

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

Visit Our Website
www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

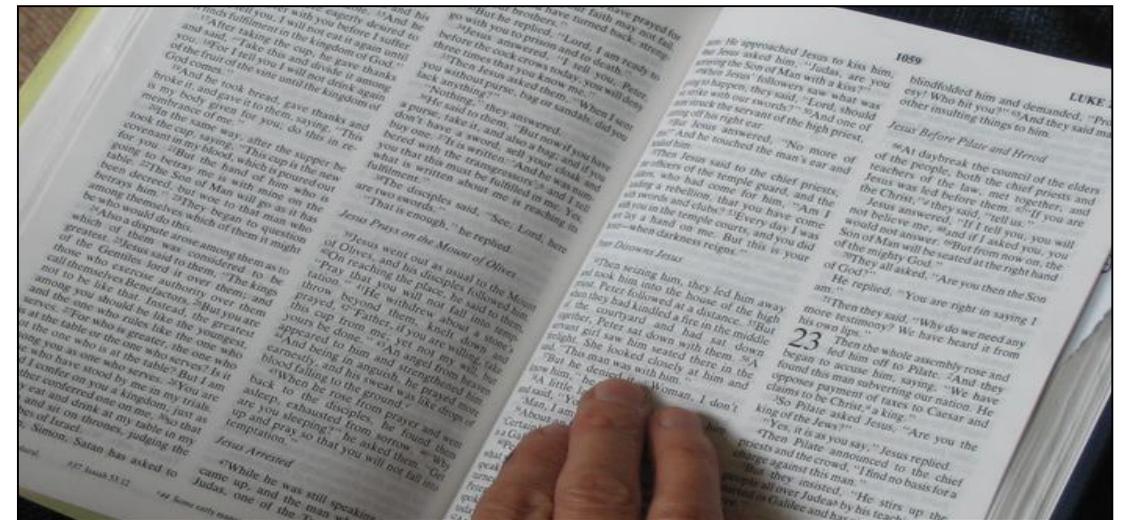
Elders: Leonard Key / David Key
 Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill
 Minister: Greg Lowery

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Are You A Spiritual Person?



The
 Brilliant
 Beacon



Spiritual is Where God Is

By Jonathan McAnulty

It is a point always well worth remembering: “spirited” is not the same as “ spiritual, ” though many people do seem to get the two confused.

A football game, for instance, is often spirited, with a lot of shouting, screaming, cheering, and even laughter. Football games, however, are seldom spiritual events. Nevertheless, when it comes to worship, its notable how many people assume that if a crowd is yelling, clapping, and cheering indicates, they are a very spiritual audience. But spirited is not the same as spiritual and God is often to be found in the quiet times, the meditative times, and the reverent times.

The prophet Elijah provides two good illustrations of this. In 1 Kings 18, we read about Elijah’s “contest” against the prophets of Baal. The lone prophet of God, Elijah, squared off against 450 of the competition, who were, in turn, supported by 400 others (cf. 1 Kings 18:19). The contest was to build two altars and see which deity, Baal or Jehovah, responded with fire. The prophets of Baal had a very spirited exhibition, lasting hours. They screamed, they danced, they prayed loudly. They even cut themselves in their “worship.” But no god answered their prayers. There was nothing actually spiritual about what they were doing. (cf. 1 Kings 18:20-29)

Elijah, on the other hand, had a short, simple prayer, asking God to do a miracle to indicate that Elijah truly was a prophet. The response from God was overwhelming, with a fire that devoured sacrifice, wood, water, and even stone and dust. (cf. 1 Kings 18:36-38). Elijah’s worship wasn’t very spirited, but it was intensely spiritual, representing a legitimate connection between himself and the Divine.

Sometime after this victory over the false prophets, Elijah was fleeing from the queen, Jezebel. She was upset that Elijah, following God’s fiery exhibition, had persuade the people to execute the false prophets. Elijah was led by God to Mount Horeb, where God indicated that Elijah was to wait for Him. As Elijah waited, there was a mighty wind that tore apart the mountain, but God was not in the wind. There was an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake. There was a great fire, and God was not in the fire. Then finally there was a still whisper, and God, the text indicates, was in the whisper. (cf. 1 Kings 19:11-13)

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

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

Jack Waldon: {Linda’s Brother-In-Law} is under hospice care, kidneys are shutting down, 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 heath 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.

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

Upcoming Events

Today	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
April 21 st	Fellowship Meal	
April 21 st	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

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

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

Hugh Martin: is undergoing rehab in Birmingham recovering from recent surgery, please pray that he will have a successful rehab

Indee Kois {student at BHS}: dealing with two blood clots from last report treatment is working to dissolve the clots, please pray that she will no further problems

Faye Jordan {Vertie’s Sister}: will have surgery (4/23) to fix a hernia, she also has problems with her heart, please pray that she will be able to endure the surgery and that it will be successful.

Charles Mobley {Melba’s Cousin}: recently had a severe stroke and a broken hip, he is in the hospital in Haleyville, please pray that with treatment that he can recover

The earthquake, the wind and the fire were all more “spirited” events, full of action, noise, and visual effects. But they weren’t spiritual events, for God was not there. The still small whisper was not very exciting, from a physical perspective, but it was an intensely spiritual thing, for God was there.

Jesus taught us that true worship was worship that was conducted in the Spirit, and in truth. (cf. John 4:24) To be in the truth, it is necessary to conform to the standards of God’s word, which is truth (cf. John 17:17). To be in the Spirit it is necessary that it be a spiritual exercise, involving the heart and the mind (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:15). Too many, however, think that unless a worship is spirited, it lacks spirit, and is therefore unspiritual. The problem is that people who crave excitement, mistakenly believe that when something is exciting, it therefore has spirit, and is therefore spiritual. But that’s not what Jesus was actually teaching.

Serving God is often, in fact, not exciting. Sometimes it can be downright unexciting. For instance, Jesus washed the apostle’s feet. (cf. John 13) He did this as a loving servant teaching a vitally spiritually lesson. But from the vantage point of Jesus, if one is to be honest, one must confess that there seems to be few things in this world less exciting then scrubbing 24 dirty feet, one after another. But it was what God wanted. Likewise, with the cross. There are many words that one could use to describe the suffering Jesus endured for us at the cross, where he was beaten, crucified and mocked. Exciting is not really one of the words one would normally use. But has there even been a more spiritual service offered by one man on behalf of others?

It is notable, that Jesus calls us to remember the cross, not with an exciting, “spirited” celebration, but with a moment of meditation and reflection as we consume the bread and the cup of the Communion table. (cf. Matthew 26:26-29). It, like all things truly spiritual, is a special time, not because of how excited we are, but because, in that moment, if we are truly partaking with the right spirit, God is with us, and we are with God.

Thus it is with all of Christianity, in and out of worship. Our lives are made spiritual, not by the excitement we are feeling at any given time, but rather by the presence of God.

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

“Who is My Neighbor?”

By Jonathan McAnulty

The question comes to us from Luke 10:29. A lawyer of the Jews had asked the Lord what he needed to do in order to inherit eternal life. It was a good question and one which we should all be interested in knowing the answer to. The Lord’s answer to this question was two-fold: “Love God with all your heart,” and “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (cf. Luke 10:25-28) These two commandments condensed all of the Old Testament Law down into two basic principles; everything else simply expounded on the how of the fulfilment. Thus, Jesus told the lawyer, even as He tells us, “Do this and live.” (Luke 10:28b)

If you want to make it into heaven, God requires that you put Him first in your life. Additionally, He also requires that you treat your neighbor well.

It is unfortunate that most people totally fail in these two necessary requirements for eternal life. This assessment is one taught by Jesus Himself, who said in a different place, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14; NKJV)

The lawyer probably recognized that there were people in his life that he was not loving as he should. And so we read, “But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’” (Luke 10:29)

The lawyer’s question was essentially his way of clarifying: Who do I have to love? Or, put another way, who am I allowed to not love? Are there people who are sufficiently different from me that I am allowed not to love them? Who will God allow me to dislike and mistreat, or at least just ignore indifferently?

The lawyer should have known better. The commandment concerning love for neighbors, found in Leviticus 19:18, is not the only place where God mentions properly treating one’s neighbors. If one turns back to the Ten Commandments, wherein God lays down some basic principles concerning the conduct He expected of His people, we read, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor,” and “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.” (Exodus 20:16, 17; NKJV)

God hatred of lying lips is a foundational principle in understanding the morality God expects of His people (cf. Proverbs 12:22). When God says not to bear false witness against a neighbor, He is not giving permission to lie to strangers. Likewise, when God told His people not to covet their neighbor’s ox, He wasn’t saying that coveting became alright so long as you didn’t know the individual in question. Rather, we might more properly understand that God is teaching us that there is a brotherhood of man. All men are to be considered as neighbors, and all men are to be treated as neighbors.

We have those neighbors that live down the road from us, and then there are those neighbors that live across the globe. From God’s perspective, enthroned above the world, there’s not that much distance separating any of us. We should be treating all of them well, loving them as ourselves.

In point of fact, God wasn’t too vague about any of this. He told the Israelites, “You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates.” (Deuteronomy 24:14; NKJV) Whether a foreigner, or a kinsman, God expected the same treatment of both from His people, who were called by His name, and who were striving to live according to His standards.

When God says, Love your neighbors, Jesus explained, He meant you even need to love your enemies. (cf. Matthew 5:44) Because, we conclude, our enemies are neighbors also.

All men are to be treated as if they were your neighbors, because, from God’s perspective, they are. You may not have met them yet, but that doesn’t matter. Your neighbors are anyone you happen to run across in your foray through life.

You are not supposed to lie to your neighbor, which means you are not supposed to lie to anyone. You are not supposed to covet your neighbor’s property, which means you are not supposed to covet anyone’s property. You are to love your neighbor, which means you are to love everyone. Simply put, there is no one whom God gives us permission not to love and treat as well as possible.

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