

In Our Prayers...

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Bill Himes (Brandy Wheeler) - Brandy's father, diagnosed this week with prostate cancer.

Lara Mansfield (Larry McKesson) — (Chad's wife) Abdominal mass is not cancerous, surgery to remove it is Monday, October 2.

Connie Holley — In Pagosa: losing weight, trouble walking.

Abby Rose (Larry McKesson) — Brain lesions have not changed, but doctors still don't have a diagnosis.

Paula Dahlke — Glaucoma

New Christians — growth

Health concerns- — Jimmy Mooring, Ruth Sutherlin

Workers for the "Harvest" (Elders, Teachers, Preachers)

Door for the Word

Additions:



The church of Christ in Durango

2100 West 3rd / P.O. Box 633, Durango, CO 81302
www.churchofchristdurango.org | (970) 247-0865

Service Times

Bible Study

Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday 7p.m.

Worship

Sunday 10:20 a.m.
Sunday 1:30 p.m.



September 17, 2023

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Imagine How Beautiful the Church Can Be

Understanding the word of God *requires* us to use our imaginations. Think of Jesus' parables, for example. Jesus taught the first disciples important truths about the Kingdom of God by asking them to imagine a laborer planting seed (Matt. 13:1-9), a tiny mustard seed that grows into a large "tree" (v. 31), and a treasure that one finds hidden in a field (v. 44).

These images of the Kingdom of God were familiar aspects of everyday life to Jesus and those of his time in first century Judea. If Jesus were to retell these parables—recast these visions of his Kingdom—in terms familiar to us today, what imagery might he use? What things in our everyday lives might serve Jesus as comparable to the way the Kingdom is brought to a place it has not been before? To the way it expands? To its rich value?

In one of the visions Jesus gave to John the apostle, the Kingdom of God is imagined as a grand city, gleaming with the glory of gold and fine

(Continued inside)



Scripture Reading: Genesis 3

News and Announcements

Pot Luck Fellowship September 24th after morning worship, please join us for a time of table fellowship as family in Jesus Christ.

Sutherlin Cookout is rescheduled to Saturday, October 7.

Philosophy Class

A college student was in a philosophy class, where there was a class discussion about whether or not God exists. The professor had the following logic:

“Has anyone in this class heard God?” Nobody spoke.

“Has anyone in this class touched God?” Again, nobody spoke.

“Has anyone in this class seen God?” When nobody spoke for the third time, he simply stated, “Then there is no God.”

The student did not like the sound of this at all, and asked for permission to speak. The professor granted it, and the student stood up and asked the following questions of his classmates:

“Has anyone in this class heard our professor’s brain?” Silence.

“Has anyone in this class touched our professor’s brain?” Absolute silence.

“Has anyone in this class seen our professor’s brain?” When nobody in the class dared to speak, the student concluded, “Then, according to our professor’s logic, it must be true that our professor has no brain!”

The student received an “A” in the class.

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

Sept 18	Mon	II Cor. 11:1-15	Proverbs 30-31
Sept 19	Tues	II Cor. 11:16-33	Eccl. 1-3
Sept 20	Wed	II Cor. 12	Eccl. 4-6
Sept 21	Thur	II Cor. 13	Eccl. 7-9
Sept 22	Fri	Galatians 1	Eccl. 10-12
Sept 23	Sat	Galatians 2	Song of Sol. 1-3
Sept 24	Sun	Galatians 3	Song of Sol. 4-5

Imagine How Beautiful the Church Can Be
(Continued from front)

Revelation 21:1-21 (ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband... 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed...14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb...18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

jewels (Rev 21:18-21). According to that same vision, John is being shown an imaginative vision of the Church prepared and perfected for eternal life with God. In the vision, the Church is not only a “city” but also a “bride” gloriously adorned, prepared to be wed at last to her beloved (vv. 2, 9).

One insight to gain from John’s vision is that Jesus wants *his Church* to be the most beautiful image of the Kingdom of God. When anyone sees the Church, they should therein find a visual explanation of what it means to be a people among whom God reigns. We must consider, then, whether we provide the residents of Durango, CO such a beautiful vision of the Kingdom of God.

— Nathan Wheeler