

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: Greg Lowery

On the Table: Head - Al Corkren
Servers - Eddie Dickinson
Ralph Burleson
Josh Berryhill

Closing Prayer: David Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Deborah Box

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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Repairing The Break



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Paul’s Principles of Christian Happiness

By William Woodson

A recent study of the Letter to the Philippians gave occasion for a careful reading of this beautiful book. Many great themes are discussed within its pages. In chapter four, as Paul is concluding the book, several verses relate to the general theme of Christian steadfastness and rejoicing. It is beneficial to note these themes as a means of attaining and maintaining a sense of Christian happiness. The details can be noted in the verses cited in Philippians 4. The principles are as follows:

The resolve of gentleness and forbearance (verse 5). A measure of self control and consideration for one's self and others is involved in this word "moderation," or "forbearance". The nearness of our Lord is a basis for this grace of Christian outlook and conduct.

The practice of genuine prayer to avoid excessive anxiety (verse 6). Whether rendered "careful" or "anxious," the thought is of concerns which are allowed to shatter the unity and wholeness of our soul. The four-fold expressions of prayer, supplication, thanksgiving, and requests provide avenues of approach to God, Who can and will provide.

The claim of God's peace for His people (verse 7). The word "keep" or "guard" indicates the power of God which is made available to and for the Christian heart and mind. God's people are not alone and without strength in the facing of concerns and problems; indeed, God's strength is there to help and protect them.

The guidance and control of one's thoughts are to be in keeping with God's will (verse 8). The specifics of the verse (truth, honesty, justice, purity, beauty, honor, courage, and praise) provide "door keepers" for the kind of thoughts which will enter and fill the mind and heart. What is in keeping with these "door keepers" is welcomed; what is not in keeping with them is refused.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

April Tidwell Dawson: she has recently been diagnosed with stomach cancer; please be praying that this cancer will be defeated with successful treatments

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Ruth Addison: ongoing health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Don Lawrence: recovering from knee replacement, please be praying that he has a successful recovery

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy); planning on gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Virgie McMillan (mother of Ann Box: dealing with complications from a recent stroke, please keep her in your prayers

Karen Chaffin: has had fainting spells, please pray that the doctors can determine what is wrong and that she will have no serious problems

Pray for all those dealing with COVID especially those of the household of faith.

Pam Braden: she is dealing with some ongoing health problems, please pray that those working with her can help her

Bill Berryhill: scans revealed cancer top of his hip; please be praying that treatments will be successful in defeating this cancer

Patty Berryhill: recovering from recent intestinal blockages being removed, please pray that she has no further problems

The behavior which reflects proper instruction and examples is presented to mankind (verse 9). One learns how to live from the guidance from the Lord and from good examples of others who model the Lord's will in their lives. These qualities of life are learned and practiced in one's own Christian life.

Other people are considered and assisted (verse 10). There is a legitimate need to care and provide for one's own needs, to be sure, but there is a danger of self-centeredness which can become obsessive. The balancing of one's interest in and service to others with a legitimate care of one's own needs is both restorative of happiness and a means of preserving happiness.

The learning of contentedness of mind and life (verse 11). The thought is that of an inner strength which has developed as one's life ebbs and flows. Not every day will be joy; not every day will be sadness. The possession of a view of life which is positive, which is strong, which is aware of blessings past and present, enables this inner strength to prevail and guide life in the future.

Finally, one learns to rely on the grace of God (verse 23). There is a series of actions which are necessary on the part of the Christian, and rightly so. There is also the awareness that the love, mercy, and grace of God will be present in and for the life of the Christian.

Other great principles of Christian steadfastness and courage in life are present in this remarkable chapter. The book itself is a beautiful expression of the faith and strength of soul of Paul, who, at the time of the writing, was in a Roman prison. Such a life as Paul's and such great themes as this book provides are sources from which to draw for happiness and usefulness in God's service.

The Voice Of Truth International, vol. 6, p. 96-97.

God is Not Mocked

By Robert Johnson

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life” (Galatians 6:7-8). The congregations in Galatia were facing challenges from false teachers, advocating one must observe certain elements of the Law of Moses in addition to life in Christ. Paul didn’t want them deceived into thinking such error was the will of God. People are often deceived into thinking something is right that is wrong (Hebrews 3:13), but God is never deceived, neither about truth nor our motives. God is not mocked, which literally means “to turn up one’s nose in scorn and hence to mock, deride”. To turn away from God, in heart or deeds, doesn’t fool God. It makes a mockery of Truth and of the life we have been called to live. Our lives are to be worthy of the calling of the Gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:27). God knows the difference between a life lived for Him and a life lived for self.

Really, these are the only two choices we can make in how we live. We’re either seeking ourselves or God; we’re either living by sin or by God’s good will (Romans 6:16). Satan would deceive us into thinking we can live for self but please God in doing so. It becomes easy to rationalize how that we want things for ourselves is what God wants for us. On the other hand, there is true joy, peace, love, grace, mercy and life by submission to God’s will and following in the footsteps of Jesus. “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:1-2). God knows if our lives reflect His image or not, if we’re truly striving to be more like Him or simply a reflection of the world around us, hoping, expecting God to not notice the difference and accept it as pleasing to Him.

We can know whether we’re sowing to the flesh or to the Spirit. We must be willing to examine ourselves and our approach to life. Do we have time for anything and everything we want to do but no time for God? Do we look for opportunities to worship and serve God or excuses to avoid it? Do we begrudge the time offered in such but not the time spent pursuing our heart’s desires? Where do our finances go? Plenty for self, little for the work of the Lord? A lot of time for television and other diversions but no time for prayer, Bible study or fellowship? Do we seek the least amount possible to give

to God in life while being lavish on ourselves? Is our philosophy of life one that spends most resources for the here and now but little to none for eternity? We can know the answers to these questions, but perhaps the answers keep us from asking them of ourselves. Are we sowing to the flesh, or the Spirit?

It’s a matter of attitude or of the motives of one’s heart that turns us to the flesh or to the Spirit. The psalmist spoke of those who claimed God doesn’t see or know, as if they could deceive God (Psalm 94:7), but we know this isn’t true; He does see and know. The fact that God doesn’t immediately judge us is a sign of His love, not His ignorance. We are the ones who are deceived! Where is there an abundant life, all spiritual blessings, every good and perfect gift, all things that pertain to life and godliness, and the hope of eternity? In Christ! Christ is to be what every aspect of life is all about (Colossians 3:4). As you go through your week, does He enter your thoughts, your motives, your deeds and your life? Jesus Christ gave His all for us, yet we can live in such a way that we mock all of that, pretending He doesn’t know, or worse, that He doesn’t care. Is He pleased with how you live, or does it break His heart?

God is not mocked, because in judgment, it will be evident and undeniable what our true motives were, what kind of life we really lived, either of corruption or for eternal life. The term corruption in Galatians 6:8 means, “spoiling, destruction, ruin, decay, generally a fraying or wasting away”. Satan is mocking us when we live for the flesh, which is subject to decay and destruction. Life focused on the flesh is wasting away to eternal destruction, but life in the Spirit is being renewed for eternal life. Where is your life lived? “The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever” (1 John 2:17).

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