

# The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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Volume L

August 2018

Number 8

## **“With Freedom Comes Responsibility”**

When I was a young boy growing up, I remember around the time of the July 4th every year that the local Piggly Wiggly grocery store would print on its paper bags (yes, it was that long ago!) a picture of the U.S. flag, followed by the words, “With Freedom Comes Responsibility.” It was a reminder that even though we enjoy the benefits and blessings of living in a free country, we should not take those freedoms for granted, nor should we abuse them. Having the freedom of speech does not mean I get to yell “Fire!” in a crowded theater or that I get to slander someone. We have a responsibility to use our basic freedoms rightly.

In Galatians 5:13, the Apostle Paul writes, “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” The Christians in the Galatian churches had heard the gospel of free grace in Jesus Christ, but false teachers had come in, preaching a message of Christ plus works (basically, the requirement to submit to various Jewish laws and customs, including circumcision and observing Jewish holy days, before one could become a Christian). Instead of enjoying the freedom of being declared to be sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26), they were being tempted to leave the promise of sonship behind in order to become slaves all over again (Galatians 4:1-9). Paul was warning the Galatians that even though there is true freedom in the Lord Jesus Christ, this freedom must not be abused. Their freedom did not give them the right to corrupt the gospel or to hate one another (see Galatians 5:14-15). As John Calvin observes here, we should not “grow wanton, but use the grace of God for his honor and the salvation of our neighbors.”

Certainly none of us would ever claim that the grace God gives us the right to dishonor God, or to change the truth of the gospel, or to mistreat one another. Yet, that is exactly what was happening among the Galatians. It is a reminder to us how easily it is to fall into the old ways of sin rather than enjoying the actual freedom that salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ brings with it.

How can we abuse our freedom in Christ? One way we see this in our day is the idea that freedom from the condemnation of God’s law means we have a right to ignore the moral law of God. In other words, some might use the freedom that the gospel brings as an excuse to sin. Yet Paul says the law is fulfilled in loving our neighbor as ourselves (Galatians 5:14; see also Leviticus 19:18). We cannot use the gospel as an excuse to break God’s moral law by sinning against others. Neither can we use the gospel as excuse to do our own thing and dishonor God. For example, at the adult Bible study during VBS last month, we saw that we have duties as Christian to read God’s word, to pray, and to attend worship. It is not legalism to say we should be doing these things. They are not merely helpful suggestions, but should be as basic to us as the food we eat or the air we breathe. None of these saves us (only God can do that, through the atoning work of Jesus Christ), but they should flow from our salvation. They are part of the responsibility that comes from being in Christ. They are among

the means God has given to us to help us grow in Christ. Neglecting them is not an exercise in our freedom, nor does it honor God.

By the time you read this article, July will be over. Even though we are easing into August, do not forget the freedoms you celebrated this past month on Independence Day, and remember what it cost for us to live in a free nation. Enjoy your freedom and salvation in Jesus Christ every week, and remember the even greater cost of the death of God's own Son that it took for us to be free from the condemnation and power of sin. In Jesus there is true freedom, and with that freedom comes responsibility.

## Prayer List:

Bennett, Mary F – Shut in  
Billings, Richard – (Denise's Dad) Cancer  
Boswell, Charles - Cancer  
Boswell, Mike – Health issues  
Bridges, Lucille – Health Issues  
Bryant, Ty –Heart  
Columbus, Norma – Health Issues  
Goulder, Martha Jean – Shut In  
Rochell, Bobby – Cancer  
McCain, Pat – Health Issues  
Rivercity Reformed Presbyterain Church – Church plant in Little Rock Arkansas

McCain, Ken – Health Issues  
McCain, Kenny – Health Issues  
Molder, Jerry – Health Issues  
Pugh, Kaleb – (Laura Kiphart's grandson)  
Williams, Sandy – (Huffman family)Cancer  
Wilson, Glenda – Bone Cancer  
Winford, Sherry – Health issues  
Yarbro, Ina – Health issues  
Landrum, Zoan – Covington Care

### **Military**

Donahoo, Tim                      Starnes, Austin  
Dooley, Rod                        Heathman, Matthew

Hill, Debra  
Young III, Robert "Trip"

### **Missionaries**

Coad, Jim & Gala                  Rebekah Carson

Brunson, Andrew

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

2 Damon Morgan	12 David Templeton
3 Casey Hill	14 Kenneth McCain
Jonathan Hill	22 Vickie Hugues
Tim Phillips	26 Joseph Smith
4 Jennifer Goulder	27 Cynthia Gibson
9 Lee Ann Smith	28 Nick Goulder
Sandy Herring	30 Judy Huffman
10 Debbie Walker	Anna Phillips
McKenzie Huffman	
11 Ginger Carter	

### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

*August 10      Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Wylie*  
*August 18      Mr. and Mrs. David Templeton*  
*August 30      Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sides*

### **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

August 5      Brooklin  
August 12     Helen Woods  
August 19     Ashley Goulder  
August 26     Leslie Alsbrook

# Upcoming Events

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you have any ideas or suggestions for the church website, please contact Chris Gravley, webmaster, at 901-674-3851 or e-mail at [chris\\_gravley@bellsouth.net](mailto:chris_gravley@bellsouth.net).

**THE DEACON OF THE MONTH** is Scottie Gladney. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Scottie at 901-828-5342.

**PLEASE NOTE** If anyone is sick, in need of prayer or a visit, please contact Milton Murphy 901-476-2808.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Session is developing a member outreach program. If you would like to participate in community outreach or know of someone who needs a pastoral visit, please contact Milton Murphy. We also need prayer warriors to enlist.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The pastor is going through the Westminster Confession of Faith. Join us Sunday at 6 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be a Wednesday Night Bible Study through the summer on "What Is a Presbyterian?" Make plans to join us at 6:30.

**PLEASE NOTE** There will be Family Night Supper on August 22.

**PLEASE NOTE:** New Website and Email address for the church.

**Website:** <http://www.brightonarp.org/>

**Email:** [baarp@att.net](mailto:baarp@att.net)

**PLEASE NOTE:** This September, B.J. Maxwell will travel again with Catalyst Missions to Indonesia. After 4 years, the first class of graduates will complete final module of Pastor training. Visit [bjmaxwell.com/Indonesia](http://bjmaxwell.com/Indonesia) to help support this trip. Or, you can mail a check to Catalyst Missions, PO Box 449, Ellendale, TN 38029 noted "Maxwell Indonesia." See B.J. for any questions of further information.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be a Workers' Council meeting on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. This is for all those involved with Christian Education including Wednesday nights.