

## Brady's "Squared-Off-Edge-of-the-Paper"

### The Best of Times, the Worst of Times

One of the greatest lies that Satan has convinced us of is that the hard parts of life are bad. Sure, we try to act like we don't believe it by saying things like, "Nothing in life is easy." But once we hit a difficult spot in our lives, so many of us begin asking, "Why me?" We truly believe that life is not supposed to be this way; that if life were better, then it would not be so difficult.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." ~John 10:10

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it." ~Luke 9:23

The Scripture that I probably quote to the youth group more than any other is John 10:10 because I want them to know that the best, the greatest, the most fulfilling life they could ever have is one following Jesus Christ. It simply does not get any better than that. But they also know that "best life" does not equate to "easiest life." But there's a difference between knowing something and living something. What's our attitude during life's hardest times? Are we blaming God or stuck in a "Why me?" attitude when our lives get difficult? Are our shoulders scarred and calloused from the splintery edges of our cross? Or are they still pristine because we haven't even touched the heavy lumber yet?

Have you lost your life yet?

### Sermon Notes:

#### Reasons To Believe

#### I. Scripture Reading: Acts 2:36-41

- A. A tremendous response to the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. Why did three thousand people put on Christ in baptism?
- C. Three reasons to believe:

#### II. First, the M\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus of Nazareth.

(Acts 2:22; Matt 11:4f; Matt 8:23ff; John 11; John 3:2; John 20:30f)

#### III. Second, The Fulfillment of the Many Pr\_\_\_\_\_.

(Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16, 25-28; Micah 5:2; Psalm 89:2f; Lk 2:4; Psalm 16:8-10, Ps 89:3; Jn 18:37; Jeremiah 23:5f; Matt 1:21; Isaiah 53:3; Zechariah 11:12f Psalm 22; Daniel 2:44; 7:13f; Isaiah 2:2f; Acts 2:17).

#### IV. Third, The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(Psalm 16:8-10, Mt 16:21; Mt 27:62f; Acts 2:32; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8)



### Faith

Faith is not something we are born with, like blue eyes or brown hair. It is not a skill, like playing golf or managing a computer. It is not an innate talent, as in music or art. Faith is trust in something or someone. Faith is a gift from God, offered to all of us, whatever our skills and talents.

In our lesson today we are talking about faith. What is faith for you? This gift of faith that we are discussing today can be rejected. It can lie virtually unused. But in a crisis, the gift of faith can be overpoweringly important.

A woman came to Jesus pleading with Him to heal her daughter. Twice Jesus put her off. But she persisted, and he healed her daughter. Why did he delay, and why did he say, "Great is your faith?" God certainly does not pass out blessings by measuring our faith.

However, God wants us to be bold in our asking. Strangely enough, God might delay giving us what we ask, in order to increase our trust.

Faith grows only as we have our eyes focused on our Lord. As our faith increases, we are caught up in the greatness and goodness of God. And as Faith comes, so also does hope and love. Arnie

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 6th Labor Day Picnic @JB Williams Park in Glastonbury.
- September 12th Fellowship groups
- September 19th Congregational Potluck
- September 26th Leadership Mtg @ 4:30PM

#### AREA EVENTS\*

- Sept. 3rd. Single Retreat @Timothy Hill Camp
- Sept. 3-6th Gander Brook Christian Family Encampment
- Sept. 16-18th Gander Brook Ladies Retreat
- Sept 23-25th Gander Brook Men's Retreat
- Sept. 26th 7 Enemies of the Home-series @ Waterbury C of C
- Oct. 8-10th Ladies retreat @Timothy Hill Camp

\* See the bulletin board for more information

### Welcome To Our Worship

If you are visiting with us today, you are our special guest. We ask that you fill out the PRAYER REQUEST CARD in the packet you received as you entered and please drop it in the collection plate. We hope that you are encouraged and grow closer to God as a result of being here today.

#### Church Address:

595 Tolland Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06042  
Fax# 860-643-0174

### Assembly Times

**Sunday:**  
Bible Class: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.\*  
**Wednesday:** Bible Classes: 7:00 p.m.  
\*Small groups at homes 3rd Sunday eve.

#### Staff:

**Arnie Holmes** Pulpit Minister  
860.643.8540  
**Anthony Melakian** Outreach Minister  
860.432.8366  
**Brady Easter** Youth Minister  
860.818.9553  
**Pat Mosher** Church Secretary  
860.646.2903 Mancchrist@aol.com

### Our Shepherds

**Charlie Brown**—860-267-4289  
**George Caruthers**—860-644-2762  
**Robert Jarvis**—860-647-0069  
**Toimi Martikainen**—860-647-8611  
**Peter Scanlon**—860-643-0889  
**Scott Stafford**—860-643-6799

## PRAYER LIST

### Our Manchester Family

- **Becky Todd** (waiting for heart transplant).
- **Eleanor Arey**— Fell and broke her shoulder-in Crestfield rehab)
- **Anne Rideout**—home recovering.
- **Cara Butcher**-hospital

### Family & Friends

- **Don Bennett** - Northside Minister-(cancer)
- **Chris Kelley**—Jean's son ( serious condition)
- **Trudy Wright**—Marsha Adams mother (cancer)
- **Helen Chase**—Mike's mother (receiving Chemo).
- **Family members** who lost loved ones in the shooting in Manchester 3 weeks ago.
- **Bill McKay's** father (Hip Replacement)
- **The Stafford's daughter, Jill**—medical tests

### Those Traveling

- **Robert and Holly Klein family** gone out west.
- **Toimi and Candi** are in Nashville.
- **Phil & G.T. Stice** are visiting family in California

### Those looking for employment:

- **Richard Chang.**

September 26th has been designated as the Sunday to take pictures for the directory. If you have joined this congregation within the last year and have not had your picture taken, please make an effort to take advantage of this make-up day. Dick Courtney will be in the first classroom on the right immediately after worship. If you have any question see Dick.

On behalf of *hope for haiti's children*, Jim & Jodi Dean would like to thank everyone who donated twin sheets for Haiti and for all who have expressed their wishes, concerns and prayers for our safety while we travel (Sept 4th through 13th).

"Missionaries are not made by crossing the sea but by seeing the cross" (Otis Keener)

Chris and Raquel Curry send word that they have arrived safely in the Bahamas and are settling in.

Their new address is:

12 Hudson Street, Apt 4

Blair Estates

P.O. Box SS-5123

Nassau, New Providence

Bahamas

The phone # is 242-393-520

"Please pass on our gratitude to the *Manchester church* for helping to make our stay in CT such a pleasant experience. We really do appreciate the warmth and the love you extended to us from day one. We love you all and we are really going to miss you. Chris was back to work yesterday, and already his schedule is getting so clustered. We registered Chrisselle for school today, and she will be starting school in less than two weeks. She is so excited!"

## WEEKLY RECORD 8/22/2010

Bible Class	162
Morning Worship	258
Evening Worship	76
Wednesday Evening	65
Offering to God	\$7,500.83

### Sunday September 5th starts the New Adult Bible Class Year

New books and class room assignments will be available today. If you have not been participating in these wonderful classes, this would be a great opportunity to join in. If your name does not appear on the new roster, please feel free to join any class or see Jim Lietz for an assignment.

September 19th, Dr. David Burks, President of Harding University will be our guest speaker, followed by a Congregational Potluck. Baked hams and Roasted turkeys will be provided, others please bring the following: last names-A-K—dessert and 1/2 doz. Dinner rolls. L-O—tossed green salads or jello salads and 1/2 doz. Dinner rolls. P-Z—Hot potato dishes or hot veggie dishes and a 2 liter bottle of soda pop.

## THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

**Song Leader**— Mike Paden

**Prayer**—Dick Courtney

**Communion Thought**—Dave Berberian

**Lord's Table**

**Offering**

**Scripture**— Acts 2:36-41

**Sermon "Reasons To Believe"**

**Announcements**— Arnie Holmes

**Closing Prayer**— Ed Main

**Children's Bible Time** —Cancelled

**Toddler's Bible Time**— Mary Gonzalez/  
Megan Bouffard

## NEWS AND NOTES

- **Anne Rideout** went home on Wednesday but still needs our prayers for her recovery.
- **Beth & Taylor Stafford** are in N.C. to be with Jill and her family while she undergoes medical tests.

**Ladies**, mark your calendars

**What:** Ladies' Night Out : Fiesta Games

**When:** Friday Oct 1, 2010 at 6:30pm

**Where:** Large Fellowship hall at the building

**Cost:** \$15

Ladies come join us for a fun night of games, food, and fellowship! Tickets are \$15. Please give your money to Lindsey Bahler or Gail Bouffard. Make checks out to "Church of Christ."

### Come to the "Beautiful Feet" meet:

Calling all saints interested in praying for, participating in, encouraging the saints regarding, and general planning & logistics for Honduras 2011. Chris & Sharon Costa will host this meeting of the saints in their home on Monday evening, September 13th @ 7 pm. Light desert & refreshments will be served.

"How *beautiful* on the mountains are the *feet* of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, . . ." Isaiah 52:7

## ANTHONY'S CORNER

The sign in and of itself would not be very noteworthy except for the place where it was displayed. "Free Samples Tomorrow" read the sign. Now were this sign displayed over at Sam's Club or BJ's it would not be such a big deal since the free samples they distribute couldn't fill a hummingbird. But when such a sign is displayed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, DC, one's attention is immediately gotten. That is until you realize that the catch in the whole thing centers around the word "tomorrow". Obviously this is referring to a tomorrow that never comes for the government is just not going to give away even \$1 bills to tourists who come to watch our currency being printed. Speaking of that word "tomorrow" and the concept it represents, such is addressed in the Bible in at least a couple of ways. The first is spoken of within the concept of a day whose arrival is solely at the discretion of the Lord. In addressing those who like all of us, make plans for the future, James reminds us that, "**Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.'**" (James 4:14-15) Another way in which the Scripture deals with the concept of tomorrow is found in Hebrews 9:27 where we read, "**And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment...**" Obviously the idea of "tomorrow" is dealt with here according to a certainty which cannot be avoided. In other words, there is a tomorrow that may not come as well as the sort which will definitely be a reality someday. While it is good and prudent to prepare for the former in spite of its questionable certainty, it is of the utmost importance and urgency to prepare for that which we know beyond a shadow of a doubt, will come. Can we be subject to too many encouragements to get ready for the return of Jesus? I don't think so. With that thought in mind, how are you preparing for the tomorrow that most certainly will come?