

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

Ron Jenson 303-655-8498
Ivan Stewart 720-270-1057

Deacons

Kevin Dunham 303-807-5974
Anthony Sandoval 303-815-4045
Mark Thacker 303-242-6447

Minister

Sam Dilbeck 903-229-8415

Contact

Church Phone: 303.659.1420
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Website: brightonchurchofchrist.org
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Sunday Schedule

Welcome Ron Jensen
Song Leader Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer.....Dale Bishop
Lord's Supper Leader.....Kevin Dunham
LessonSam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer & Dismissal..... Wayne Manzanares

Wednesday Evening Schedule

ClassSam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer.....Sam Dilbeck

Service Times

Sundays: Worship 10:30 am

Wednesdays: Ladies Class 10:00 am, Bible Study 6:30 pm



April 4, 2021

Embracing Death Sam Dilbeck

It's a morbid rendition of David Letterman's Top Ten List, an accounting of the world's greatest fears: public speaking, death, spiders, darkness, heights, social situations, flying, open spaces, thunder, and confined spaces. Michael Klepper nailed it in his book's title, I'd Rather Die Than Give a Speech. Public speaking edged out dying as the greatest phobia...but only slightly.

Why is dying one of the world's worst fears? Some people fear the unknown. Heaven and hell may be eternity, but they want to know what happens the moment after their last breath. Judgment? Nothing? Bliss? Sleep? People fear the unknown, and they see too many unknowns about death.

Some people are afraid of what life will be like without them. Most living things share a common desire to keep living. In It's a Wonderful Life, George Bailey experiences what life would have been like without him. He sees how he impacted so many lives. Will the world notice when I am gone? It strokes our egos when we consider our self worth among friends and family.

Some apprehension about dying seems natural, but a better understanding of death can help alleviate fear. God created man to live forever and planted him in Eden with access to the Tree of Life. Adam introduced death through sin (Rom. 5:12). Death through sin is the devil's power over man (Heb. 2:14). While dying wasn't God's original plan, He uses it as the gateway to eternity (Heb. 9:27). For those prepared for the new heavens and new earth, death need not be feared.

Death is not a cessation of existence because our spirits are eternal. Death is our existence on steroids. It frees our spirits from the shackles of sin.

Some still fear death wondering if it will be painful or comfortable. What is the best way to go? Speculation about how death feels causes many people to pick their preferred method of dying. I hope to die waist deep in one of Paul's letters, watching him blot ink and tears from the parchment. I want to be sitting with Jesus, hearing for the first time again his plan for man's salvation. I want to look into Jesus' eyes and feel the sting of my sin and renew my faith. Then in that perfect moment...die. But, if that isn't how I die, I resolve to accept death in any form because I know that no terror, pain, or sorrow compares with heaven (Rom. 8:18).

Instead of fearing death, we need to embrace it. Death brings gain (Phi. 1:21). Freedom. Hope. Eternity. All are gained in death if we first live for Christ.

Death brings victory. When the devil crucified Jesus through the hands of calloused hearts, he thought he won. But God gave the victory to Christ—a victory extending to all of Jesus' allies (Heb. 2:14).

Death brings Jesus. Paul welcomed death saying, "My desire is to depart and be with Christ" (Phi. 1:23). Paul shows an imitable anticipation for heaven and the Savior.

The brevity of life, the dangers of living, the calamities of nature, and the evils of man constantly threaten life. This picture looks bleak, but not to Christians. We welcome death with its blessings. It's the cold, dark, momentary embrace quickly fades into God's radiance.

Klepper said, "I'd rather die than give a speech." I say, "I'd rather die." Even now my heart aches for home. I stay for God and to reach people with the gospel. But, when death comes knocking, I hope to smile, give him a hug, and follow him home.

Announcements

Prayers

Carmen Crabb is having a difficult time with COVID. She has a fever, is on oxygen, and steroids and not improving. Please include her and her family in your prayers today. Ed, Keith, and Kendra have made it through COVID OK.

Raymond Long's oldest brother, Eldon Long, age 97, passed away on Sunday, March 28th. Grave side services will be held in Celina, Texas on Friday, April 2nd.

Thank you,
Raymond and Meredith Long

Continued Prayers

Penny Anderson, Tim Parker's daughter- seizures

Eleanor Jatko- recovery from a stroke

Bill Wolordige, the Austin's friend—cancer

Jane Hanavan-heart issues

Dawn Lell-health problems

KD's supervisor's wife, LaRae Siefert-chemo nerve damage

Sherry Derbigny's Aunt Jackie- breast cancer

Sam Sims- health problems

Joe Martinez-prayers for recovery

The work in India

Our work here in Brighton as we try to reach our community through the difficulties of COVID-19

News and Notes

Ladies Bible Class

Naomi will text everyone on the outcome of the jury selection on Monday night.



Announcement

Last Sunday, the elders announced their plans to appoint Mark Thacker as an Elder. If any member has a scriptural objection to Mark's appointment to this important work, please make that known to the Elders by submitting a signed, written statement explaining any objection before April 8th. This is an exciting opportunity for the Brighton congregation and the Elders request your prayers as we consider this addition to our leadership.

Thank you.

Proctors

Check your email for a newsletter and report on the Proctor's successful quarter.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

April 5	Kayley Mendoza	Birthday
April 7	Junior Celaya	Birthday