

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddy Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Josh Berryhill

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery  
Servers - Ralph Burleson  
Billy Box  
David Key

Closing Prayer: Al Corkren

Preparing the Lord's Supper Amelia Key

**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
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**Visit Our Website**

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

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

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

Contact Information:  
Phone: (205) 465-9142

Brilliant Church of Christ  
930 Main Street  
P.O. Box 222  
Brilliant, AL 35548

# The Cross



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**“ . . .And When They Had Crucified Him. . .” (Matt. 27:35)**

By Winfred Clark

Matthew records the fact of our Lord’s death by crucifixion in Matthew 27:32-56. If one was not aware of the nature of a crucifixion he could learn from these verses that such took place on a cross (Matt. 27:32). That such entailed suffering or else they would not offer vinegar mixed with gall to dull the pain for after all, Jesus would suffer pain as all of us would.

One can well appreciate the agony of His crucifixion if indeed one could imagine the pain of nails through one’s hands and feet. If one could realize how it must hurt to hang for endless hours on end in that position being simply left to die. We know our Lord was there for at least six hours. He gave up the ghost. Yes, there was the agony of pain.

Notice the attitude of some so very close to the crucifixion. There is the calloused reaction of the soldiers as they cast lots for His garments (Matt. 27:35). But this had already been foretold before it happened (Psalms 22:18). Even so it would not make it any easier. We would like to think that those who attend the dying would have care and concern for those who suffer but these who are soldiers show no such concern. Think of it, the one that made the world is on the cross above them, and all they see about Him is a garment with which He had been clothed.

Add to this the attitude of the mockers that passed by reviling him and shaking their heads. These seize on a statement Jesus had made, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). They misrepresent what He said and make Him say what He never said. But this just shows the attitude of those and others like them near the cross.

The religious leaders join in to deride Him. There were the chief priests mocking Him (Matt. 27:41). Such would surely excite and embolden the crowd that was around the cross if such as the religious leadership acted in that fashion.

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

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

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Jack Waldon: {Linda’s Brother-In-Law} is under hospice care, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Billy Lee: {Carolyn’s Brother} diagnosed with renal failure, please keep him in your prayers

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister}: is in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray that her health continues to improve

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

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

Billy Wayne Burleson: is home and doing better, please continue to keep him in your prayers

Don Lawrence: dealing with some health issues, please continue to keep him your prayers

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Jeff Self: recovering from recent surgery for cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Hunter Coal Corkren: please be praying that when he goes back for a checkup in a few weeks that everything will be fine.

**Upcoming Events**

Today	Country Place	2:00 pm
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Fellowship Meal	
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Bible Bowl {Berea}	2:00 pm

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Angie Ganey Gardner: fighting breast cancer and waiting to have surgery, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Amy Weeks {Donna’s Niece}: has asked for prayers to help overcome addictions, please pray that she will turn to God for help and strength

Wyatt Spann: is currently fighting a brain tumor, please pray that with medical help he can win this fight

Connie Autrey: has a brain aneurysm and is also taking treatments for cancer, please be praying that doctors can help her with these serious problems

Bobby Sanderson: keep him in your prayers that his health continues to improve

Al Corkren: broken tibia from recent fall at work, please pray that this break will help completely with no further problems

Pam Davis {Adrian’s daughter} has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that it can be defeated with treatment

Remember the family of Bryan Spiller (Lana’s brother) his funeral was yesterday.

Notice the associates He had in the crucifixion. There were two thieves crucified with Him (Matt. 27:38). So the Lord of all is placed in the midst of lawless men. Truly, He was numbered with the transgressors (Luke 23:37; Isaiah 53:12). If someone reported that day that they had observed a crucifixion and had been asked how many, they would report that there were three. He was thus being treated just like these, even though He was not guilty. But those who crucify Him would do all they could to make it appear that He was an impostor and lawless one rather than being the Son of God.

See how alone Jesus was when they crucified Him. Always in His personal ministry when men didn’t support Him He would turn to the Father. Even when the disciples did not understand He could make His way out to be alone with God. Now, in this hour He treads the winepress alone.

There were attendant miracles when Jesus died on the cross. First, there was the darkness at midday (Matt. 27:45). It has been observed that the three hours of darkness would be too long for an eclipse. Such would surely attest to the fact that Jesus was more than a man.

There was also the rending of the veil of the temple (Matt. 27:51). You can well imagine the impact this could have on any priests who might have been in the temple at the time. As they see it rent from top to bottom, it should clearly show them God’s hand in the matter. If they only knew that the death of Jesus taking place outside the gates now opened the way into the holy of holies (Heb. 10:21). The function of the Jewish high priest has now come to an end.

Those Jewish leaders who stood opposed to our Lord should have learned something from these events.

Add to these, the earthquake (Matt. 27:51). Here is God’s assurance that he endorsed the one hanging upon that cross. These being supernatural signs that attest to the fact that Jesus was who He said He was, the Son of God.

Listen finally, to the assessment of an honest witness. There was, at the crucifixion scene, a Roman centurion. He would be able to look, without some of the emotion of others, upon what took place. He would take into account the attitude of Jesus and the

way He reacted in contrast to the evident hatred of his enemies. He would see the darkness, feel the earthquake, see the inscription above the cross, hear the conversation of Jesus to the thief, to John and His mother, and watch Him die with a prayer on His lips. His assessment is, “Truly this was the Son of God”.

Remember there were two others who also died alongside Jesus that day and he made no such statement concerning these. The central figure on that day on that hill was Jesus the Son of God.

*The Spiritual Sword*, vol. 18, no. 3, April 1987, p. 33-35.

### **Three questions to ask yourself for a serious spiritual self-analysis**

By J. Randal Matheny

Self-analysis is recommended. “Put yourselves to the test to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!” 2 Corinthians 12:5a.

Here are three questions to aid all of us in being obedient to the Lord, for that is exactly the objective self-analysis should have.

1. If Christ returns today, what will he say to you?
2. Based on his words to you (final judgment), what would you have done yesterday?
3. What keeps you from doing today, right now, what you would have done yesterday?

The answers to these questions must be based upon the word of Christ which will judge us in the last day: “The one who rejects me and does not accept my words has a judge; the word I have spoken will judge him at the last day” John 12:48.

It is quite possible that Christ will return today. He tells us to be ready at all times. When he comes, he will say one of two things to every single person:

- \* Well done, come on in.
- \* Depart from me, you sinful creature.

Yesterday, in the questions above, stands for not only yesterday but all days in the past, although we’ve narrowed it down to help us focus on specific places, times, and events.

The third question focuses upon impediments to our obedience to the Lord.

“Just as ritual circumcision cuts away the foreskin as an external symbol of dedicated covenant commitment, you must genuinely dedicate yourselves to the Lord and get rid of everything that hinders your commitment to me, people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. If you do not, my anger will blaze up like a flaming fire against you that no one will be able to extinguish. That will happen because of the evil you have done” Jeremiah 4.4.

Paul asked the Galatians: “You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth?” Galatians 5.7. Relationships are often a big problem to committing to Christ and to remaining committed to him, because we act, change our ways, or bend our wills to please others. “Am I now trying to gain the approval of people, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ!” Galatians 1.10.

Many fail to proclaim the gospel to everyone because they are people-pleasers. And God is not pleased.

“For the appeal we make does not come from error or impurity or with deceit, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we declare it, not to please people but God, who examines our hearts” 1 Thessalonians 2.3-4.

The disciple Ananias asked Saul, “Now, why wait any longer?” Acts 22.16 NCV. His question sought to sweep away any objections to obedience, any barriers to baptism. It still serves a useful purpose today, even to those who have been baptized, since faith and obedience must be ongoing. If you obedience is not yet complete, the question still stands: Why wait any longer?

Because Christ might well return today. And you’ll wonder why you didn’t do something different yesterday.

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