

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Marescot's - John-Cancer Treatment, Keasha-Back. Strengthen our union.
- ◆ Cindy Fortier –surgery on gland mass.
- ◆ The Prestridge family. (Kittery Church)
- ◆ TJ Balsamo off to Marine Boot Camp.
- ◆ Gabriele Little Husband-Ill, Brother-ALS.
- ◆ Mary McVivar Erik's friend kidney disease
- ◆ Linda Barnes - Installing Pacemaker.
- ◆ Brenda Butler prayers for self and family.
- ◆ Marion Goodwin - Replacing heart valve.
- ◆ Glory Parker - Health/travel.
- ◆ Jerry Hilton - Returning home.

Address For TJ Balsamo

RCT BALSAMO, ANTONIO L
STC/PCP
PO BOX 15250
MCRD PARRIS ISLAND, SC 29905-2101

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
BuildingJoe Romano.....(207)281-3929
Fellowship....Matt Sampson...(207)251-3030
Finance.....John Carter.....(207)229-8516
Benevolence..JohnCarter.....(207)229-8516
Secretary.....Mike Wickwar.....(207)432-2272

Ladies Ministry

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

Order of Worship

Song 387 *Tell Me The Story Of Jesus*

Announcements - Shepherd

Opening Prayer - Brad Shaw

Song 509 *I Will Sing The Wondrous Story*

Song 315 *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*

Lord's Supper - Joe Romano, James Butler, Clifford Parker

Song 555 *Seek Ye First*

Contribution

Song 800 *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*

Prayer - Matthew Sampson

Song 882 *No Tears In Heaven*

**Scripture Reading - Abraham Damuth
*Proverbs 3:13-18***

Lesson - Dennis Godin

Maturity Is Essential

Lesson Text: *Hebrews 5:12-14*

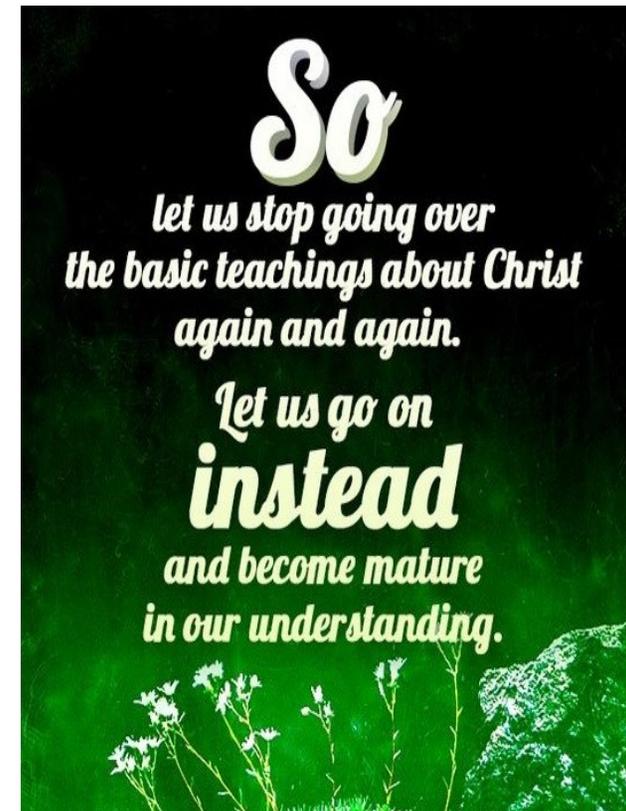
Song 904 *Have You Been To Jesus*

Closing Prayer - Shepherd

Song Leader - Robert Balsamo
Greeter - Gabriele Little
Communion Prep - Barbara Lemay

**Last Week's Numbers
Attendance: 43 Contribution: \$2629**

**THE BIDDEFORD
CHURCH OF CHRIST
WELCOMES YOU!**



MARCH 11, 2018

Biddeford Church of Christ

266 Pool Street, Biddeford ME 04005

Biddefordchurchofchrist.com

(207) 284-7123

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.

This Week's Events

Today 3/11
Pot Luck

Tuesday 3/13
Bible Study

Sunday 3/18
Life Groups

Birthdays
Brad Shaw 3/12
Angel Velez 3/24
Gavin Sampson 3/24

Anniversaries
Stephen & Glory Parker 3/17

Next Week's Service Schedule

Song Leader - James Butler
Opening Prayer - Matthew Sampson
Lord's Supper John Carter, Rufilo Lawrance, Jacob Romano
Prayer - Angel Velez
Scripture Reading - Lenny Spano
Greeter - Brenda Butler
Communion Prep - Jessica Damuth

Maturity Is Essential

With our focus being on this idea of growth, one might be wondering, "Why is growth so important to the Christian's walk? As long as I believe in Jesus and read the word of God once in a while, that's sufficient...right?" As was mentioned last week, the journey homeward is filled with peaks and valleys, where we experience times of tremendous challenge and great heights of joy. Like the apostle Paul, I realize that I have not "already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on" (Philippians 3:12) towards my heavenly home. Unlike the church in Laodicea, spoken of by John in Revelation 3:14-21, I don't want the Lord to find me "lukewarm...neither cold nor hot" (v16). Being purposed in maturing in Christ is what can help to keep this from happening. In our mid-week study we have been going through Hebrews. A letter written to Jewish Christians who seem to find themselves going back to their old teachings.

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God...

Hebrews 5:12

The writer, guided by the Holy Spirit, appears to suggest a level of expectation from those reading this letter; that is, they "ought to be teachers". I thought of James 3:1 where Christians are cautioned, "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." So, which is it? James is cautioning members from assuming a teaching role before they are ready. The writer of Hebrews is saying, they should be ready and are not; instead, they need to be taught the "first principles of the oracles of God" again. The essential nature of maturity is then stated, "For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe" (v13). Unskilled simply

means *inexperienced in, without experience of*. In Ephesians 4:14, Paul expresses why this maturity is so essential, for it will keep us from being "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine." When one comes to Christ, they should "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1st Peter 2:2). But that same word of God also contains solid food that can help us continue to grow in Christ, equipping us for every good work (2nd Timothy 3:17). What is some of that work?

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14

Listen to how the NIV translates part of this verse, "...who by constant use have trained themselves." This comes from the word the NKJV translates exercised; which means *to exercise vigorously, in any way, either the body or the mind*. One commentator explains that this word "is used in Greek writings for the training which an athlete undergoes." This intentional effort enables the believer to discern; that is, distinguish both good and evil, or as one commentator writes, they can "pass discriminating judgment on moral situations as they arise." Thus, there was then, and there is now, a good reason for Christians to mature: for it is essential to the cause of Christ and to the Christian's spiritual life!

Dennis

Sermon Notes
