

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

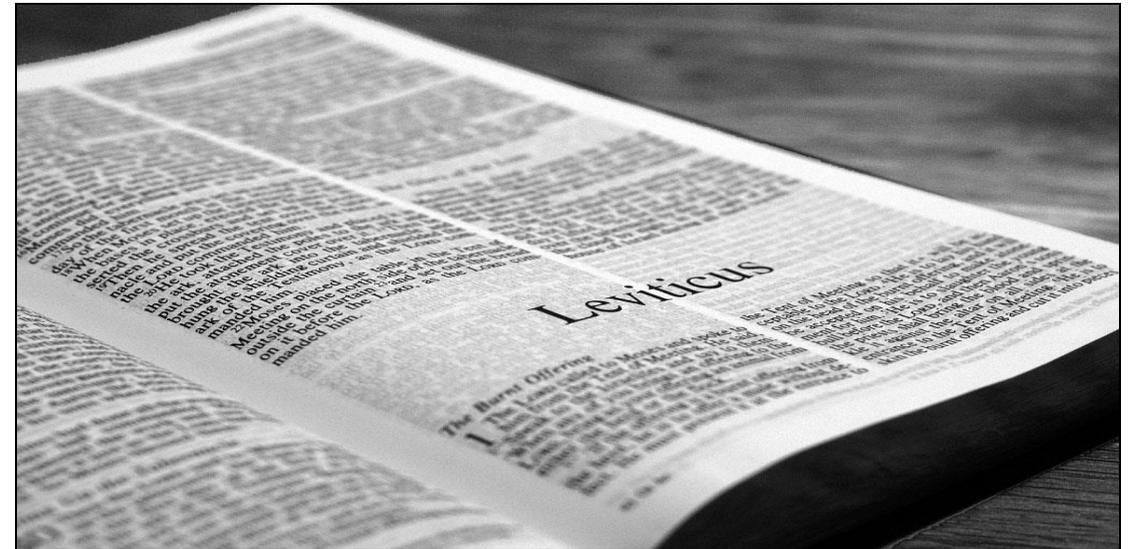
www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill
Minister: Greg Lowery

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Ye Shall Be Holy



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Our Fellowship in Christ

By Rodney Nulph

Possibly now, more than ever, our fellowship in Christ is being attacked. Personally, I believe true fellowship in the Lord’s church has been under attack for a long time. However, especially since the onset of the Coronavirus, fellowship has suffered greatly. Folks have been “forced” to “hole up” and be separate from others, which is a direct attack on the fellowship we need in Christ. The biblical word “fellowship” is defined as a “partnership, companionship, camaraderie.” It is a beautiful closeness that only can be experienced and enjoyed by those who are in fellowship with God. What is our fellowship in Christ all about?

Firstly, let us note the plan. God’s plan for the early church was quite clear. “And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart” (Acts 2:46). Notice some of the elements of this plan. Their fellowship was frequent: “And they continuing daily...” This could quite possibly be one of the clearest reasons why some congregations never experience the beauty of real fellowship; they are simply never together. Our meeting together for worship and Bible class can never achieve the closeness that meeting together daily can bring. How can we really know and love one another if we simply just cross paths on Sunday?

Their fellowship was also friendly: “with one accord... with gladness and singleness of heart.” It was an enjoyable experience for these Christians to be together. They were not cliquish, clamoring or contentious. Bad attitudes, fighting and feuding all hinder the enjoyment of being together.

Their fellowship was also focused: “in the temple and breaking bread from house to house...” Their eating together (“breaking bread from house to house”) was a direct result of their worshipping together (“in the temple”). Worship should draw us close to God and close to each other. Closeness to each other is often expressed through sharing food and time together. God’s plan for His church is for us to be united and to spend precious time together.

Secondly, let us understand the portrayal. “Fellowship” is portrayed in various Bible descriptions. Fellowship is all about being “fellowcitizens.” “Now therefore ye are no

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

more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19). Fellowcitizens portrays the idea of belonging together. Fellowship is all about being “fellow soldiers.” “And to our beloved Apphia and Archippus our fellow soldier...” (Philemon 2). Fellow soldiers portrays the idea of battling together. Fellowship is all about being “fellow helpers” (3 John 8). Fellow helpers portrays the idea of benefiting together. Fellowship is all about being “fellow workers.” Paul reminded the church in Colosse of this important fact (Colossians 4:11). Fellow workers portrays the idea of being busy together. Fellowship is also all about being “fellow heirs” (Ephesians 3:6; Romans 8:17). Fellow heirs certainly portrays the idea of being blessed together eternally. Christians, who are in fellowship with God and each other, have an inheritance awaiting them! Each portrayal of fellowship shows that we are in this life together to accomplish a common goal.

Lastly, let us see the power. True biblical fellowship empowers and encourages our faith. We were not created to be alone – to be islands. The power of fellowship is seen in faithfulness. When we are joined together the way God intended, we help each other to remain faithful. A lion is much more effective in taking down a lone antelope compared to a whole herd. Our spiritual lion (1 Peter 5:8) is much more effective at stopping a single Christian compared to one who is with the herd every day (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). The power of fellowship is seen in forgiveness. When we are close, as the family of God should be, it is much easier to forgive one another when we sin (Ephesians 4:32). Often, grudges and hateful attitudes are held for years, simply because we do not know and love one another properly. The power of fellowship is seen in fortune. True biblical fellowship is like finding a spiritual fortune! Sadly, many Christians never find this fortune. Far too many Christians are disconnected and never really tie in with the family of God, and thus, they never really experience the fortune that is found in true biblical fellowship.

God’s plan for the New Testament church was never made up of people simply rubbing shoulders on Sunday. Fellowship in Christ is a camaraderie, companionship and closeness that is a foretaste of Heaven itself. If our fellowship here on earth is not right, we will never enjoy fellowship in eternity. May we each do our part to fulfill God’s plan for our fellowship in Christ. May we each daily live the portrayals of biblical fellowship, and may each Christian experience the power and beauty of our fellowship in Christ Jesus. Could it be said of us, “And they continuing daily...”? Think about it! [Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com]

Faithful Christians Struggle with Sin

By Cecil May, Jr.

Most of us can identify with Paul in Romans 7. “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate” (15 ESV). “For I have the desire to do what is right, but I do not do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing” (19-20).

If we do actually identify with Paul, the following statements are also true of us. “Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good” (16). “For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being” (22). I “hate” the sin that I am doing (15). “I have the desire to do what is right” (19).

Paul cried out in anguish, “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” Then, he answered his own questioning cry, “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (24-25a). Yet, even after thanking God for his deliverance, he acknowledged the struggle continues. “So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin” (25b). His next words are, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (8:1).

There are two stated qualifications to be one for whom there is no condemnation: be “in Christ Jesus” (8:1) and “walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (8:4). Faithful Christians have a particular mind set. Paul said to the Colossian Christians that you were “buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ... If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Colossians 2:12; 3:1-2).

One biblical way to describe a “faithful Christian life” is a mind set on things above. Another is, “walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:4). Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5).

Paul’s struggle with sin did not end when he became a Christian. What ended was condemnation because of his sins. A child of God can so sin as to fall from the grace of God into eternal condemnation (Galatians 5:4), but the faithful do not fall from grace whenever they sin. God does not count their sins against them (Romans 4:8). Their sins are cleansed by the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7). They are not condemned (Romans 8:1).

Christians, whose whole life is aimed at Heaven, who struggle with sin but hate it, who truly will to do and want to do as God directs “by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5). Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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