

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
Reid Jones	719-469-1609
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
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Contact

Church Phone: 303.659.1420
Email: info@brightonchurchofchrist.org
Website: brightonchurchofchrist.org
Facebook: facebook.com/brightoncoc

Sunday Schedule

Welcome	Ron Jensen
Song Leader	Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer	Ivan Stewart
Lord's Supper Leader.....	Coby Mendoza
Lesson	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer & Dismissal.....	Wayne Manzanares

Wednesday Evening Schedule

Class	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer.....	Ivan Stewart

Service Times

Sundays: Worship 10:30 am

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

“Zoom” Virtual Classes:

4th-6th Grade Fridays @3:00 p.m.

7th-12th Grade Fridays @ 6:00 p.m.



December 6, 2020

Against Heresies Sam Dilbeck

Among early church fathers, Irenaeus of Lyons was one of the foremost champions of “orthodoxy” during the second century. His work and writings helped defend the life and person of Jesus against the divisive and dismissive doctrines of the Gnostics.

The exact year of Irenaeus’s birth is unknown, most modern scholars agree on 130 CE. He grew up in Smyrna and learned about Jesus from the martyr Polycarp, a student of the apostle John. Irenaeus called Polycarp a “powerful and formative presence during the early years of his life,” and he had fond memories sitting at the feet of the martyr and writing the lessons on his heart.

As a young man, Irenaeus moved to Lyons and became a missionary in Gaul, working among the Celts, though most of his work was toward the Greeks and Romans in the region. Gaul had been conquered by Julius Caesar in 52 BC, and many Romans moved into Gaul to maintain a Roman presence.

The churches in Lyons and nearby Vienne suffered great persecution this time. The church historian, Eusebius, preserved a letter from these churches to the churches in Asia Minor recounting the brave Christians in Gaul who endured fierce torture and were thrown to the wild beast. The letter, delivered by Irenaeus, memorialized their struggles and deaths.

Irenaeus became bishop of Lyons around 177 CE and held that position until his death in 200-203. He once wrote a letter to Victor, the bishop of Rome, encouraging him to not divide the church over the observance of Easter. Eusebius, again preserving part of this letter, says Irenaeus lived up to his name, which means “peaceful.”

During the second century there was a proliferation of new ideas about Jesus and the church. Without a standardized canon of scriptures, many of these ideas threatened to become mainstream. Irenaeus stood at the forefront of the defense of orthodoxy. He was one of the first to push for an authorized list of scriptures to defend the church against false teaching. He was the first to use the phrase “New Testament” to distinguish the old Jewish writings from the new Christian writing. His *magnum opus* was a five-volume work, *Against Heresies*, that focused on the heresies of Gnosticism in the late second century.

Irenaeus sought to establish three things: (1) churches should draw their authority from teaching the same doctrines the apostles taught; (2) churches needed to use scriptures from both testaments, written by apostles and prophets; and (3) the church needed to interpret the scriptures in light of apostolic teaching. These became the basis on which Irenaeus opposed Gnosticism.

The threads of Gnosticism began during the first century and were addressed by Paul and John. However, the product of these doctrines exploded in the second century after the apostles had passed and the writings were being established. Irenaeus opposed Gnosticism because it produced a spiritual elitism because its followers felt their knowledge was superior to ordinary Christians. Gnosticism also denied the efficacy of Jesus’s actions in history by saying knowledge brought salvation instead of the blood of Christ, which Irenaeus recognized as a challenge to the clear teaching of the apostles. Finally, Irenaeus saw their “bible code” interpretation as an affront to the meaning scripture. He described it as taking a mosaic of a king, rearranging the pieces to form the image of a fox and saying that the fox was intended all along.

His writing helped minimize the efforts of the Gnostics. They also helped establish the identity of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, and defended the teachings of the scriptures. Irenaeus didn’t get everything right, but his work is foundational for defending the bible’s teaching on the divine identity of Jesus.

Today, there are still some to turn to the fanciful ideas of Gnosticism, or who look for secret codes in the Bible. However, their efforts and ideas are inconsequential in the world and in the church. This is partly due to the efforts of Irenaeus, who thwarted efforts to redefine Christ and the church in the second century.

Announcements

Prayer List

Monte Hazlet passed away Friday night. Prayers for the entire family as they just recently mourned the loss of Jim and now the passing of Monte.

Prayers for the **Jatko family** as they mourn their loss also.

Jennifer Kite has COVID-19. Her symptoms are mild; the whole family is quarantining.

Continued Prayers

Paula Stewarts granddaughter-recovering from COVID-19

Raymond Long–

Penny Anderson, Tim Parker’s daughter- seizures

Eleanor Jatko– recovery from a stroke and recent loss

Bill Woloridge, 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

Jerry Kite– knee surgery recovery

News and Notes

Ladies Bible Class

Class has resumed on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.



New Members:

Vera Baker 240 E. Joshua Ave

Keenesburg, CO 80643 303.732.1813

and welcome back:

Kevin and Amy Warner, Hannah & Chris

30 Elm Street P.O. Box 279

Hudson, CO 80642 303.536.0889

Welcome to a new Brother in Christ

Nolan Peterson was baptized into our family Wednesday following the Bible study. What a blessing to share in this time!!! Congratulations Mom and Dad..

Dillon & Marissa Proctor

Check your email to see the newest newsletter.



Dec. 7
Birthday

Kaylee Derbigny

Dec. 7

Jennifer Sandoval

Birthday

Dec. 7

Ethan & Natalie Wilemon

Anniversary

Dec. 9

Mechelle Bishop

Birthday

Dec. 12

Coby Mendoza

Birthday

Dec. 12

Alan Samuelson

Birthday