

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

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When I Give



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Blessed Are Those Who Give (Acts 20:35)

By Willard Collins

Paul, who knew the meaning of physical toil as he preached the gospel, said “In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’”. (Acts 20:35)

Giving brings happiness because God will reward the cheerful giver. In August, 1897, a boy left Second Creek, in Trousdale County, Tennessee, and moved to Nashville, where he secured employment at \$1.00 per day. Six years later, this young man organized and started the Life and Casualty Insurance Company. A thirty story building on the skyline of Nashville, Tennessee is one evidence of the great success of this company.

Used Bible Principles

A.M. Burton, the boy from Second Creek, believed that God was his partner through life. He told me during a visit to his office many years ago, “The Bible principles which I have used in the business have been more responsible for its success than any one factor. I believe that I have read the Bible more in my life than all other books put together”.

There were two beliefs which strengthened the life of A.M. Burton for many years. The first was the fact that life is a sowing and a reaping-spiritually, financially, physically, and mentally. This man was convinced that if one sows success in these four relationships, he will reap success and that if he sows the seeds of failure, he will harvest the same. He believed the message of Paul when he wrote, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal. 6:7).

The other principle which guided A.M. Burton was that God would reward and bless the cheerful giver. However, this man who gave so much to so many and who was prospered so much in return warned, “If one gives with a selfish motive in mind, he will not be blessed. However, if a person gives to do good and to help serve God and his fellowman, the gift will come back many fold.”

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

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

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

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.

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Upcoming Events

Today	Tri-County Singing {Tidwell Chapel}	2:00 pm
March 5 th	Country Place	2:00 pm
March 12 th	Nursing Home	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: is fighting cancer, please keep her and her family in your prayers

Bobby Sanderson: is fighting another infection, please pray that this will clear up soon

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

Hugh Martin: is at home and is improving

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}: surgery to fix hernia was successful

Janice Seymour: she has several health problems, please keep her and her family in your prayers

Experience taught A.M. Burton time and time again, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Giving will bring happiness to the giver because God has provided this avenue for this creature. God made man and God knows what it takes for man to be happy. It is strange that men will search for happiness in making money in order to use it selfishly when selfishness has produced so much misery in this world.

Men and women have tried to find happiness through whiskey, gambling, fornication, drugs, worldly power, and secular education. However, Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes and Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount showed the folly of such a course in life.

The material things of this world can never guarantee permanent security according to Jesus who said, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal” (Matthew 6: 19).

Christ advised his followers against the folly of trusting in this world’s possessions by describing the rich fool. This man’s farm brought forth much fruit and harvest. In planning future storage of this abundant crop, he forgot the poor and said, “This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I store all of my fruits and goods” (Luke 12:18).

This individual believed that his future was secure. He said, “Soul, thou has much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry” (Luke 12:19). However, Jehovah taught him how insecure he really was by trusting in material treasure and said to him, “Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then, whose shall those things be, which thou has provided?” (Luke 12:20).

Such is the fate of a man who thought he could guarantee his future by heaping together material possessions that these might be used for selfish purposes. He spent his entire life in this task and when he thought he had security, he discovered that he had made no preparation for real peace at all. Man’s soul cannot be fed upon the crops raised in a field.

When a person works, makes profits, and uses these profits to help the weak, the needy, the homeless and the poor, he can find happiness upon earth and he will lay up treasure in heaven where he can be happy for eternity. This is God's way. Selfishness is man's way.

On Saturday morning each week during the school year, approximately fifty students from David Lipscomb College leave the campus at 8:00 a.m. and go to Spring Hill, Tennessee where for approximately three hours they play games with the children of the Tennessee

Orphan Home. These college students realize that these young children cannot pay them so much per hour in worldly gain, but these young men and women are well repaid in giving their time in this activity because they receive happiness in bringing cheer to the hearts of the children who need love. These college students know the truth of the statement that true happiness comes from giving.

As long as this earth continues, there will be the homeless, the sick, the needy, and the hungry. The gospel teaches that such are God's avenues for happiness on earth and for building a wonderful bank account in heaven. What a privilege it is to use one's talents in business, agriculture, the professions, or in any honorable way to make money that one might support his family and have money left to help spread the gospel of Christ and to help the weak because Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

A Christian should use his talents to work in an honorable way that he might have the means to support his family, help the needy, spread the gospel, and be able to assist in many good works. In this way he will find more happiness in his earthly life and eternal bliss for eternity.

It is truly great to be a Christian because the Christian has the greatest motivation to work and can receive the greatest satisfaction from his achievements.

The Spiritual Sword, "Beatitudes", vol. 1, no. 3, April 1973, p. 18-20.

Woe to the Land!

By Denny Petrillo

There is trouble in the land when our leaders have the philosophy to "party first, work later." This is because there is usually no time to work later. Those who watch out for our welfare need to be hard at work. We are depending on them. Solomon was not giving a lesson in "Political Science 101" in Ecclesiastes 10:16, which reads, "Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child, And your princes feast in the morning!" (NKJV). He was talking about the wise use of one's time. Notice the following lessons.

First, our work ethic affects others. The laziness of the king has a direct impact upon the land. Equally, the slothfulness of parents will encourage the same in their children. A poor work ethic on the job pulls down the company and frequently requires other employees to do more than their fair share. It has been frequently noted that approximately 80% of the work done by the church is done by only 20% of her members. This is not fair. Just as our body has members that all contribute, so also must all the members of the church (the body of Christ) contribute (1 Corinthians 12:11; Romans 12:3). Solomon had earlier said, "whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (9:10). He said in 11:6, "sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening..." The point? Work! Work often, work hard and work whenever you can.

Second, our work ethic affects us. If we don't have a good work ethic, then we will suffer. Solomon observed that "through indolence the rafters sag, and through slackness the house leaks" (10:18). We reap what we have sown! Who is to blame that we have to watch the rain come into our house and ruin our furniture? Solomon also notes that the lazy man will reap very unpleasant results (Proverbs 6:9-11).

Third, our work ethic affects God. We were created so that we might do good works (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14; James 2:14-26). Laziness will activate the wrath of God. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked: For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7). Hosea noted that sometimes we'll reap even more than we have sown (Hosea 8:7)! It is generally recognized that affluence brings apathy and laziness (Ecclesiastes 5:11f). In our wealth, have we grown complacent? The Christian must set the pace of diligence in work—at the workplace (Colossians 3:23) and in the Lord's work (2 Timothy 2:15).

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