

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

P.O. Box 28

Brighton, Tennessee 38011

www.brightonarpchurch.com

Volume XLI

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Number 1

January 2009: Off with the old, on with the new!

"...you take aside the old man...and put on the man..."

(Eph. 4:22b, 24b)

The tradition of making New Year's resolutions is not bad if we intend to keep them. Many of these well meaning resolutions start off like a ball of fire, but then fizzle to nothing but than a passing thought.

As we begin this new year, there will be greater challenges than we have ever had to face before, but also there will be some great opportunities for advancing God's Kingdom before us as well. These challenges and opportunities will never be overcome or met if we approach them as we would so many of our resolutions. We will end only partially fulfilling them or not at all.

If we relegate to God a lower place of consideration or leave Him out of the equation completely and rely on our own strength, wisdom and understanding, all we can hope for is nothing more than failure. If we do rely on these fleshly powers, we will not be honoring God. In Romans 8:7&8, Paul reminds us: "the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

We all must understand what is needed to be accomplished as a Christian or as a church cannot even begin to be carried out with God in the distant background or left out of the picture completely. The Hebrew people were liberated from Egypt because God went before them, was with them and was their rear guard. We must realize if go on our own authority, we will indeed go alone. The

holy Scriptures do not teach that 'the arm of flesh will fail you' for no reason. It is for this reason that we cannot and must not rely on our own abilities, but rather trust in our precious Lord Jesus. This is pleasing to our Lord.

We must "take off or throw off the old man and put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph. 4:22b, 23) Perhaps what we fail to realize is this, that there is war a going on. "For the flesh wars against the spirit and the spirit wars against the flesh; for they are in complete opposition to each other; so that you do not do the things that you please." (Gal. 5:17)

My beloved friends let us lay hold of this truth, that God does not need our help, but our obedience. Press forward by the power of the Holy Spirit Who indwells us. We cannot, we must not rely on our fleshly prowess if we desire to please Him loves us so much. Let us all repent of our self-reliance and trust that our loving Lord will go before us, will be with us and will be our rear guard. May we experience the power of God reigning in our hearts and lives. Amen!

Your Pastor,

Meredith Cavin

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

- Jan. 4 John 1:1-18
"The Word Became Flesh"
- Jan. 11 Revelation 1:1-20
"Our Now and Eternity Rests in God"
- Jan. 18 Revelation 2:1-7
"Find What Was Lost, Overcome the Enemy"
- Jan. 25 Revelation 2:8-11
"To Have the Lord, What Glorious Riches"

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Jerry Molder. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Jerry at 476-1192.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH

January 4 Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gravley
January 8 Mr. and Mrs. Nick Goulder

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Margaret Sherrill Circle

January 4 Communion
January 18 In Memory Of
MRS. ANNIE MAE HUFFMAN
Given By Family

NURSERY ATTENDANTS FOR THE MONTH

Jan. 4 – Margarette Alsbrook
Jan. 11 – Katie Ruffin
Jan. 18 – Joe Anne Alsbrook
Jan. 25 – Joanna Simonton

PLEASE NOTE: We need information for the Brighton Light. We would like to make the church newsletter more interesting and informative. If you have any news about you or your family or any suggestions or ideas, please contact the church secretary.

PLEASE NOTE: The Women's Ministry Meeting has been changed from the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. to the second Sunday of each month at 4:00 P.M. This change has been made to better accommodate those who cannot or prefer not to come out on Tuesday nights. Please make note of this on your calendars.