

Continued from front page. . .

banished forever?

The principle which can be affirmed about God is that he is a 'restorer', a fixer. From the chaos as creation began, he brought order and structure. From a fallen humanity, through the second Adam, he brought redemption. He is patient, longsuffering, and hopeful toward his creation, always moving, shaping, and planning for a full restoration of all things.

Since God seems to be on the edge of his seat, ready to act in support of our efforts to return. Since he has historically acted 'while we were yet sinners', initiating our process to regain our earlier status, I find it consistent with what I know of the nature of our God to say that he does not want those who are banished, banished forever.

The reason we have any hope at all is this same principle. Scripture teaches that all of us fall short of the glory of God, and our sins make a separation between us and God. It is his action, sending Jesus, that makes the way for our return. His will is our return from banishment.

There is no room for a "take no prisoners" mentality among God's people. God's nature is revealed as being one who always seeks to restore to fullness.

Grace and peace,
Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

St John Church of Christ
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The Day Is At Hand

St John Church of Christ

April 29, 2018

A question that I have been pondering during this last year was prompted by the story in 2 Samuel 14, about the widow from Tekoa who is sent to David by Joab to facilitate Absalom's return to Jerusalem. Her statement is, "...the king does not bring back his banished son", indicating the 'appropriate behavior' based on the statement, "This is not what God desires, he devises ways so that a banished person does not remain banished from him."

This is the rationale for David bringing Absalom back to Jerusalem, but was it good counsel, God's counsel, or simply Joab's manipulation?

It should be noticed that Joab often had his own motives for things, making behind the scenes moves to push the kingdom in directions he desired. So, the source of the statement comes overlaid with some less than pristine motives.

That being acknowledged, God has on numerous occasions used 'shady characters' to deliver spiritual truths.

My question is, if God did bring this into being, what does it tell me about the character of God? Is it consistent with what I learn in other places about God to make the statement that God doesn't want those who are "banished"

Continued on back page . . .

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
WEDNESDAY: Varies by Time of Year (*refer to Bulletin News*)
ELDERS: Richard Brensing, Teddy Gingrich, Terry Sallee,
George Shelton, Tom Turner
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril
TREASURER: Richard Brensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR APRIL 29, 2018

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker
GATHERING SONG: No. 23—Our God, He is Alive (vs 1)
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 100 (Dominic Rogers)
SONGS: No. 65—Thanksgiving Medley
-No. 66—Doxology
-No. 67—For the Beauty of the Earth
-No. 68—Give Thanks
No. 103—He Has Made Me Glad
No. 435—Come Into His Presence
No. 533—I Am a Sheep
No. 779—I Love You, Lord
PRAYER: Tom Turner
SONG: No. 18—Faithful Love
COMMUNION: Jerry Kinnamon
Teddy Gingrich
Orrin Feril
Ben Sizemore
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril (Romans 13:11-12)
SONG: No. 514—Redeemed
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 922—Jesus Paid It All (vs 1)
PRAYER: Chris Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship and hope that you will come again!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Come help with Vacation Bible School preparation on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. The dates for VBS will be May 29-31, with a Family Picnic on Friday, June 1st. Mark your calendar!

MEAL REQUEST

We have been asked to provide the evening meal for the local "Circles" program on Monday, May 14th. Pam is the contact person for this — please let her know if you could help serve or prepare food.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Craig Smith and family, on the passing of his father, **Bob Smith**, on Friday in Great Bend. His memorial service is planned for Tuesday at 10:30 am at St Rose in Great Bend.



MAY CALENDAR

Pick up a May activity calendar today—note the dates of area high school graduations, as well as other special dates.

Memory Work for 2018—**Romans 13:11-12**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Jorja Blakeslee – out of her splint, on limited activity, to see doctor again the end of May
Carla Tillery (good friend of Gayle Byer) - pneumonia
Lowell Dell (Cindy Kinnamon's brother) - brain injury; slowly improving
Aggie Keesling—cardiac testing
Ashton Line—(student at Ingalls where Joe & Tammy Meador teach) - in Wesley Medical Center in Wichita after an auto accident
Stan Aldrich—respiratory issues
Brenda Guilinger (Loyd's daughter) - cancer has returned (send her a card at: 4212 38th St West, Bradenton, FL 34205)
Gayle Sears (Marla's friend) breast cancer; chemo
Kim Staub—Parkinson's
Eddie Baker (Gayle Byer's friend) - health issues
Diane Campbell—broken leg; MS
Jim Walton (Stafford) - throat cancer
Katherine Suiter—cancer
Crystal Easley (Terry & Linda Welch's daughter) - cancer
David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - Emphysema
Jim Sorensen (Tara's brother-in-law) brain cancer
Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rukan's sister) - cancer
Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
June Cornwell—Kenwood Plaza
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother) - Stafford Leisure Homestead

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org