

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Brian Horner
Song Leader: Kyle Richardson
Opening Prayer: Austin Horne
Lord's Supper
Presiding: Ken Grandstaff
Serving: Eric Horne
Austin Horne
Preaching: Brian Horner
Closing Prayer: Dan Smith

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Brian Horner
Closing Prayer: Austin Horne

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Brian Horner
Devotional: Brian Horner
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Serving Next Sunday:

Lord's Supper: Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Brian Horner
Opening Prayer: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

To all our visitors - Welcome!
We hope you will come back
and worship with us soon!

TEAM MEETINGS

Correspondence - Sunday evenings after worship see Kyle Richardson.
Visitation/Bible Study - For assignments see Brian Horner.
Member Care - Regarding Member needs contact Kyle Richardson.
Flower Request - Please call Lynda Ann Sparkman: 444.0938(h) 587.8187(c)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Potter's Food Drive:

Toilet Paper
Chunk Pineapple
Shortening

Pantry:

Please let Howell know of anyone in our community who needs help!

New Year's Eve Party:

Dec 31 @ 7:00 PM. Finger foods and games. Bring your friends!

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the Word
(Rom 10:17)

Believe in Jesus
(John 8:24)

Repent of your sins
(Luke 13:3)

Confess faith in Christ
(Rom 10:10)

Be **Baptized** for forgiveness of sins
(Acts 2:38)

Live **Faithfully**
(1 Cor. 15:58)

Daily Bible Reading

Day	Scripture
Sunday (<i>Epistles</i>)	3 John - Jude
Monday (<i>The Law</i>)	Deuteronomy 32-34
Tuesday (<i>History</i>)	Esther 6-10
Wednesday (<i>Psalms</i>)	Psalms 148-150
Thursday (<i>Poetry</i>)	Song of Sol. 7-8
Friday (<i>Prophecy</i>)	Revelation 18-22
Saturday (<i>Gospels</i>)	Acts 27-28

Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

December 30, 2012

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM
Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

Abraham

The Example of Faithfulness in Abraham

While his biography only covers about a dozen chapters in Genesis, the rest of the Bible says quite a bit about the great man named Abraham, listing his name over 300 times, including numerous references to his covenant with God and his seed. The Bible even refers to "the God of Abraham" almost twenty times. In **Genesis 17**, we may well remember that God changed his name from "Abram" (exalted father) to "Abraham" (father of multitudes). One of the many compliments that the Bible attributes to him is his reference, "the friend of God" (**2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; James 2:23**).

The one quality of life that separates Abraham from so many others was his faith. He is the epitome of faithfulness—literally, full of faith. Notice that Abraham believed God. The apostle Paul penned, "*For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness*" (**Rom. 4:3**). Faith necessitates itself upon believing: "*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*" (**Heb. 11:6**). One cannot have faith without believing that God exists, but this is not sufficient, because even the devils believe (**James 2:19**). Thus, we see further that Abraham believed God when he believed the word of God. Paul later wrote of him, "*Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, 'So shall thy seed be'*" (**Rom. 4:18**).

Therefore, when God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees in **Genesis 12** and established His divine covenant linked with certain promises, Abraham believed God. Nevertheless, notice what Paul noted about the faith of Abraham: "...against hope believed in hope." This simply means that his faith in the word of God was such that he believed God, even when what God said was literally and completely unbelievable from a human standpoint. He distinguished himself from his wife, Sarai, when God told him that the fulfillment of his promises would be in the birth of a child at a very old age. In fact, the next verses describe such:

(continued from page 1)...

"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." [Rom. 4:19-21]

Therefore, if we are to follow the example of the faithfulness of Abraham, we must develop the type of faith that Abraham had. How tragic that some think that they have faith in God, although they refuse to believe what God teaches when such contradicts human reasoning (cf. **1 Cor. 1:18-29**).

Many years before Nik Wallenda most recently televised his act, a great crowd gathered in 1859 to watch a European daredevil by the name of Jean Francois Gravelet (professionally referred to as "The Great Blondin"), attempt to go across Niagara Falls amidst swirling winds on a wet, slippery wire. As he picked up his balance pole and began to cross, the crowd became silent. When the wind suddenly shifted, causing "The Great Blondin" to come so very close to certain death in the icy waters below, their breathlessness turned to gasps. As the crowd chanted his name, he walked safely across amidst the deafening roar of the crowd. Legend states that when "The Great Blondin" announced that he was going back across, the crowd of spectators went crazy. He asked the crowd if they believed he could do it, and they responded, "Yes, we believe!" Then he asked, "Which one of you will ride on my shoulders?" The crowd went silent—no one breathed. Finally, after three requests, a man responded—his manager, Harry Colcord. This time, the crowd watched silently as the pair walked through the mist and winds, over the slippery wire, and safely to the other side. In like manner, God asks, "Who has the courage to ride on my shoulders through the dangerous winds, over the slippery wire of life?" Abraham did—will you?

Sam Willcut
churchofchristarticles.com

Something to Think About

It is Saturday morning about 1921. You live on a farm. You have worked hard in the fields and doing the chores all week. You go to the well and draw enough water to fill a large wash tub. Water is heated on a wood stove to break the chill of the cold well water. You use a cake of homemade soap. You want to be first in the tub for other children will follow you in bathing. If things go well you will get to take another bath next Saturday.

Remember the song "Count Your Many Blessings." Most people and many Christians among them are not very thankful for even the simple things that make life better. We are blessed in so many ways.

The greatest of all blessings is the blessing of being able to hear and obey the Gospel of Christ. Many in the world can have this opportunity only with great difficulty and at times even under persecution. The Gospel offers the hope of salvation (**Rom 1:16**). The Gospel obeyed takes away our sins (**Acts 2:38**). The Gospel, neglected, will cost us dearly.

Floyd C. Johnson
Huntington Park church of Christ

Remember in Prayer

Shut Ins:

Fannie Bell Warren
Janelle Arrington
William Wells

Others:

Hollis Cluck
Muril Todd
Karen Hudson - cancer
Christy Garrett
The Bryan Family
Annie and JW Smith
Margie Taylor
Priscilla and Patrick Graves
Jessica Richardson
Dan Smith
Diane Grandstaff and family
Joe Allen
Linda Kay Edwards - surgery recovery
Edna Forbes
Janice Garrett
Carol Goins - Mary L.'s sister
Lila Kirk
Wanda Gates - cancer
Kathy Greer
Jeff Greenblatt - auto accident

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests: Kyle Richardson (495-7106) Dorothy Jean Smith (444-5437)

December Birthdays:

13 - Lila Kirk
17 - Howell Todd
26 - Dorothy Jean Smith

Things You Will Never Be Sorry For

For telling the truth; For living a pure life;
For your faith in Christ; For acknowledging your sins;
For doing your best; For thinking before acting;
For hearing before judging; For forgiving your enemies;
For helping a fallen brother; For being loyal to the church;
For standing by your principles; For being courteous and kind;
For money given to the Lord's cause; For being honest in business.

Selected- Central church of Christ, Paducah, KY