

## Invitation

Welcome everyone. We pray you will be strengthened by your visit with the Brighton Church of Christ. You are not just our guest, but you are welcome and wanted right here. Join our family of imperfect people perfected in by the blood of Jesus. Restrooms are located across the foyer near the front of the auditorium on the upper floor. If you need assistance in any way, ask any member for help.

## Mission

The Brighton Church of Christ is a spiritual family with a focus on going to heaven. We are determined to honor God, to strictly follow the teachings of the New Testament, and effectively make that teaching available to the city of Brighton and the surrounding areas.

## Leadership

### Elders

Ron Jenson	303-655-8498
Reid Jones	719-469-1609
Ivan Stewart	720-270-1057

### Deacons

Kevin Dunham	303-807-5974
Anthony Sandoval	303-815-4045
Mark Thacker	303-242-6447

### Minister

Sam Dilbeck	903-229-8415
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### Contact

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Email: [info@brightonchurchofchrist.org](mailto:info@brightonchurchofchrist.org)  
Website: [brightonchurchofchrist.org](http://brightonchurchofchrist.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/brightoncoc](https://facebook.com/brightoncoc)

## Sunday Schedule

Welcome .....	Ron Jensen
Song Leader .....	Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer .....	Dale Bishop
Lord's Supper Leader.....	Chris Peterson
Lesson .....	
Closing Prayer & Dismissal.....	Marc Moran

## Wednesday Evening Schedule

Class .....	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer.....	PJ Kite

## Service Times

Sundays: Worship 10:30 am

Wednesdays: Ladies Class 10:00 am, Bible Study 6:30 pm

“Zoom” Virtual Classes:

4th-6th Grade Fridays @3:00 p.m.

7th-12th Grade Fridays @ 6:00 p.m.



January 10, 2021

## Easier at the Beginning

“It is easier to resist at the beginning than at the end.” So said the strip of white paper wisdom. Often fortune cookies are trite and worthless, yet this one spoke an ancient truth—a truth as ancient as God himself (1 Cor. 10:6-15). How many hearts have been broken, lives shattered, tears cried because people were ignorant of the difficulties of resisting at the end instead of the beginning?

### Tangled Webs

Sir Walter Scott warned in *Marmion*, “Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive” (Canto vi, stanza 14). Sit-coms thrive on this principle as characters try to hide one mistake with a “white” lie, only to find it demands another, then another, until overwhelmed with the task of keeping up with a web of lies.

From the beginning of time, lying has brought grief and pain, Satan’s lies (Gen. 3:4-5), Cain’s lies (Gen. 4:9), the false prophets (Jer. 28:11). Humanity has been destroyed a maelstrom of falsehood. When people lie, even with “pure” motives, they quickly find out how one lie leads to another. Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra wrote, “Honesty is the best policy” (*Don Quixote*, ii.33). Honesty is best because it is righteous, but also because once lying begins, it is hard to end.

### Illicit Passions

Illicit passions also become more difficult to extinguish the longer they simmer. “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5).

God created man and woman with strong sexual desire toward one another. Then he instituted marriage as the outlet for these desires (Gen. 2:18-25; 1 Cor. 7:9). Following these passions outside of marriage is sin, and Paul calls them “passion” and “evil desire.”

Christian parents spy on their teens “making out” in the front room and silently thank God they’re not having sex. Meanwhile, passions are being stirred that God designed to be experienced in the confines of marriage, not the confines of the living room. When a child is conceived, they wonder how this could happen. They trusted their child to know when to stop. However, sexual passions are so strong, and it is foolish to allow children to arouse those passions then expecting them to stop short of sex. God did not intend to save only intercourse for marriage. He expected people to withhold intercourse and every sexual passion leading up to intercourse until marriage. “I adjure you...that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases” (SOS 2:7; 3:5) Why? Because once sexual passions flare, it is hard to stop.

#### Assembling Yourself

Missing worship is another sin harder to stop the longer it goes. God instilled in man the need for social interaction. Then he designed fellowship to meet this need (Heb. 10:24-26). Many Christians do not understand this basic need and become sporadic in attendance, but they always have a good reason: family is in, job took them away, had to meet someone, etc. Soon the good reasons turn into any reason.

Sadly, the results do not stop with excuses. When Christians miss a lot, they cannot fill up on fellowship with the church. Therefore, they start looking for other places to get their social interaction. They find time to go out with friends, attend civic gatherings and engross themselves in the fantasy of television. These cheap imitations of spiritual fellowship make them feel fulfilled. Thus, they do not feel an urgent need to meet with the saint. They contract a heart disease of the severest kind—the kind that will destroy their soul.

If good intentions pave the way to hell, good reasons are the tar holding the pavement together. Backsliders beware, “it is easier to resist at the beginning than at the end.” It is easier to tell the parents, the repairman, the friends or whoever seeks to take time from God that the assembly will not be missed now, than to repent years later after forsaking God’s worship for an extended period of time.

#### Conclusion

Sin is more difficult to stop than to avoid altogether. God warns us that resistance is easier at the beginning than at the end. Personal experience tells us that resistance is easier at the beginning than at the end. Even novelty fortune cookies teach us that it is easier to resist at the beginning than at the end. Maybe we should learn the lesson and avoid sin at all cost.

# Announcements

## Prayer List

**Ernest Kite's son Terry**, as a result of a (**non-COVID**) virus, has lost all hearing in one of his ears and has diabetes.

## Continued Prayers

Penny Anderson, Tim Parker’s daughter- seizures

Eleanor Jatko– recovery from a stroke

Bill Woloridge, the Austin’s friend—cancer

Jane Hanavan-heart issues

Dawn Lell-health problems

KD’s supervisor's wife, LaRae Siefert-chemo nerve damage

Sherry Derbigny’s Aunt Jackie– breast cancer

Sam Sims– health problems

Joe Martinez-prayers for recovery

Carlos Tario – COVID-19 recovery

The work in India

Our work here in Brighton as we try to reach our community through the difficulties of COVID-19

## News and Notes



### Ladies Bible Class

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there.



The Williams family has moved. Their new address is:

3128 Eagle Blvd. Apt. E139

Brighton, CO 80601



### Bulletin Board Information

The local Brighton newspaper published Jim's and Monte's obituary, recently. A copy of it is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. It contains some history of our beloved brother and sister in Christ.



January 11

Brittany Kite

Birthday

January 13

Marline Fields

Birthday