

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

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MARCH 2010: 'Will you also leave Me?' "Then Jesus said to the twelve, 'Do you also want to leave Me?' Then Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life.'" (John 6:67&68)

From the very onset of the advent of Jesus the Christ here on earth, there was the misconception of what the mission of the Messiah was to be. The Jews of Jesus' time, including His disciples, viewed this mission as one of a conquering King, freeing Israel from the hated Romans and reestablishing the kingdom of Israel. This was evident when Peter rebuked Jesus when He first told His disciples in Matthew 16 that He, the Messiah would have to suffer and die at the hands of the scribes, priests and other Jewish leaders.

If those closest to Jesus were clueless, it is no wonder when Jesus used the 'I Am' phrases and talked about His body and blood being the true sacrifice in John 6, that many of the Jews there turned their backs on Him. The Jewish religious leaders began to plot fervently how they might murder this Jesus. These hated and feared Jesus for many reasons which blinded them to the truth of Who He was. But, keep in mind that all of this hatred came from one source, Satan. He is the embodiment of all that is evil and he has nothing but pure hatred toward anything related our almighty God.

It does seem the closer that Jesus came to His time of extreme suffering, His teaching became ever harder to grasp and understand. I can imagine when Jesus was teaching these difficult things in John 6, those fringe disciples and Jewish religious leaders would look the twelve and all they could do at this point in their spiritual journey was to shrug their shoulders and say, "We're not sure what He means." The twelve may not have fully understood all things concerning Jesus nor His teachings, but one thing is sure, where they were in their love and understanding, they were committed to Jesus. No one else in all the world had the words of eternal life. This they knew with all their being and would not be convinced otherwise. Jesus was taking His chosen to deeper levels of commitment than they could imagine.

How many people in the churches across America, if they really understood what being a Christian was all about, would come to the conclusion that the Christian life required much more than they realized? Would they chuck it all and go their merry way? I believe a big reason for this is that many in the church create too great a divide between the sacred and secular. Many who hold to this view feel they have fulfilled their commitment to the Lord when they attend a service. Look in the Word and you will not find this distinction. For the community of faith one's love for the Lord Jesus radically affects how they carry out their daily living.

To be frank, Satan desires Christians to hold to this understanding of separation. We must resist him and stand firm on the solid Rock, Jesus.

Though we may not fully understand all that the Bible teaches, we need to have the heart of the Apostle's and come to same conclusion; "Lord, to whom shall we go, for You alone have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68) Our Lord desires to challenge each of us by taking us to deeper levels of commitment. Open your heart and mind to the Holy Spirit's moving. The closer we draw to our Lord, the greater our faith deepens. Praise our Lord!

Press forward in faith!

Meredith

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

March 7	Acts 2:22-42 "Who is This Jesus?"
March 14	Luke 8:1-15 "The War Rages On"
March 21	Romans 10:4-17 "God's Plan is Perfect"
March 28	I John 5:1-15 "Assuring Faith = Victory"

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

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Harriet Linderman Circle

March 7	In Memory Of MR. GENE COLUMBUS Given By Mrs. Norma Columbus and Mr. Floyd Columbus
March 14	In Honor Of MS. MARGARETTE HUFFMAN Given By Nieces and Nephews
March 21	In Memory Of MR. WOODROW SMITH Given By The Smith and Boswell Families

NURSERY ATTENDANTS FOR THE MONTH

March 7	Vickie Hugues
March 14	Margarette Alsbrook
March 21	Sarah Cavin
March 28	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.

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 MEN'S MINISTRY will be having a Casserole Buffet on Saturday, March 20th from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. All dishes will be prepared by the men. So, if you dare, come and enjoy the variety and culinary creativity of their Casserole Buffet. Donations will be accepted at the door. Please be sure to come out and support the men in their latest endeavor.

OUR SENIOR GROUP will be sending a goodie box to Anthony Billings. If you would like to send a card or other items to Anthony, please contact one of our Special Forces ladies or myself (Dr. Cavin).

BEGINNING March 2nd exercise classes with Julia Moore will be meeting in the church basement. These classes will be every Tuesday and Thursday night from 7:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. This class is open to both men and women of the church.

PLEASE NOTE: The church Food Pantry is in need of replenishing. Some of the items needed are: Powdered milk, vegetables (no green beans), dried beans, pastas, instant potatoes, and rice. Please help as you can.

CONGRATULATIONS to McCallie Ruffin on being named All-Conference and All-District Freshman Basketball at Brighton High School.