

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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“Silence Is Not Always Golden”

The sermon text for February 3 is James 3:1 – “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.” One of the takeaways from this verse is the need that we all have to watch for false teaching and false teachers that can creep into the church. In our media-driven culture, false teachers can often be something other than flesh-and-blood people. A book, a religious TV program, a sermon on the radio, an internet or a magazine article, or a religion song can teach something that is false and that can deceive many.

But sometimes the most destructive kind of teach is simply to be silent. Another ARP pastor recently pointed to an article that pointed at how the silence of pastors in pulpits in the past (and the present) has resulted in the deaths of millions. The first example given is what happened in German in the 1930s and 40s, when many refused to speak against the rise of Nazism and its awful results:

The genocide of 6 million Jews in Nazi Germany elicited few condemnations from the pulpit. At the Treysa Conference in August 1945, church leaders confessed the complicity of their pulpits: “Long before our churches became piles of rubble, our pulpits were restricted and our prayers were silenced.”

Fast-forward to late 20th and early 21st century. In the United States alone, more than 60 millions have died from abortion. Worldwide, the numbers are even more staggering: more than 1.5 billion abortions since 1980. As great of a tragedy as that is, there are many pulpits in this country (including some very famous ones) where little to nothing is said about abortion. It remains to be seen what the reaction will be after recent legislative acts in New York and Virginia have expanded the practice.

While pulpits must not be turned into political platforms, there are times in which great social issues need to be addressed. I remember hearing a story from September of 2001, the Sunday after 9/11 happened, when some churches said nothing about what had taken place the Tuesday before. There is a place for silence, but that was not it.

There are some pulpits, however, which exhibit a far worse kind of silence. They are silent when it comes to issue of sin and repentance and the gospel of Jesus Christ. After His resurrection, Jesus told His disciples “that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations.” Yet, how often does is this message communicated in churches today? How often do words like “sin” and “repentance” even get mentioned? The great fear, it seems, is that many do not want to risk offending people. But the greater concern should be offending the Lord Jesus Christ by not following His clear instructions, as well as showing genuine care and compassion for people who do not know Him.

Just as none of us want to see innocent life harmed, we should likewise not want to see souls placed in danger either. The Shorter Catechism shows the importance of what needs to be said:

What is faith in Jesus Christ? Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

What is repentance unto life? Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

The good news of salvation in Jesus Christ must be the language of in pulpits, in our Sunday school classrooms, in our Bible studies, in our homes, and on our own lips as we go out into the world. We must not be silent about these things.

Pastor Tim



Prayer List

Shut-ins: Martha Jean Goulder. Mary Francis Smith

Ill/Recovering:

Richard Billings – Cancer	Lucille Bridges – Health issues
Ty Bryan – Heart Issues	Ginger Carter – Cancer; Improving
Beth Crum –Knee	Rose Eubank – Stroke
Betty Gladney -- Lymphoma	Zoan Landrum –Nursing Home in Ripley
Kenneth McCain – Health Issues	Jack McDivitt -- Cancer
Jerry Molder – Health Issues	Jerry “Bubba” Owen – Health Issues
Bobby Rochell – Cancer	Mary Sam White – Health Issues
Sandy Williams (Huffman) – Cancer	Glenda Wilson – Bone Cancer
Jimmy Wylie – Hip Surgery	Ina Yarbro – Health Issues

Military: Tim Donahoo Rod Dooley Matthew Heathman
Debra Hill Austin Starnes Robert “Trip” Young III

Missionaries: Jim & Gala Coad Rebekah Carson

Presbytery: The start of a new Camp Joy in the Memphis area in 2020; church plants in Murray (KY), Little Rock (AR), and Louisville (KY)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Christie Bridges	19	Billy Pugh
	Emil-Grace Tia White	23	Anna Hugues
9	Samantha Wells	24	Shirley Kennedy
11	Cassie Cranford	26	Christi Huffman
12	Charlotte Williams		Jean Chisolm
13	Sarah Huffman	28	Robin Gravely
15	Gwen Goulder		Mallory Glass
	Joe Anne Alsbrook		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

March 15	Mr. and Mrs. Brad Templeton
March 28	Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Yarbro

Upcoming Events

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

PRAYER/VISITATION: If anyone is sick, in need of prayer or a visit, please contact Milton Murphy at 901-476-2808.

OUTREACH TEAM: If you would like to participate in outreach or know of someone who needs a visit, please contact Milton Murphy.

WEDNESDAY SUPPER AT SIX MENU:

- **February 6:** Vegetable Beef Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Grilled Cheese
- **February 13:** Meat Loaf, English Peas, Mashed Potatoes
- **February 20:** Chicken Pot Pie
- **February 27:** Family Night

SPECIAL THANKS: Thanks to all who helped with donations to Confidential Care during the month of January. We were able to raise an additional \$208.34 for the ministry. This is in addition to the \$500 budgeted for the ministry in 2019. Again, thanks to all who helped!

SPECIAL THANKS: To everyone who helped with the Men's Ministry Pancake Breakfast on January 26.

WHAT ARE YOU READING IN 2019?

Reading the Bible, of course, is absolutely vital for a Christian to grow spiritually, but good, quality Christian books written by trustworthy authors can also be a big help. We have a prayer group meeting on Friday mornings that is reading through Sinclair Ferguson's *In Christ Alone*. The Men's Ministry is going through Timothy Witmer's *The Shepherd Leader at Home* in 2019. The Women are studying Jared C. Wilson's book on Romans. What are you reading this year?

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: On Monday, February 11, Rev. Chris Neiswonger (Pastor of Graceview Presbyterian Church in Southaven, MS) will be giving a special presentation on ways to revitalize our church and help with outreach for our community. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a light meal, followed by the presentation at 6:30. Please make plans to attend!

PLEASE NOTE: Make sure to turn in all reports and other information for the 2019 Brighton Yearbook. Also, please let the pastor know of any updates to the current prayer list.

THE PASTOR RECOMMENDS: *Faith on Trial* by Martyn Lloyd-Jones. This is a collection of sermons from Psalm 73, where the topic of God's justice is considered. From the preface: "The 73rd Psalm deals with a problem that has often perplexed and discouraged God's people. It is a double problem – Why should the godly frequently have to suffer, especially in view of the fact that the ungodly frequently appear to be most prosperous?" The psalm answers these questions in a way that makes this book a delight for devotional reading and spiritual growth.

Website and Email address for the church.

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

Email: baarp@att.net

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