

Invitation

Welcome everyone. We pray you will be strengthened by your visit with the Brighton Church of Christ. You are not just our guest, but you are welcome and wanted right here. Join our family of imperfect people perfected in by the blood of Jesus. Restrooms are located across the foyer near the front of the auditorium on the upper floor. If you need assistance in any way, ask any member for help.

Mission

The Brighton Church of Christ is a spiritual family with a focus on going to heaven. We are determined to honor God, to strictly follow the teachings of the New Testament, and effectively make that teaching available to the city of Brighton and the surrounding areas.

Leadership

Elders

Kevin Dunham	303-807-5974
Ron Jensen	
Ivan Stewart	720-270-1057
Mark Thacker	303-655-1982

Minister

Contacts

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Attendance last week:

Sunday am -59
Sunday pm - 30
Wednesday - 12
Contribution-\$8,203.00

Sunday Schedule Morning

Song Leader.....Ron Jensen
 Opening Prayer.....Alan Samuelson
 Lord’s Supper Leader.....Mark Thacker
 Assistant.....James Slagle
 AssistantJim Learned
 Assistant.....Kaden Dunham
 Assistant.....Chris Jatko
 Scripture Reading.....John Nason

Matthew 5:21-22

Lesson.....Cory Pierce
 Closing Prayer.....Tim Parker

Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....Ron Jensen
 Opening Prayer.....Ivan Stewart
 Lord’s Supper Leader.....Mark Thacker
 Lesson.....Jeff Oaks
 Closing Prayer.....Chris Peterson

Wednesday Evening Schedule

Class.....Brett Reitmair

Service Times

Sundays:
 Morning classes 9:30 am
 Worship 10:30 am
 Evening worship 6:00 pm
 Wednesdays:
 Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm



November 12, 2023

How to Avoid a Spiritual Failure

In his final hours in Rome, awaiting an inevitable execution, a very lonely apostle Paul suffered some additional heartbreak. "Demas," he wrote, "hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2 Timothy 4.10). We are left to speculate as to the particulars — what dread fears or powerful allurements led this faithful friend and co-worker to abandon the kingdom of God and to forsake his burdened brother. It was not as though he had fled the field at the first approach of trouble. During Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome Demas had evidently been a steadfast companion (Philemon 24; Colossians 4.14). Now, unexpectedly, this heart-mauling betrayal and desertion. Paul said that Demas "loved this present world." The "world" is many things. John describes it as a way of thinking where lust, materialism and pride abound (1 John 2.15-16). What was it that got to the faithful Demas? Was it fear of death or imprisonment? Or was it something more subtle like a nostalgic longing for the old easy ways free of constant warfare? We are not told which one of these undid Demas but one of them found its mark. Breaking points can come to us too if we are not very careful. A deep hurt we cannot find it in ourselves to forgive. A disappointing marriage. Failures with our children. Lost health or prosperity. Anything we had never imagined happening to us. And often it’s just plain prideful stubbornness. At any rate, don’t ever say you’d never do what others have done. You’ve never been all the places you could be. Peter learned a valuable lesson about that (Matthew 26.31-35). It is far better that we know our own weaknesses and watch and pray that we enter not into temptation (Matthew 26.41). Satan loves an arrogant and self-confident man.



Another lesson to be learned from the failure of others is that those who at last go back, at first look back. Departures of apparent suddenness are really the end of a process. Our Lord warned that those who put their hand to the kingdom plow and look back longingly at the world are not fit for the kingdom of God (Luke 9.62). The disciples who go back are those who first begin to cultivate again the values of the world and like the Israelites in the wilderness grow nostalgic amidst their trials for the fleshpots of Egypt. They forget, of course, the galling bondage that accompanies the life of sin. These are the ones who gradually cease to meditate upon God's word (Psalm 1.1-2), then become prayerless (James 4.1-2) as God and Christ seem far away. First men cease to study, then to pray, and, finally, to care.

Sometimes this all begins as a casual flirtation, a few little compromises dismissed as harmless. Too much time with worldly companions (1 Corinthians 15.33), too much interest in a job (1 Timothy 6.9-10), too much concern with being accepted and making our mark in the world (1 Peter 5.5). Finally, it becomes a passionate love affair that makes us heedless of the injury we do to our Savior, ourselves and others.

Satan is the master of the "short step" method. Slow change is more effective in producing spiritual collapse than sudden departure. The danger of alerting the victim to what is happening is eliminated. We can be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3.12-13). Warning flags need to start flying the moment we feel the slightest ebb in commitment. Beware the spiritual slow leak.

The unfailing answer to this kind of spiritual failure is the daily discipline of an uncompromising dedication which admits of no exceptions and makes quick and humble redress for every transgression. Burn all your bridges and press on to the heavenly mark (Philippians 3.7- 14). And if, in spite of everything, you happen to stumble badly, don't let despair destroy you. Remember that everyone who has faltered has not ultimately fallen. We can all thank God for that. John Mark's disgraceful desertion in Pamphylia (Acts 13.13) was not the end of him because he didn't allow it to be. Paul sent for him during his last hours (2 Timothy 4.11) and the Holy Spirit chose him to record the gospel story. We don't have to be like Demas. In the mercy of God we have the privilege of being like John Mark or Peter, and, yes, even Paul.

by Paul Earnhart

Announcements

Prayers

Vera Baker will be moving to Kentucky soon. Prayers for a safe move.

Prayers request for **Raymond and Meredith Long**. On October 12, Meredith fractured at least one vertebrae in her back. After several tests, including X-Rays, Cat Scan and MRI, spine doctor recommended a doctor in Thornton to hopefully perform a procedure on November 15th to give Meredith some relief from the horrific pain . We really appreciate the prayers. Please no phone calls. Please include the above in your announcements.

Prayers for the work in **India**. Pray for the health and strength of the fellow Christian workers who spread the Gospel.

Ron Eudaley is moving to New Mexico this week. Prayers for his move and adjustment to his new prosthetic leg.

Continued Prayers

Ronn Eudaley-adjusting to the loss of his lower leg

Harold Price, Sherry Derbigny's Dad-health challenges

Eleanor Jatko- health problems & prayers for the family tending to her.

Jane Hanavan-heart issues

Tim Parker- headaches from concussion

Bill and Ann Adams-health complications

News and Notes

Potluck

Sunday, December 3rd is the first Sunday potluck right after morning service. Bring a dish to share and stay to enjoy the fellowship of the family.



Upcoming Event

Congregational Holiday Party, Saturday, December 16th.

Preacher Announcement

As was announced the Elders are excited to share the results of our search for a preacher. We have offered the position to Cory Pierce, and he has accepted. Cory and his wife, Heather, will begin working with us on a full-time basis at the beginning of June, following their graduation from the Bear Valley Bible Institute. In the meantime, he will keep preaching here each month, which will provide an opportunity for us to continue to get to know Cory and Heather and vice versa. We appreciate all the many prayers offered to God in this regard, and are thankful for the answer given through His providence. We are eager to begin working with this Christian couple to grow and strengthen the congregation here in Brighton.



The winter food drive pick up date is **Sunday, December 10th**. These are the things they really need:

Instant oatmeal packets, pancake mix, cookies, tortilla chips, canned chicken, refried beans, pasta sauce, cold medicine, no foam paper plates, paper towels, 16 oz. plastic drinking cups, 42 gallon heavy duty trash bags.

Birthdays and Anniversaries		
November 12	Alan Samuelson	Birthday
November 15	Ronn Eudaley	Birthday
November 15	Raymond Long	Birthday