

ENCOURAGER

When we think of individuals who were known to be encouragers, you have to think about Barnabas. Few men were as humble and influential as Barnabas. His name was Josep, but the apostles gave him the name "Barnabas" which means Son of Encouragement. It was an appropriate name because he was an encouragement to all who knew him. He was one who thought about others and not just about self. Barnabas saw Christians who were in need. He didn't just think about it, but immediately thought of a plan to help. He sold a piece of land and brought the money to the apostles to give out to those who needed it. (Acts 4:36-37).

Perhaps his greatest work was in the encouragement he gave to Saul. When Saul became a Christian, he came to Jerusalem to be part of the fellowship of Christians there. They knew of his reputation and were afraid of him. They did not believe he was a disciple. Barnabas took him and encouraged him and vouched for him as a servant of God (Acts 9:26-28).

All of us need people to encourage us. People who will vouch for us and help us to become better people. People who will help us get up after we have made mistakes. We can also become one who is an encourager. That is the kind of person Barnabas was, and it is the kind of person we can be as well. Are you an encourager?

WHY SHEEP LEAVE THE FOLD

God's people were destined for the Babylonian captivity, and the prophet Ezekiel continually reminded them of the consequences of all they were doing. In Ezekiel 34, he shows why some sheep leave the fold.

Many people think of the Twenty-Third Psalm as the "Shepherd's Psalm." There is another chapter we could rightly think of as the "Shepherds' Chapter." Ezekiel 34:1-6 addresses the responsibility of Israel's shepherds—if I were an elder I would read this chapter every month—but it helps us all see why some Christians (sheep) leave the church (fold)

Some sheep leave the fold because they are sick. The cause of the sickness is not given, but people leave the Lord because of personal problems, which makes it so hard to grow spiritually. It can so easily happen to new Christians, but it also impacts those who have been in the church for years. That's the nature of sin. It brings sickness and ends with death.

Some leave the fold because they are broken. This is much like those who leave because of sickness, but the word "broken" may indicate a more sudden onset of the "sickness." Jesus described the seed on the stony ground as the person who "...hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet...when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles"(Matthew 13:20-21). Sin is powerful, and it can easily break the spirit of any of us.

Some leave the fold because they are driven away. Every sheep in His flock has a responsibility toward every other sheep. It is so tragic when older Christians' words and actions actually drive people away from the church. Ezekiel described them as those who "...have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns and scattered them abroad" (Ezekiel 34:21). While thinking their actions are justified, many Christians come under the judgment of Christ who said, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he was thrown into the sea" (Mark 9:42).

Some leave because they love goats. While this is not specifically mentioned by Ezekiel, this truth is shown simply by seeing the attraction sin has to those who have returned to the sinful world after their salvation (2 Peter 2:20). Paul speaks of how evil companions (goats) corrupt the godly. Some are not willing to seek new friends in His fold.

Each of us has a God-given responsibility to the rest of us. Whenever you see a brother or sister beginning to stumble, you cannot sit idly by and watch it happen. We have the great Shepherd who leads us and watches over us, but we must each feel a personal obligation to all of those in His fold.

Dan Jenkins, Focus on Findlay, 3/4/18

FRIDAY NIGHT SINGING

**MONTROSE CHURCH
OF CHRIST
53 LAKESIDE DR.
CARTHAGE TN 37030**

MARCH 23RD.

**WE WILL BEGIN SINGING
AT 7:00 PM.**

WE WILL BEGIN
SERVING FOOD
AT 5:00 PM

NEED DIRECTIONS,
CALL 615-774-3248

**THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
WORSHIP—SUNDAY AM**

MAR 11, 2018

Coordinator Billy Halliburton
Announcements George Clay
Scripture Reading, II Tim. 2:1,2 Austin Clay
Song Leader Adam Jolley
Opening Prayer. Jacky Carver, Sr.
Lord's Supper-Preside: Mitchell Brooks
Serve: Steve Anderson, Brian Smith
Ethan Leonard, Justin Draper
Closing Prayer Ben Silcox
Greeter— Dallas & Paige Eddie
Greeter— Roger & Cynthia Draper
**[Greeters, please be here by 8:40 to greet
before services]**
Count Offering. Dallas Eddie
. Kaleb Bush

AM Sermon —Speaker from SEIBS

PM Sermon — Pride

WORSHIP—SUNDAY---6:00 PM

Announcements George Clay
Song Leader Adam Jolley
Scripture Reading...Prov. 27:1,2 Austin Clay
Opening Prayer Glen Reece.
Lord's Supper Robert Hackett
. Gavin Spurlin
Closing Prayer Steve Anderson

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY---7:00 PM

Announcements George Clay
Song Leader Jacky Carver, Sr.
First Prayer. Mitchell Brooks
Opening Prayer Dallas Eddie
Closing Prayer Justin Draper

Prepare Communion for **MAR**
Sherry Jo & Kelly

MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD

NURSING HOME:

Opal Agee-Kindred
Pearl Anderson—Knollwood Manor,
Kasel Dillehay—Overton Co. Nursing Home

THOSE ON THE SICK LIST;

W. A. Gibbs, Gladys Bowling,
Jimmie Faye Cole, Sawyer Cole,
Ramelie Cole, Jere Andrews,
Carolyn Clay, Susanne Tisdale
Tim Smith

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

03/04/18

Wednesday. 43
Worship Sunday AM 74
Bible Study Sunday AM 66
Daily Bible Readers 36
Worship Sunday PM 50

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mar. 11th. SEIBS speaker
Mar. 11th Time Change—Spring Forward
Mar 23rd. Friday Night Singing
Apr. 20th. Meal and Bowling in Cookeville

Pantry Item: Green Peas

READING SCHEDULE FOR MAR

01 Joshua 6-9	12 Jud. 20-21	22 I Sam. 27-29
02 Joshua 10-12	13 Ruth 1-4	23 I Sam. 30-31
03 Joshua 13-15	14 I Sam. 1-3	24 II Sam. 1-4
04 Joshua 16-20	15 I Sam. 4-6	25 II Sam. 5-9
05 Joshua 21-24	16 I Sam. 7-9	26 II Sam. 10-12
06 Judg. 1-2	17 I Sm.10-12	27 II Sam. 13-15
07 Judg. 3-5	18 I Sm. 13-17	28 II Sam. 16-18
08 Judg. 6-8	19 I Sm. 18-20	29 II Sam. 19-21
09 Judg. 9-11	20 I Sm. 21-23	30 II Sam. 22-24
10 Judg. 12-14	21 I Sm.24-26	31 I Kings 1-3
11 Judg. 15-19		