

# BIDDEFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

266 POOL STREET - P.O. BOX 331 - BIDDEFORD, ME 04005

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

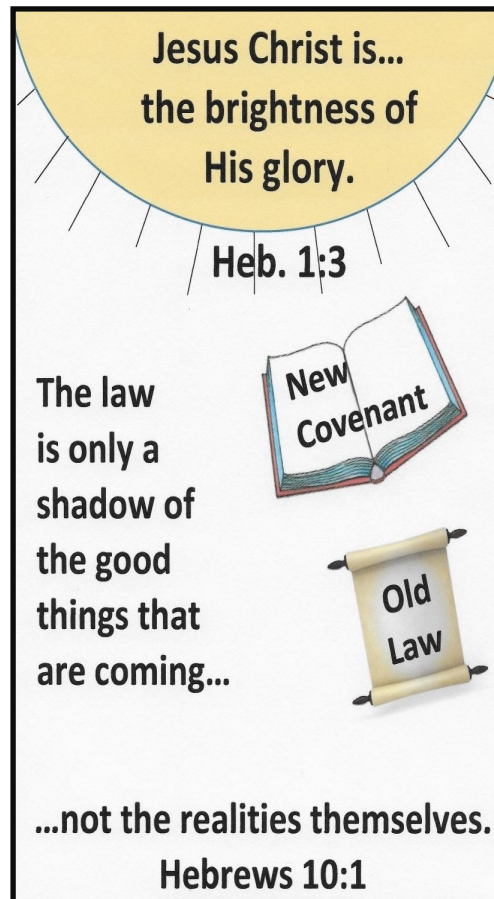
## DON'T LOSE HEART ARTICLE BY DENNIS GODIN

Today, I would like to take the liberty of speaking about something that is not directly linked to our theme for this year; even so, I believe it to be important. 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:6 says, "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." Paul would call it being "imitators of God" (Ephesians 5:1). There are numerous things that distract us from this endeavor, one of them being that "sinful nature" (NKJV says, flesh) that wars against the Spirit within (Galatians 5:17). Another, that which I wish to consider today, is the feeling of discouragement. One person described discouragement as "dissatisfaction with the past, distaste for the present, and distrust of the future." The dictionary defines discourage this way, to deprive of courage, hope, or confidence.

***Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart...***

***Luke 18:1***

Of course, you know I like to define words, and this time with good reason. As Jesus seeks to prepare His disciples for the work in the kingdom, He shares a parable with them concerning prayer and this idea of losing heart (KJV



says, faint). It means to be utterly spiritless, to be wearied out, exhausted. Paul cautioned the church in Galatia regarding such weariness "while doing good" and its potential of resulting in losing heart (Galatians 5:9). People neglecting...people objecting...people rejecting! Discouragement is often very real. So, what is one to do? The parable begins...

***Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' – Luke 18:3***

## SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

**SUNDAY**  
**BIBLE CLASS 9:30A.M.**  
**WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.**  
**MID-WEEK STUDY**  
**TUESDAY 7-8 P.M.**  
**(BIDDEFORD)**

### Elders

Brad Shaw (207)878-4124  
Tony Lemay (207)651-3369  
Dennis Godin (207)651-3588

### Deacons

John Carter (207)229-8516  
Matt Sampson (207)251-3030

### Ministry Leaders & Staff

Education - Antonio Balsamo  
(207)286-0514  
Worship - Abe Damuth  
(207)608-1784  
Grounds - Mark Foley  
(207)284-3816  
Building - Joe Romano  
(207)281-3929  
Fin./Benev. - John Carter  
(207)229-8516  
Fellowship - Matt Sampson  
(207)251-3030  
Secretary - Mike Wickwar  
(207) 432-2272

### Ladies Ministry

Debbie Godin (207)286-4821  
Barbara Lemay (207)850-0084

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## AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK

How important is encouragement to you? Note someone you have not seen in worship lately and give them a call or send them a card. Who knows, your words of encouragement could make an eternal difference.

**"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" - Acts 16:30**

**Hear** the Gospel - John 6:44-45; Romans 10:14, 17

**Believe** [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31; Heb 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

**Confess** Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37; Rom 10:8-10

**Be baptized** - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16; 1 Pet 3:21

**Be faithful** unto death - Mt 7:21; 10:22; Heb 5:9; Rev 2:10

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*"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

~ Acts 4:12 ~

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### *Ladies Corner*

Our next Ladies meeting will be during the congregational breakfast on September 9th.

Thank You,

*Debbie and Barbara*

Last Week's Numbers:

Attendance: 47    Contribution: \$ 2117

### WHY CONTENTMENT CAN BE ELUSIVE (CONTINUED)

The story speaks of an uncaring judge and a tenacious widow who was encountering injustice. She went before the judge continuously, seeking justice. She did so because she knew he was the only one capable of bringing resolution. Eventually the judge would reason, "because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me" (Luke 18:5). How does this help to keep discouragement from taking hold? One person said it this way, "If an unrighteous judge would answer the persistent petitions of an insignificant widow, how much more would a loving God answer the continuous cries of his elect."

*Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

*Luke 18:8*

Jesus ends this lesson with the above words, which remind us that prayer, one of the weapons we can use to fight against discouragement, is intimately linked to faith. As I thought about this, I remembered a verse often quoted by Matt Sampson, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7). Believing that God is mighty, that He does care for me and that He will bring me through to the end, can help to fight against discouragement. Lord, maybe my prayer needs to be, "Please Lord, increase my faith."

*Dennis*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We're on Facebook**– Biddeford church of Christ is on Facebook! There is a profile, which is public, and there is a closed group, for current Biddeford church family only, where we can share photos, prayer requests, announcements, etc. The public cannot see posts in the BCOC FB group. Only members can.

**Men Leading in Worship** - The men who serve in worship are asked to meet in the cry room or, if it is in use, a classroom promptly at 10:30 to confirm assignments and go to God in prayer.

**Building Lights** - If you are the last person leaving the building, please be sure to turn off all the lights, check that all windows are shut, and the doors are locked.

**Bulletin /- Prayer List** - If you have a prayer request or an announcement for the bulletin, please contact Mike Wickwar at 432-2272 or email him at mickwick@yahoo.com by Friday of each week. Anything given after Friday may not make it into that Sunday's bulletin.

**Reminder:** Please turn off your cell phone or place it on vibrate during Bible study and worship.

**We care what you think** - If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, feel free to write them down on a piece of paper, then sign it and place it in the box. We will get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks for your help.

**Monthly Bulletins**– One per family, please. If you would like another copy, you can find it on our website, biddefordchurchofchrist.com. You can also listen to sermons on the website.

**Updating the Prayer List** - Please review the prayer list. If there is a prayer request initiated by you, it is important you contact Mike Wickwar with updates. Thank you.

**Upcoming Events** - Please check your calendars

**Life Groups**– September 3rd and September 17th.

**Congregational Breakfast** - September 9th at 8:30 am.

**Pot Luck** - September 10th

**Singing Nights** - Tuesday September 26th (7 p.m. Biddeford)

**Happy Birthday!**

- Cynthia Fortier September 7
- James Butler September 11
- Natalee Lawrance September 11
- Clifford Parker September 12
- Vinny Balsamo September 22
- Jerry Allen Hilton September 30

**Happy Anniversary!**

- Antonio & Carolyn Balsamo September 15
- Abe & Jessica Damuth September 18

**On October 1-4** The Southern Maine Church of Christ invites us to a Gospel Meeting *with* Brent Newton *from* Jefferson City, Missouri

**Please sign up in the back for our Church Workday October 7.**

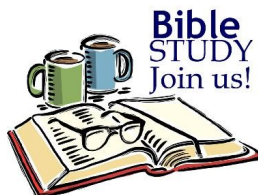
**Our Copier has moved back down into the office.**

**\*\*\* To Help the victims of Hurricane Harvey send a check (Tax Deductible) to \*\*\*  
Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc.**

**410 Allied Drive  
Nashville, TN 37211**

MID-WEEK BIBLE CLASSES

Biddeford  
Tuesdays  
7:00-8:00 p.m.



Sanford  
Cancelled  
Until further notice

**YOUR ATTENDANCE WOULD BE SUCH AN ENCOURAGEMENT!**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR TODAY

**Song 286 *Wonderful Story Of Love***

**Announcements**—Shepherd

**Opening Prayer** - Angel Velez

**Song 300 *Praise Him! Praise Him!***

**Song 315 *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross***

**Lord's Supper** - Joe Romano, Lenny Spano,  
TJ Balsamo

**Song 555 *Seek Ye First***

**Contribution**

**Song 794 *Unto Thee, O Lord***

**Prayer** - Mike Wickwar

**Song 587 *Sing And Be Happy***

**Scripture Reading** - Abraham Damuth  
1 Peter 5:6-7

**Lesson** - Dennis Godin

**Don't Lose Heart**

Lesson Text: Luke 18:1-8

**Song 909 *There's A Fountain Free***

**Closing Prayer**—Shepherd



Song Leader: Robert Balsamo

Greeter: Linda Barnes

Communion Prep: Jessica Damuth

### NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE:

Song Leader - James Butler

Opening Prayer - Brad Shaw

Lord's Supper - John Carter, Rufilo  
Lawrance, Antonio Balsamo

Prayer - Matthew Sampson

Scripture Reading - Mark Foley

Greeter - Barbara Lemay

Communion Prep - Deborah Godin

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### WELCOME VISITORS



We here at the Biddeford church of Christ pray your visit with us today is enjoyable and uplifting. Please stay around after services so that we can get to know you better. We all strive to put Christ first in our lives and make the Bible our principle guide for living.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.BIDDEFORDCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM](http://WWW.BIDDEFORDCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM)

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