

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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JANUARY 2011: Is God Just Playing Mind Games? "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all our unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." (1 John 1:8-10)

If we want to please our Lord and live a more holy life it is important to understand what the word sin means. Though individuals and whole groups desire to alter its meaning or deny it altogether, does it mean that God has changed His holy mind or has the truth of His word changed? Will God's word endure forever? By declaring that the Bible's presentation of sin is culturally biased, I believe is our attempt to lessen God's holy character and to bring Him down to our level.

The word sin carries very little, if any, meaning for the majority in our land, and sad to say even within the church. So many see nothing wrong with issues like same-sex marriage, lying, hatred, homosexuality, adultery, abortion, drunkenness, sex outside of marriage, gossip, an unforgiving spirit, to name a few. It seems that the church, families, our nation have been on a downward spiral to where there are no longer any moral absolutes, and that we are only answerable to the dictates of our own understanding.

However, the Bible is crystal clear and 100% true in its presentation of sin and the outcome in an unrepentant heart and life. If sin had not totally separated mankind from God, Jesus would not have had to come to suffer the cruel death upon the cross, be bodily raised from the dead to save those who were not really separated from God. Our good deeds, our ways are just not good enough. The Bible also reminds us that; "there is no one righteous, no, not one", and "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:10&23) But another thing we need to remember as well is that our Lord Jesus died for our sins that we might have life and His desire is that people would come to repentance.

Here are some proper responses to our great and awesome God:

- 1.) Seek God's forgiveness when we sin by searching our hearts with the lamp of Scripture and repent from our sin.
- 2.) Forgive others who have offended you quickly (Matt. 6:15, 1 Cor. 13:5).
- 3.) Seek other's forgiveness by going to them, apologizing and asking their forgiveness.
- 4.) Share how God has forgiven you to those who need to understand that Jesus died and rose again to set them free their life of sin and bondage.
- 5.) Never regard sin (yours) lightly for it cost the very holy blood of our Lord Jesus.
- 6.) Give thanks to God for the assurance of our forgiveness in Jesus which is free to us, but was at a great cost in the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus. But thank the Lord He conquered death and hell for us.
- 7.) Where can I find that which will help me in my struggle with sin? Meditate daily on God's word. His word is where we will find strength in the midst of the storms of life. A good starting place is Psalm 119:9-16.

Trust in the Lord and you will find Him completely faithful.
In His service, Meredith

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

January 2	1 John 1:1-10 "Through the Eyes of Forgiveness"
January 9	Hebrews 2:1-13 "So Great a Salvation"
January 16	Philippians 1:27-2:8 "Jesus Is the Center of Relationships"
January 23	I Chronicles 17:16-27 "Continuation of the Promise"
January 30	Psalm 130 "Redemption of the Lord"

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

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

January 2	Molly Huffman
January 9	Joanna Simonton
January 16	Ashley Goulder
January 23	Linda Boswell
January 30	Stephanie Moore

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any ideas or suggestions for the church website, please contact Chris Gravley, webmaster, at 901-372-3995 or e-mail at chris_gravley@bellsouth.net.

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Jerry Molder. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Jerry at 901-476-1192.

THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY has changed the time of their meeting to 3:30 on the second Sunday of the month.

THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY still has cookbooks for sale. These would make wonderful gifts for any occasion. Please see Linda Clarke if you would like to purchase one (or several!).

PLEASE TURN IN your information for the church yearbook as soon as possible. Please inform the church office of any changes or corrections that need to be made as well.

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16 KJV)

May you have a very blessed year and may your light so shine unto the world.