

These Three Remain

by Sam Dilbeck

Selfishness and pride dominated the Corinthian church, turning its sweet savor into a fetid stench before God. Those who should have brought others to Christ through compassion and love, pushed them away through hate. Paul wrote First Corinthians to restore their unity in God.

Against a backdrop of selfishness over spiritual gifts, Paul promoted a “more excellent way”—the way of love (1 Cor. 12:31). Love infused their miraculous gifts with meaning (1 Cor. 13:1-3). Love fostered unity when their loveless gifts generated strife (1 Cor. 13:4-7). Love endured while gifts were marked for extinction (1 Cor. 13:8-3).

Then, concluding his explanation of love’s excellency, Paul says, “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor. 13:13). It’s almost startling because Paul’s subject was love and spiritual gifts. Certainly, faith and hope were great

qualities, but they weren’t part of his argument. So why bring up two new ideas and wed them to love in the conclusion? Because these three virtues were well known as the basic building blocks of Christianity. Without faith, hope, and love, the fledgling religion could not exist. Christians must trust God to accomplish what they cannot do on their own—save themselves. Without this faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). Christians are thoroughly future-oriented people, putting their hope in heaven (Heb. 6:18-20). Christians are identified by sharing Christ’s love with others. That’s faith, hope, and love (1 John 4:7-12).

When the temporary scaffolding of the miraculous age is removed, faith, hope, and love remain standing as the foundation, framework, and façade of the Christian temple. But the greatest of these is love. The authenticity of modern Christianity is the demonstration of these virtues to a world where faith, hope, and love are scarce.

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org

House to House, Heart to Heart

In Search of the Lord's Way

Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies

The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv

WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin

New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

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Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Lanny Powers, Lanette Stewart's dad, was taken to Parkland last week, due to a spiked fever.

Bronny Watson's brother, Danny, passed away from cancer on Christmas Eve. His service was held last Thursday in Mertens, TX.

Sabrina Zamzow's dad, Jackie Coker, is still having complications from his recent cancer diagnoses.

Brian Hand will begin rehab from his knee surgery soon.

Bud Moore just completed another round of cancer treatments in Dallas.

Phil Pillans had both knees replaced on Friday.

Eastside members that need prayers:

Willie Wilmore, who is 101 years old, has been having some respiratory problems.

Vivian Jackson was diagnosed with pneumonia.

Alton Albert is scheduled for upper back surgery on Tuesday.

Continue to Remember: Julie Dilbeck, Meagan Gould, Bud & Barbara Moore, Wanda Horner, Chris Garner, Velma McDougald, Beverly Cooke, Bryan Bearden, Thelma Martin, LeAnn Curry

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

Announcements

We rejoice with **Tim Cooke's family** at the **baptism** of his **granddaughter, Abby Coldiron!** She is from Bixby, OK, but was here visiting on Tuesday night when she was baptized.

WOW Save The Date! WESTHILL LADIES DAY

Date: Saturday, January 28, 2017

Speaker: Donna Drain

Topic: When Life Gives You Lemons ...

Westhill Yearly Bible Reading Planners have been made available for you. They are located at the back of the auditorium.

Young at Heart Seniors Group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:30am for Bible Study. Everyone is welcome!

Community Outreach Works

Habitat for Humanity:

Saturday, Jan. 21 from 8am-3pm.

Sign-up sheet is at the back of the auditorium.

Volunteers are needed!!!

Food for Fitness: TBA

Birthdays This Week

January 1 -Troy Steinkraus

January 4 - Angie Hall & Malinda Zalace

January 6 - Paul Gillen

January 7 - Reece Briggs

Next Week's Adult Class

"The Life of the Apostle Paul"

Records for December 25, 2016

Bible Class	
AM Worship.....	242
PM Worship.....	65
Wednesday	146
Contribution	\$9,924

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	David Baumgartner
Opening Prayer	Wayne Prater
Communion Leader	David Shastid
Communion Servers	
Dan Gibson	Mark Blaylock
Wayne Prater	Luke Baumgartner
Scott Parr	Randy Heim
Aubrey Parrish	Billy Roughton
Ken Green	Don Corley
Jim Milam	Phil Pillans
Gene Steinkraus	
Closing Prayer	Rusty Owens
Nursery	Martha Dowdle & Claire Barham
PM Song Leader	Joshua Haden
PM Opening Prayer	Ken Green
PM Closing Prayer	James Horn
Wed. Song Leader	Jimmy Horn
Wed. Devotional	Rusty Owens
January Contact Elder	Darwin Thomas