

**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: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddie Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (205) 465-9142

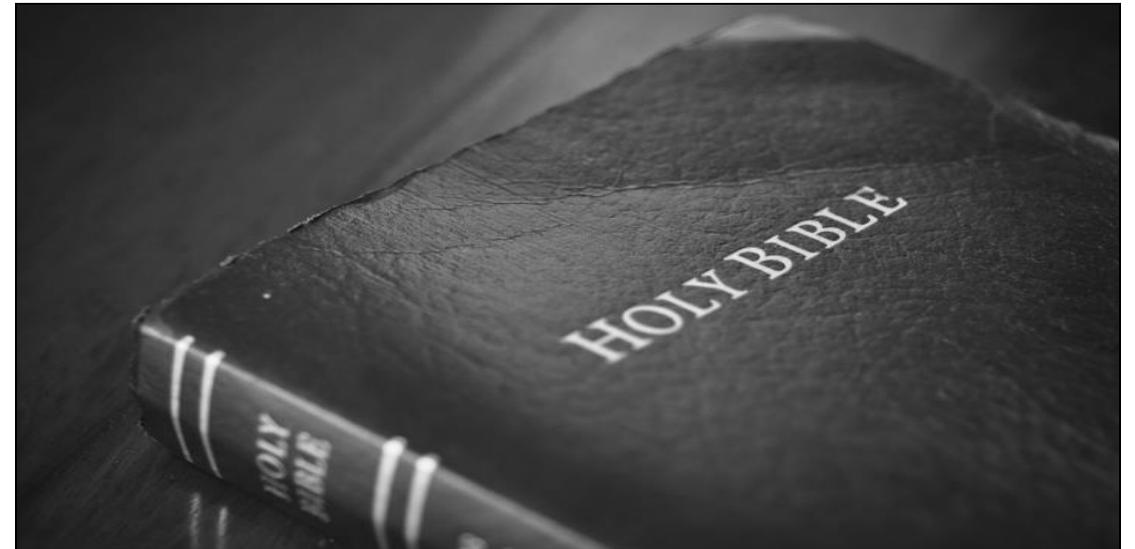
Brilliant Church of Christ

930 Main Street

P.O. Box 222

Brilliant, AL 35548

# To The Top Of Pisgah



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**Where Would We Be If We Had Not Become Christians?**

By J.C. Choate

Have you ever wondered where we might be if we had not become Christians and members of the Lord's church? If we had not obeyed the Lord, to let Him change our lives, who would we be today? Where would we be? What would we be doing? Would we even be alive?

Look at the Apostles and other well-known men and women of the Scriptures; look at all of those who became great servants of God, people of renown through the ages, because their stories are written in God's Book. What would have happened to them if they had not submitted their lives to the Lord's will?

For instance, in the great history of mankind, what would the lowly fisherman, Peter, have ever amounted to without the Lord?

If Saul had not been converted, what would have been his end?

Not only did it make a difference to initially obey the Lord, but faithfulness was vital. Consider some who fell along the way. Judas is a prime example. What a difference his faithlessness made, comparing his end with that of the other Apostles. Then there is the story of Ananias and Sapphira and how they were struck dead by the Holy Spirit for their lying. What about Nadab and Abihu in the Old Testament? Also, even the great Pharaoh failed when he opposed God, and Herod was struck down by the angel of the Lord when he spoke with such grandness that the people proclaimed it was the voice of God and not of man, and he did not give God glory.

If we had not responded to the Lord's will, not only would we be lost, but we might have been satisfied to settle down with some mediocre job, to have married and divorced and married again, to have become a drunkard, to become a drug addict, to develop a habit of cursing, to get into all kinds of trouble.

Even if we had not gone in some of those directions, we might still have ended up amounting to nothing, our lives making no positive difference in this world. In other words, we could have just lived and died, and ended up being lost for all eternity. Now wouldn't that have been horrible?

**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

Farrah Garrison: recovering from recent surgery, be praying that she has an easy and successful recovery

Lauren Haley: in St.Vincent's quarantined at this time be praying for her and the baby and that there will be no complications with the coming delivery

But though we became a Christian, if we had not been faithful, we would have ended up losing our soul, going back into the world, living a life of sin and deceit, perhaps joining some erring religious group, and living in opposition to the Lord's way. It is frightening even to think of such things.

What a contrast when we become God's children! Many Christians go on to become successful and prominent in the world. They succeed in business, become leaders in their community, are highly educated, and heads of Schools, Colleges, and Universities. There are numerous other areas where they may see great success, primarily because they are Christians and live by those principles.

The problem, however, is that even Christians are often prone to be blind as to how they reached this place in life. They are likely to take full credit themselves and to say, "Look what I have done, what I have been able to accomplish!" Many people out in the world do succeed, but one who has become a Christian is far more likely to have success when he applies the principles of Christianity to his life, while refraining from practices that are not in keeping with truth and right.

When one becomes a Christian, he changes his life. He looks at the world in a different way. He has Christ and the principles of Christianity to follow, giving him goals to reach. He is a hard worker, has respect for those with whom he works, is honest in dealing with others, and tries to do the best job possible. He is associated with Christians who will help and encourage him to succeed. His physical life, and the lives of his family members, have changed. They don't abuse their bodies with what they eat and drink, or with their manner of life, so they usually have better health. They are able to spend their money on education, business, and other worthwhile things since they don't waste it on strong drink, gambling, and bad habits.

So where would we be if it had not been for Christianity which changed our lives, our future in this world, and where we will spend eternity?

Do you have something to live for and to die for? I encourage you to be a Christian and let Christianity make your life an eternal success.

*The Voice Of Truth International*, vol. 22, p. 2-3.

## Silence – Both Soothing And Deafening

By Byron Nichols

Isn't silence wonderful at times! It just seems as though there are times when our ears can get tired, just like our arms, legs, and back. After being bombarded with excessive noise, the soothing effect of silence can become a highly treasured blessing. In His humanity, even Jesus encountered this feeling. The Bible records various instances of His leaving the crowds for the opportunity to recuperate from the stress and turmoil in solitude and silence. He cherished those times when He could separate Himself from the multitudes and commune in quietness with the Father. Jesus urged His apostles to follow His example, as in Mark 6:30-32. Yes, silence can most assuredly be an oasis in the desert of life.

It is strangely true, however, that silence can sometimes be just as deafening as it is soothing at other times. There most definitely are times when silence is not what is needed, when it is totally inappropriate. This is verified by the wise and inspired words of Solomon when he said that there is "a time to keep silence, and a time to speak" (Ecclesiastes 3:7). Nevertheless, this raises the significant problem of determining when to be silent and when to speak. Please consider with me some situations in which the Scriptures call for our silence to be broken.

In the 30th Psalm, David reacts to the goodness of God in delivering him from trouble. David gratefully says, "I will extol thee, O Jehovah; for thou hast raised me up ... To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Jehovah my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever" (verses 1 and 12). In addition, he urges all of God's children to "Sing praise unto Jehovah, O ye saints of his, And give thanks to his holy memorial name" (verse 4). The New Testament urges the same response to the goodness of God: "Through him [Christ] then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips which make confession to his name" (Hebrews 13:15). The children of God must never be silent regarding the praise that is due to Him.

May the silence be broken by our standing up for what is right. Oh, that the Lord's people today would echo the sentiments of Peter and John as they adamantly declared, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19-20).

This same commitment is greatly needed in the church now. Elders and preachers especially are called upon to lead the church in standing with the Lord, regardless of the unpopularity that can result. Should those in positions of leadership fail to break the silence and speak up for what is right, however, that will not excuse any of the rest of us from courageously standing with our true Leader. The church of today, if it is to duplicate the boldness and concern of the early church, must be able to say with Paul, "For I have not shunned to declare to you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

Let us also never allow the existence of the deafening silence, which occurs when Christians fail to stand against that which is wrong. Standing for the right and standing against the wrong are indeed closely related, but they are not exactly the same. True conviction and courage are required in both situations, but I believe that it requires even greater fortitude and defiance of danger to speak out in opposition to that which is wrong. With today's spirit of tolerance, most anything can be advocated without the threat of reprisal or social rejection. It's usually allowed in the name of "the freedom of speech". Breaking the silence by openly opposing something or someone is quite another matter. Many in the world, as well as some even in the church, are generally exceptionally tolerant, but their tolerance becomes intolerance toward any who dare to speak up in an effort to show that an idea, a philosophy, or an action is in violation of God's will. What are Christians to do? Are we to compromise the truth in order to "get along"? Certainly not! We must speak with both our actions and our words in opposition to those things which God Himself opposes. We can know what those are by reading His Book. Silence can indeed be golden, but it also is sometimes just plain yellow.

Silence can be either soothing or deafening, depending on the situation. May we all courageously and boldly stand both for the truth and against error, but let us always "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4: 15).

*The Voice Of Truth International*, vol. 22, p. 4-5.