



## What A Friend We Have by David Sproule

Knowing the influence that friends have on each other, the Lord advises that “the righteous should choose his friends carefully” ([Prov. 12:26](#)). Friends, even as the Bible uses the word, are not mere acquaintances. True friends build a relationship which can surpass even that which they experienced in their own home. Solomon stated that “there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother,” and “a friend loves at all times” ([Prov. 18:24](#); [17:17](#)). (This is why husbands and wives need to be best friends.)

Moses spoke of a friend “who is as your own soul” ([Deut. 13:6](#)). That’s the kind of friends that David and Jonathan were to each other. First Samuel 18 says, “The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul...Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul” (18:1, 3).

Do you have a friend that you would trust and value “as your own soul”? Many of us can identify that person(s) in our lives and we cannot imagine trying to exist without their close and constant companionship. Can I remind you of another friend whom you cannot live without?

The following passages paint a portrait of God that I think we need to have refreshed in our hearts. “So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend” ([Ex. 33:11](#)). Meditate on that for a minute. Moses and the Lord were very close friends.

James tells us that Abraham “was called the friend of God” (2:23). In the Old Testament, Abraham truly was called God’s friend. In [2 Chronicles 20:7](#), King Jehoshaphat appealed to God and referred to “Abraham Your friend forever.” But, it was not just others calling Abraham a friend of God. In [Isaiah 41:8](#), the Lord Himself said, “Abraham My friend.” Meditate on that for a minute. God proclaimed, “Abraham is My friend.”

We have a friend who sticks closer than a brother (cf. [Heb. 13:5-6](#)). We have a friend who loves at all times (cf. [Rom. 8:35-39](#)). We have a friend who loves us as His own soul (cf. [Eph. 5:2](#); [Isa. 53:10-12](#); [Heb. 4:15](#)).

Now, go and read [John 15:13-15](#). He loved His friends and laid down His life for His friends. But, we are only His friends if we do as He has commanded us. Would the Lord call you His friend? Is He your close, constant companion? Is your soul knit to Him?

## From the Elders,

Please adhere to the guidelines of our governor who advises that we wear masks and distance ourselves from close contact with each other while at services. Communion packets and baskets for the contribution are at the double doors. Thank you for protecting yourself and each other while we are together. Remember that Sunday AM Bible classes have resumed and also the Wednesday Bible Study is meeting at 7p.

## Services

### Sunday Bible Study

9:30am

Worship: 10:30 am  
& 6:00pm

Wed. Bible Study  
7p

### Preacher

Michael Gors

### Elders

Michael Gors

Gary Reynolds

Todd Stults

### Deacons

Don Allison  
Fellowship

Jim Clark  
Visitation

Lowell Huffman  
Media

### Those Whom

### We Support

#### MSOP

Cannon Taylor

#### INDIA

Bible Correspondence  
Course/ Bibles

## Leaders in Worship

*July 12, 2020*

*Morning Worship*

Announcements: Todd Stults

Song Leader: Gary Reynolds

Opening Prayer: Lowell Huffman

Scripture: Case Reynolds, Matt. 12: 46-50

Sermon: Mike Gors: "Family of God"

Lord's Table: Jay Kellow

Closing Prayer: Gary Reynolds

Sound Room: Jimmy Clark

### *Events Pending*

--September 26, Ladies Day at East Allen County COC in New Haven, IN. Flyer posted

--Read of various opportunities for study and worship at Fishinger and Kenny church of Christ in Columbus, OH. Includes virtual lessons with Phil Sanders, vacation Bible school and college ministry. Flyers posted on bulletin board # 1

## Mark Your Calendar

On July 22nd, West Side will meet at Towne Acres in support of their summer series on James. Mike will be speaking for this Wednesday evening service which will meet at 7p.

**We will not have midweek Bible Study at West Side that night.**

Hope you can come in a good way of showing solidarity and in a good way of learning from the scripture. To be prepared, read James, chapter 3

**See you there.**



"In every community there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it."

Marianne Williamson

## On Your Conscience

"Self discipline is when your conscience tells you to do something and you don't talk back." W.K. Hope

"Conscience is a mother-in-law whose visit never ends."

H. Menchren

## Remember Calls and Cards to Our Shut-ins

Joyce Popplewell --  
Heritage in Yorktown  
Ann Funk--  
Westminster Village  
Linda Horning--  
Westminster Village  
Carl Gilstrap--Albany  
Health Care

## On Being Haughty,

--None are so empty as those who are full of themselves.

--Vanity is the result of a delusion that someone is paying attention.

--It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.

--The nice thing about ego-tists is they don't talk about other people.

--Lord, where we are wrong, make us willing to change; where we are right, make us easy to live with.

## Expecting Too Much?

I heard this story several years ago: "A young preacher had just moved to a new congregation. The brethren were thrilled with his first sermon. The next Lord's day, he preached the same sermon! However, most everyone concluded it was an oversight. But, the third Sunday, the same sermon – again! The elders met with their new preacher and asked, "Don't you have more than one sermon?" "Yes," was the reply, "I have many sermons; but you haven't done anything about the first one yet!" Just a question: Was he expecting too much from his hearers? What did he have a right to expect? I remember Jesus saying this: "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken to a man who built his house on a rock . . ." He did expect men to listen and respond! Have we been lulled into some strange sense that, when gospel preaching is done, we have the right to "turn it off" if it doesn't appeal to us? The whole tenor of the Scriptures is contrary to this attitude! Jesus once told His disciples, "He that heareth you, heareth me." Gospel preachers today have no "built in authority" as did the apostles who were endowed with the Holy Spirit, but they do have the right to expect to be heard when they speak "as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). As a preacher, I strive to present lessons that are thought-provoking, informative, and admonishing. I may not always succeed in this, but it's not for lack of trying. There is the other side of preaching, seldom thought of – the responsibility of the hearer. Jesus, you remember, admonished His hearers, "Take heed how you hear." Not only "what you hear," but how you hear. The next time your preacher speaks on a difficult subject, or one that he knows you need to hear, bear with him "just a little." It may be one he has dreaded to present, but one he knows is needed if he is to please God! --Clayton Arnold (Buchanan Dam, TX)

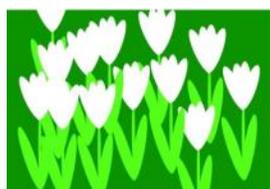
**Marshall Staggs--July 17**

**Gary Reynolds--July 22**

**Cindy Traub--July 23**

**Jerry Hoyt--July 27**

**Joey Harper--July 27**



Happy Birthday

## In Need of Prayer

**Adam Huffman**, Has been recently placed on donors' list for kidney transplant.

**Alex Odle**, Cancer

**Angie Reed**, MS

**Bill & Pam Smith**

**Bob Owens**, Cancer. Kathy's cousin. Undergoing another round of chemo

**Carl Gilstrap**, Pneumonia. Residing in Albany Health Care

**Martha Gilstrap**

**Carl Lafferty**

**Dan Proctor**, Lela's youngest son who lives in New York State. Health Issues

**Howard Goodman**

**Kathy Brown**, Martha Gilstrap's daughter. Stroke with left-sided paralysis

**Kathy Channel**, Cancer, daughter of Lois Schlagel

**Kathy Harper**, Cellulitis, respiratory difficulties

**Kim Ham**, Breast cancer . Scheduled for surgery on July 15th

**Mary Smith**, Stroke

**Mitch Kinder**, Cancer. Sally's neighbor

**Ryan Dobbs**, Skylar's cousin, undergoing treatment to counter rejection of new kidney

**Susan Cloninger**, Recuperating from surgery

**Susie Long**, Living in assisted living in TN

**Wanda Reed**,

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Revelation 2;7, KJV

## Who is Your Barnabas, Paul & Timothy?

Most young boys admire and look up to their father as they are growing up. I was no different. I wanted to be just like my father. Grow up to be strong, smart, funny, kind, loving, honest, hard working, a farmer, and many other things just like my father as I got older. As a little boy, a teenager, a young man, and even today, I look to my father as one to emulate.

I know that I was extremely blessed to have the loving, kind parents that mentored me. We all need mentors in our lives. Whether it be parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins, other relatives, friends, neighbors, etc., we all need people in our lives that we can look up to. Jeff Jenkins recently said in a leadership training at South Green St., “Everyone needs at least one Barnabas, one Paul, and one Timothy in their life.” That phrase has stuck with me over the last couple of months since hearing it.

**One Barnabas**—As humans we all love to be encouraged. Encouragement from others is sometimes the only thing that gets us through difficult times. Barnabas was a man of encouragement. We need to have in our life someone that is reaching out to encourage and uplift others. They are selfless and always looking to others’ needs before their own.

**One Paul**—We need someone in our lives that has been through it before. Someone that we can go to when we need advice, guidance, or help with a problem/struggle that we are experiencing. Paul was a mentor to Timothy. Paul had seen it and experienced it. He was willing to lend advice and council to Timothy as Timothy was growing in the ministry.

**One Timothy**—As was just mentioned, Timothy was advised by Paul while he was a young man doing the work of the Lord. He was willing to listen and take the advice of Paul and use it. We need someone in our lives that challenges us to be the example that we should be. We need to have someone in our lives that we are looking to help and make a difference in their life.

Who is your Barnabas? Who is your Paul? Who is your Timothy?

*Nick Pace  
S. Green St. church of Christ  
Glasgow, KY*

## Unsung Heroes



Have you noticed the lights in the auditorium are better and brighter? Bill Winemiller replaced the wiring and installed new streamlined lightning. Have you noticed the parking lot has new painting and the cracks have been filled with tar? Volker has been re-doing the surface. Did you know the AC in the east part of the building went out and Steve helped to install a new unit? All around us, we have volunteers who help to take care of the building and grounds in cleaning and upkeep and we salute these folks and thank them for their time and effort. Your deeds have not gone unnoticed.