
Given By Molly Anne Heath
- March 15 In Memory Of
MR. WOODROW SMITH
Given By Mrs. Linda Boswell
- March 22 In Honor Of
MRS. BOBBIE GOULDER
Given By Mr. and Mrs. Randy Goulder
- March 29 In Honor Of
DR. AND MRS. MEREDITH CAVIN
The Cavin Children

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH

March 15 Mr. and Mrs. Brad Templeton
March 17 Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Hill
March 28 Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Yarbro

NURSERY ATTENDANTS FOR THE MONTH

March 1 Shirley Kennedy
March 8 Amanda Heath
March 15 Ashley Goulder
March 22 Joe Anne Alsbrook
March 29 Amanda Heath

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.

A MISSIONS MINUTE

It is easy to let the idea that missions work is only for missionaries or that it takes place in far away countries keep our thoughts and minds away from ways that we can serve as missionaries right here at home. The Primary I Sunday School lessons this quarter have focused on building a heart and mind for missions even in the youngest members of our congregation. The children have been led to pray for one another, our larger church family, and for those whom they know that need to know about the love of Jesus. We have learned that Paul commended the Macedonian Christians for sending love offerings to the suffering Christians in Jerusalem, even as they had very little themselves. Please pray for our little ones as we are learning how we can serve God.

Susan Cavin

CONGRATULATIONS to the following church family. They received their awards last month:

Austin Starnes was on the A/B Honor Roll.
McCallie Ruffin was on the A/B Honor Roll.
Alec Ruffin was chosen Most Helpful and had Perfect Attendance.
Mary Grace Simonton received the Citizenship Award and had Perfect Attendance.

Congratulations everyone! If you or someone you know has an accomplishment that you want mentioned in the Brighton Light, please turn your information into the church office.