

## Info from CBC June 2016 Newsletter

### HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?

That is a question that we cannot have an opinion on. We are given instructions how to live in Scripture. The answer to that question **cannot be debated; it must be discovered.** Paul tells us things like we cannot do what we want because 'we are bought with a price.' Jesus tells us, 'if you love me, you will keep my commands.' There are a lot of things we can debate, but this is not one of them. When we answer this question and then apply the truth to our lives, we will see dynamic change in our life and of those around us.

Let's start in Romans 12:1-2. Paul has just written the first eleven chapters dealing with who we are and what we have in Christ. In other words, the benefits of salvation in Christ. At the end of chapter 11, Paul just burst into praise because of who God is: He is deep in His riches, unsearchable, omniscient, self sufficient, and the One who holds all things together. Wow! Just think, if it were not for Christ, all that you are looking at right now would fall apart. His grace and mercy sustain everything. This should cause us to praise Him and live a life of humility. I can boast in nothing but Christ and His sufficiency!!

However, in Chapter 12:1, Paul 'urges' us to present our bodies as 'living sacrifices' to God. This is awesome. The meaning of the word 'urge' is to 'come along side'; this indicates some of us may have a hard time in sacrificing our selves for Christ. This is an imperative for us as believers to stand along side of each other as we learn to live for Christ. We have no choice; we must enter into the mercies of God by standing with our brothers and sisters as they crawl up on God's altar of sacrifice. That sounds poetic and even sweet until you understand sacrifice. He has our soul, so we are to offer our bodies. Paul addresses this in Rom. 7:22-23; he is secure in Christ but battles sin every day. He is like a boxer in the ring fighting off the opponent, which is sin. I submit to you it is our battle as well.

He also uses the word *Holy*. We are to live a life that is without blemish. In the Hebrew sacrificial system, one was required to bring a sacrifice that was not handicapped or defective in any way. The thought was God deserves the best of our offerings. In the New Testament, this

would be a life offered in holiness and faith. The sacrifice cost the one who is sacrificing. If it doesn't, then it does not meet the definition of giving. If you look at the story of Cain and Abel, you will see that God said 'Abel offered a better sacrifice than Cain.' Looking at this through New Testament eyes, we know that Abel offered the better sacrifice because it was offered in holiness and faith (Heb. 11:4). God is always looking at our motives and our heart.

Now, in verse 2, Paul tells us how to live when he says not to 'conform to this world any longer.' Conform comes from the word from which we get *scheme* or *to masquerade*. We cannot just play the part of a Christian (besides God knows He is looking at your heart); we must sacrifice our life for Him in faith and holiness. Then, we will be transformed (in Greek-metamorphosis); we will be totally changed into the image of Christ. This change happens when His Word motivates us. There is no transformation without His Word.

Finally, I want to help you or urge (to stand by you) you to be a 'living sacrifice.' I encourage you to be involved in living life in community. Take one of our M2M classes in the fall, be involved in Sunday school, listen for life-changing words in the sermon, and get connected with a Christian friend that can build you up in the faith. The Christian life cannot be put on autopilot; we must surrender to our pilot, Jesus Christ.

Just a Servant, Pastor Mike

### Calendar of Events

- 5-9** Beginning Summer Schedule/One Service on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.  
VBS ~ 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 11-16** SBC in St. Louis
- 13-17** SummerSalt
- 14** Deacons Meeting ~ 7 p.m.
- 19** Father's Day/No PM service or activities
- 22** SummerSalt Testimony Serv. ~ FLC 7 p.m.

### Looking forward to July

- (3) Patriotic Service (4) Church Office Closed
- (10) King's Cause Concert/Sanctuary at 11 a.m./Business Meeting to follow

(11-15) Camp Longridge (12) Deacons Meeting  
 (17) Camp Longridge Testimony  
 (19) Whirlin' Waters Outing (22) Movie Night  
 (25) Nominating Committee Meeting  
 (31) 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday/Dinner to Follow/No PM activities

**Prayer Ministry**

Patricia Flower, Ed Hinson, Juanita Hunter, Mary  
 Frances Lee, David McCabe, David & Melva Young

**Workers for June**

Audiovisual: **6/5** Chuck Goff  
**6/12** Grayson Harrelson  
**6/19** Mack Mutchler  
**6/26** Will Thomas

Nursery: **6/5** Erica Hodge  
 Betsy Jordan  
 Nancy Mitchum  
**6/12** Judy Gamble  
 Daphne Powell  
 Lani-Grace Powell  
**6/19** Stacy Acord  
 Tabitha Gardner  
 Jordan Price  
**6/26** Nicole Garrett  
 Mary Lynn Lee  
 Adrienne McCabe

Toddler Church (ages 2 thru 4):

**6/5** Adriene Jones  
**6/12** Mary Kathryn Jordan  
**6/19** **Father's Day/No TC**  
**6/26** Adrienne McCabe

Children's Church (K5 – 8-yrs. old):

**6/5** Vassar Turner  
**6/12** Stacy Acord  
**6/19** **Father's Day/No CC**  
**6/26** Kim Gardner

Building Attendant: Mark Evans

Flowers: **6/5** Open  
**6/12** Open  
**6/19** Open  
**6/26** Nell & Kim Langston

Ushers:

Lenn Gardner, Tommy Geddings, Chuck Goff,  
 Russ Harrelson, Jamie Hodge, Jim Hunter,  
 Rob Hussey, Ben Jordan

**Happy Birthday**

*If we have missed your birthday, please call the  
 church office so that we can add your name to our  
 birthday list.*

**1** Julia McCrea  
 Carl Floyd, Jr.  
**2** Mary Fleming  
**3** Nancy Mitchum  
**4** Randi Lynn Floyd  
 James Richburg  
**5** Frankie McCabe  
**6** Lauren Felder  
**11** Hillary Layton  
 Dennis Reynolds  
**12** Tami Blascak  
 Jennie DuRant  
**13** Jeremy Evans  
 Mack Mutchler  
**15** Landry Lee  
 Sabrina Powers  
**17** Tilton McCrea  
**19** Ashleigh Burke  
**20** Dianne Thompson  
**22** Martha Burke  
 Tammie Richburg  
**26** Stacey McInnis  
**27** David Baird  
**28** Nathan Burgess  
**29** Hope Briley  
 Barbara King

**May Monthly Records**

Avg. Sunday School Attendance: 143  
 Avg. Worship Attendance:  
 8:45 – 73                      11:00 - 135  
 Monthly Offering Total: \$25,095.70  
 Building Fund: \$14,499.59

### **Encouragement Opportunities**

#### **Faith Promise Mission:**

David & Wrenn Thomas & *family*  
Kutia 150, PTK #1  
RRUGA NENE Tereza  
Prishtina 10000  
REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO  
011-377-44-320-073

#### **Student of the Month:**

All college students as they  
enjoy their summer vacation.

#### **Shut-in of the Month:**

Lila Sue Thompson  
1356 Clemson Rd.  
Alcolu, SC 29001  
(803) 473-2302

### **Ongoing Missions Opportunities**

#### **Harvest Seeds**

Collecting Sunday school literature, devotionals, and other religious material to send to brothers and sisters who faithfully labor in the vineyard with limited resources. *Periodically, volunteers needed to sort, pack, and deliver materials to the associational office. If interested, please speak with Karen DeCosta.*

#### **Donations for Ukraine**

Collecting warm, gently used children's clothes to send to Dr. & Mrs. Crane to be used in their ministry with Ukrainian orphans.  
*Point person: Donald Morris*

#### **Operation Christmas Child for June**

Toothbrushes  
Toothpaste  
Indiv. wrapped bars of soap  
Washcloths  
BALLS – tennis balls  
Inflatable beach/pool balls  
Any ball small enough to fit in a shoebox  
Collection box located in Mallie Alderman  
SS classroom (back of sanctuary)  
*Point Person: Mary Jo Jones*