

Clay's Corner

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

This passage of scripture is another of those oft quoted and seldom fully understood passages from Paul's many writings. One could write a very lengthy work on all that is contained within just these 11 verses. But, for the purposes of today I wish to focus on just verse 3.

When it comes to teaching and teachings, we all bring presupposed ideas and notions to the table. Many of our beliefs are not necessarily our own original thoughts, but the thoughts of others we esteemed as wise and learned, and as such have adopted as our own the thoughts of those who taught before us. Further still, in our efforts to seek the "truth," we find that only those teachings that we find comfortable with our own thought processes are those that we will incorporate into our own belief system. And we build around our belief system a wall of defense that is impermeable by any teachings that defy our logic and our comfort zones until such a time as we finally believe that we have arrived. We've got it all figured out. And while we might say, "I am still learning," the truth is that we are not learning, but we are refuting anything that doesn't agree with our own experience or our own thought processes. It is then that we become deaf to the continued maturation that we are called to so many times in scripture.

And the litmus test has always been, "does this teaching agree with my own suppositions and beliefs, and if not then it must be a false teaching." What I have found through the years is that while some beliefs create a certain amount of comfort in our own paradigms, they fly directly in the face of what is really taught in scripture. Further still, they cause us to lash out at others who have matured in their faith to a different level than our own as being wrong or, worse still, blasphemies and false teachings by false teachers.

False Teachers. What has always been the test for them? How have we always identified them? By comparing what they teach with what believe to be the true interpretation of God's Word. And we seldom if wever apply the righteous litmus test to those who teach different to what we believe: "Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit." Let me suggest to you that the next time you want to find out if I person is a false teacher, give them this test: "Is Jesus Lord?" It's a simple question. And the answer cannot come except through the source of true righteousness, the Spirit of God.

I do not agree with a lot of the teachings out there. Many of them are just plain wrong. But I seldom ever accuse someone of being a false teacher simply because their ideas of truth do not mesh with my own. What I do do however is apply this test. If there is any hesitancy or any other answer than, "Yes, Jesus is Lord," then and only then do I make a decision as to whether someone is a false teacher or not. You see I operate on a different principle now, whatever I do, in word or deed, I do all to the best of my ability in the name of the Lord... even calling someone on the carpet over a teaching. Why? Because He is Lord. He is King. He is the great judge with the wisdom to do all of those things and more. I am just a servant, with certain gifts. And my job is to bring in the harvest. I don't have the ability to separate the wheat from the tares. Do you? See ya Soon!

PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez** (recovering from knee surgery)
- **Cheryl Anstead and Stormy** (Cheryl Pitts's friends—health)
- **Lauren Babb** (health, recovering from surgery)
- **Larry Barnett** (Jacob White's friend—recovering from bike accident)
- **Brooke Bertling** (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- **Sonny Bransom** (recovering from hip replacement)
- **Fred Bray** (Weavers' friend—health)
- **Dawn Clarke** (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- **Eric Davis and Rose**
- **Bill Ellison**
- **Ben Faires** (Joyce Faires's grandson)
- **Leon Giesecke** (Jan Moerbe's father—throat cancer)
- **Chestly Gobar, Jordyn and Lucy**
- **Tomas Gomez** (Debbie Fougerat's employee—recovering from surgery)
- **Herb Hahn** (health)
- **Eddie Hunt** (Debbie Jalufka's father—Alzheimer's)
- **Sandra Jetton** (health)
- **John Jobe** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health, stroke)
- **Debbie Jalufka** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health)
- **Dixie** (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- **Jason, Lizzie and Luke Klinger** (Sarah Weaver's cousins—Luke, 4 mos old, cancer)
- **Guy Lowe** (Clay Mason's friend—health)
- **Jay Mason and family**
- **Emory Meier** (Cheryl Pitts's father—health)
- **Orvan Muelker** (Kathy Winegeart's father—health)
- **Claudia Morris** (Perry Winegeart's sister—health)
- **David Pearson** (Eric Davis's friend—brain tumor)
- **Stacey Placker and Meagan Miller** (Lexi Miller's mother and sister)
- **Junior and Ada Powell** (Sharron Mason's brother-in-law and sister—health, decision-making)
- **Sid Roberts** (Faireses' friend—health)
- **Alex and Tiffany Rodriguez** (Chestly Gobar's friends—Alex suffered stroke)
- **Bryson Rosales** (kindergartner in Shiner—recovering from brain surgery)
- **Ruth** (Joyce Faires's sister-in-law)
- **Jocelyn Seals** (Hallettsville—cancer)
- **David Taylor** (Cody Chrismon's uncle—cancer)
- **Maria Vasquez** (Joyce Faires's neighbor—health)
- **Buddy Watson** (Victoria Johnson's cousin—health)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

PRAYER UPDATES

Joyce Faires's eight-year-old great-grandson, **Everett**, was in Temple being tested for leukemia on Thursday evening.

Victoria Johnson's cousin is deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, near the site of Wednesday's terrorist attack. His team is all okay, but please pray for their continued safety in this dangerous and volatile situation.

Brycen Rosales had brain surgery Wednesday. The doctors induced a large seizure Tuesday which reassured them the location causing the seizures. Swelling and weakness are expected for about 6 weeks, but Brycen is expected to make a full recovery with no long-term deficits, and no future surgeries.

Edward Jungbauer, the Moerbes' friend, has an auto-immune liver disease and other health issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice: Annual Meeting of Members today immediately following morning worship service.

Fellowship Meal

Everyone is invited join us food and fellowship in the annex **today** after service!

Singing at The Heights

Please join us **today at 3:30 p.m.** at The Heights (701 N Sarah Dewitt) for our monthly singing.

We are excited to announce three ISF residents-Josh, Alex, and Tyler-were baptized on Wednesday, April 20! Congratulations and welcome to the family!

2016 VBS: Team

P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E.

This year's VBS is June 12-15. Volunteers will meet **next Sunday, May 1** following morning worship.

Peach Valley Bar-B-Q Fundraiser

The Peach Valley Christian Youth Camp Annual Bar-B-Q Fundraiser is **this Saturday, April 30 at 11:30 a.m.** If you signed up to bring a dessert, it needs to be to the annex **by 10 a.m. that morning.**

Justen Lawrence Memorial Bench

The Gonzales Church of Christ Ladies Class is raising funds to purchase a Kaspar Bench for the churchyard, in memory of our friend, Justen "Sunshine" Lawrence. **Our fundraising goal is \$500!** Checks may be made to: Gonzales Church of Christ, earmarked for "Justen Lawrence—Bench".

Bone Marrow Donor Registration Drive

Mark your calendars! In conjunction with Be the Match, we are hosting a bone marrow donor registration drive on **Sunday, May 22 from 12:15-3:15 p.m.** Donors are most needed between the ages of 18-44, but anyone ages 18-60 can join the registry. Please help us get the word out in the surrounding area. More details coming soon!

YOUTH ZONE



MONDAY, APRIL 25
BASEBALL
RED SOX V. GONZALES DODGERS, 7 P.M.
(SHINER MAJOR LEAGUE FIELD)

SOFTBALL
MARINERS @ D-BACKS, 6 P.M. (SHINER FIELD 5)
REVS @ YOAKUM #3, 7 P.M. (YOAKUM SB FIELD)

TUESDAY, APRIL 26
TEE BALL
INDIANS V. PADRES, 6 P.M. (SHINER FIELD 2)

Hunter Babb—Indians, Shiner Tee Ball
Caden Chrismon—Red Sox, Shiner Baseball



MONDAY, APRIL 28
BASEBALL
RED SOX V. GONZALES ASTROS, 7 P.M.
(SHINER MAJOR LEAGUE FIELD)

SOFTBALL
MARINERS V. ROYALS, 7:45 P.M. (SHINER SB FIELD 3)

FRIDAY, APRIL 29
TEE BALL
INDIANS V. D-BACKS, 6 P.M. (SHINER FIELD 2)

Callie Chrismon—Mariners, Shiner Softball
Rea'Anna Flores—REVS, Gonzales Major League Softball

