

**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](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key  
Billy Box / Eddie Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

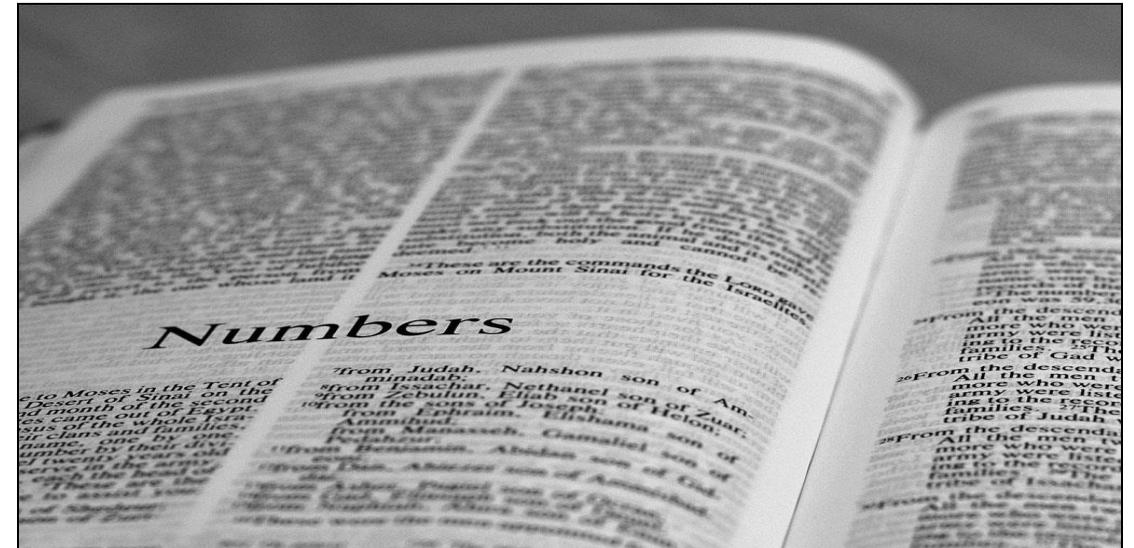
Minister: Greg Lowery

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# What Would We Have Seen



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**The Tough Laws To Obey--When God's Law Supersedes Man's**

By Adam B. Cozort

It is the late 60's A.D. and the Lord's church is being broadly persecuted for the first time by groups other than the Jews. It is a dangerous time for Christians, many are being wronged simply because of their religious beliefs. The results were the loss of businesses, homes, and even lives. A number of the Lord's apostles died during the latter half of this decade, including the apostle Paul.

It is in the midst of these events that Peter writes these important words:

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men-- as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. (1 Peter 2:11-17)

Peter reminds his brethren they are only pilgrims in the physical world. Therefore, it is important they do not get so bogged down in the physical fights they lose the spiritual war.

It is under this premise he tells them to, "submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake" (2:13). The word translated "ordinance" is the original term ktisis, meaning "creation, institution" (Rogers and Rogers, 572). What Peter is telling these Christians is every hurdle (whether from Caesar, a governor, or some other provincial leader) created – jump it. If it is a tax, pay it. If they say you cannot have this business – change businesses. If they say you cannot live here – move. Notice that Peter does not say Christians are only obligated to fulfill these creations if they are legitimate, fair, and righteous. He says clear every hurdle.

**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

Eddie Dickinson: recovering from recent colon surgery, let's be praying that he makes a full recovery with no complications

Why? “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men” (2:15). He put it another way in chapter 4: “But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf” (1 Peter 4:15-16). If Christians are going to suffer, let it be because they are Christians, not because they refused to uphold some man’s law when the observance of that law would not damage their relationship with God.

We hear a lot of discussion in our world today about the Constitution, individual rights, states’ rights, and the like. In the midst of these discussions there is generally much bluster and bravado set on the table about the way we will or will not respond if such-and-such a law is passed. Yet, before we begin declaring our human rights under the Constitution there is a greater question that must be asked: What does God want me to do as a Christian? God gave us the answer in another passage in the same book.

In chapter 3, Peter states we are not to render evil for evil (vs. 9). If we want to see good days, do not speak with evil or guile (vs. 10). We must seek peace and pursue it, recognizing that the Lord is over all. He hears our prayers and sets his face against the evil-doers (vs. 11-12). If we are to suffer, it must be for righteousness’ sake, not because we have turned to doing evil like those around us (vs. 13-17).

Being pilgrims in this world, about which should we be more concerned – the physical laws our rulers pass, or the spiritual lives at stake each day? It is not wrong to fight (within the law) for a better town, state, or country. But let us never forget that God rules the kingdoms of men (Daniel 4:17). It is his laws and ordinances that must be upheld at all cost. Man’s rules and laws change constantly, but the laws of God abide forever.

*POWER*, January 2016, p. 4.

**What Is Freedom In Christ?**

By Robin W. Haley

As Americans, we know a great deal about freedom. We love and cherish freedom. After all, we live in "the land of the free!" Freedom grants certain rights and demands certain obligations. Our rights or privileges are based not upon our own desires, but upon the limits placed on society and the resulting order. Just so, we live in peace because of "law and order." Law is that legislation formulated and handed to the people. Order is that law enforced. The result is peace in a civilized society. The opposite is chaos, anarchy, rebellion and turmoil. Every straight-thinking person wants the former, not the latter.

As Christians we enjoy the best freedom. This is the freedom which is rich beyond compare and endures forever. This is the freedom from sin, the freedom as found only in Christ! Sadly, American Christians understand more about democratic freedom than they do Christian freedom. This is fairly easy to prove. In fact, you can prove this to yourself even now as you read. Do you agree with the basis of freedom in our country as described in the first paragraph? If so, you are capable of understanding Christian freedom. But, are you willing to apply these same two principles of law and order? Are you willing to recognize that Christian freedom is based upon law, the law of Christ (I Cor. 9:21), and upon order or enforcement of that law, effected through obedience (Heb. 5:9; Jn. 8:36)?

Too many believe in a different form of freedom. Many who claim to be Christians preach and teach a freedom that is based on what they call a freedom from law, a freedom built upon a perverted view of God's love, a "law of no law." They say, "We have the right to believe and practice as we choose."

This rebellion against God's law is also a form of freedom. It is the freedom Paul speaks of in Rom. 6:20, "For when ye were servants of sin, ye were free in regard of righteousness." When anyone, Christian/or non-Christian, presents themselves to sin as obedient servants, they are free regarding righteousness. Of course, we understand that Paul is teaching that this kind of freedom is actually bondage!

Reader, do not be fooled into believing in this sort of "freedom" as though you may live as you please, while naming the name of Christ. "For freedom did Christ set us free," Gal. 5:1. "For ye, brethren, were called for freedom; only use not your freedom for an occasion for the flesh," Gal. 5:13. Please understand that when you became a Christian, you were called to freedom, but not to freedom from law nor to do as you please! Remember the words of Gal. 5:16,17, "But I say, walk by the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are contrary the one to the other; THAT YE MAY NOT DO THE THINGS THAT YE WOULD" (that you please, NASV).

POWER, January 2016, p. 5.

**A Christian is a Changed Person**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

**WHEN PEOPLE BECOME CHRISTIANS, THEY CHANGE!**

**A CHRISTIAN HAS A CHANGE OF HEART**  
• Paul saw Jesus differently  
Acts 9:1-18

**A CHRISTIAN HAS A NEW LIFESTYLE**  
• Romans 6:14-18, 21-22

**A CHRISTIAN HAS A NEW ALLEGIANCE - A NEW LOYALTY**  
• Romans 10:9-10  
• Matthew 22:42



**A CHRISTIAN HAS A CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIP**  
• Galatians 3:27



**A CHRISTIAN HAS A NEW REASON FOR LIVING - A NEW PURPOSE OF LIFE**  
• Acts 26:16-17  
• Philippians 1:21

**CHRISTIANS CHANGE FROM THE INSIDE OUTWARDLY!**