

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Greg Lowery

On the Table: Head - Ralph Burleson  
Servers - Josh Berryhill  
Gary Addison  
Lannie 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](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

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# Heartfelt Religion



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**Real Religion**

Dennis Gullede

Sometimes I hear people ask, “What is religion?” To be sure, religion is more than “going to church” as we often say. In the old days before air conditioning when people kept the doors and windows of the church building open, dogs were known to wander in among the worshipers. If “going to church” made one religious, I suppose then that the dogs would qualify. Of course, it is much more than attending services.

The word religion is found only five times in the King James Version of the New Testament. Three times it is used in reference to the Jew’s religion (Acts 26:5; Gal. 1:13-14). In James 1:26 reference is made to one who appears religious. In James 1:27 reference is made to “pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father.” Our English word religion comes from a Latin term meaning, “To bind together again.” True religion, then, is that which binds a person back to God. People who are lost in sin are separated from God and need to be bound together again with him (Isa. 59:1-2). So, if somebody says, “I’m not a particularly religious person,” they are saying more than just, “I’m not a church goer.” What they are really saying is, “I am not close to God.” If they are not close to God, then, they are close to the devil. It is either one or the other. James wrote, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...” (4:7-8).

Religion is not merely a “system of faith” as the Dickson New Analytical Study Bible defines it. Men have devised many systems of faith, and many different religions. The Bible, however, says that there is but “one faith” (Eph. 4:5). It must be admitted, then, that true religion comprises that one faith and none other.

Real, or, true religion is practical Christianity that touches every aspect of one’s being. I like these words from A. M. Burton, as he properly defines real religion: “Imagine, I say, a congregation of genuinely converted Christians, prayerfully avoiding every wrong, humbly and lovingly active in every good work. What would such a religion working through such a congregation be? Would it not be the real religion? Would it not be the religion that honors God and blesses men?

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Faye Cotton: please continue to pray that she continues her fight against cancer and that she will win

Danny Berryhill: having trouble with blood clots, please pray that he can receive help with this problem

Laraine Foss: please be praying that she has good days and good nights and keep Arlen in your prayers also while they are undergoing this very difficult trial

Dewight Kitchens: (Al’s Boss) recovering from recent colon cancer surgery, please praying that they all the cancer was removed

Alice Foster: was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and having problems with her lungs, please keep her in your prayers

Mary Rainey: she 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

Chad Henderson: this young man is battling cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that will help him in his fight with this terrible disease

Jack Waldon: {Linda’s Brother-In-Law} he 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

Connie Autrey: recent scans show that the cancer is shrinking, please continue to pray that the treatments will continue to work in defeating her cancer

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

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

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments that this cancer can be defeated

Jamie Long: recovering from recent liver transplant, please pray that there will be no problems and that he will make a quick recovery

Angie Ganey Gardner: she has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Bobby Sanderson: recovering from recent knee surgery, pray that he has a good recovery, he will have another surgery in a few weeks

Deborah Pollard: is currently taking cancer treatments, please pray that these treatments will be successful in defeating her cancer

**Upcoming Events**

May 6<sup>th</sup> Country Place 2:00 pm

May 20<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Meal

May 20<sup>th</sup> Nursing Home 2:00 pm

The true religion is a matter of faith and works, of profession and performance, of theory and practice. It overlooks nothing good. It ministers to body, mind, and spirit. It does right things in the right way and in the right spirit. It worships God. It serves man, in spirit and in truth. It yields the fruits of the spirit. It makes better men, and after that still better men. It sanctifies the home, it improves the community, it makes peace, it brings happiness. The true religion is the religion of faith, hope and love; the religion of holiness and righteousness, the religion that prays for and works for the doing of the will of God on earth, here and now, as it is done in heaven”.

**The Power To Change Lives**

By Gary L. Hutchens

Would you like to change your life? A great many people would. There are many specific areas in which people would like to see their lives change. Many would like to become more secure financially. Others would like to change jobs or careers. Some would like to improve their educational status. Many people have serious relational difficulties they would like to change. A great many are trapped in the despair of some addiction they would like to overcome. Some have a self-image problem they would like to improve. The list goes on and on...

Whatever the specific area, people want to change their lives for the better. Some harbor dreams of what they would like to become, but they're never quite ready to make the commitment necessary to get there. Others regret mistakes already made and wish they could somehow undo the damage done by poor choices and bad decisions.

Realistically, is there anything that can be done? Is there true hope that people can change their lives for the better? Is there hope for you? Can you change your life? The answer is, "Yes, absolutely yes!" Naturally, the next question is, "How?"

The power to change lives in the most profound ways is found in God's word. Now, that's not empty preacher-talk. Society is awash with self-help books and seminars. There are more psychiatrists, psychologists, and therapists out there than you can shake a stick at. There are more mood altering medications available, and more people are on them, than ever. Still, all in all things are getting worse. It's time for people to try another source, one that goes deeper, one that can effectively deal with all problems of life and can improve life more profoundly than anything else on the scene.

God's word is that source. It is unique in that it is truly God's word. The apostle Paul stated, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2 Timothy 3:16). The most literal meaning in the original language is that scripture is God breathed. The sense is that scripture is the very word of God. The men God used to write it down were guided by Him to write what they wrote (2 Peter 1:20-21). They truly wrote God's word.

The word of God is described as "living and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12). Indeed, "the power of God to salvation" is contained therein (Romans 1:16). You need the power that can change your life not just for the better, but for the best! God's word, because it is God's word, holds that power.

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### **Learning to Serve Like Jesus**

By Brian Mitchell

The following are the words of a beautiful song from our song book entitled "Heart of a Servant." It reads, "Give me the heart of a servant, tender and faithful and true. Fill me with love, then use me, o Lord, so that the world can see you." As you think about yourself, especially in light of your relationship with God through His Son; who are you? How would you describe yourself?

What descriptive terms for the children of God are you most comfortable with? Do you think of yourself as a disciple, a saint, or a Christian? What about the term Servant? One day a woman was interviewing a prospective butler and asked him, "Are you trained to serve guests?" The prospective butler replied "Yes, ma'am, I have been trained to serve guests both ways." The woman looked puzzled and asked, "What do you mean, both ways?" The prospective butler replied, "I've been trained to serve them so they'll come again, or so they'll stay away. You just have to let me know which way you desire for each guest."

Would you say that you have been trained to serve? Serving others, if we are being honest, is not something that comes naturally to most people. The truth is that we live in a very self-centered and selfish "Me-First" society. Thus, living a life of service is something that must be sought after and cultivated. But serving others, in following the example of Jesus Christ, is exactly what we have been called to do.

But what does it really mean to be a servant? What images immediately come to your mind? Do you think of the slaves of Egypt building the pyramids or the African slaves brought to the United States in the early days of our country? If these are the images that immediately come to mind, then the idea of being a servant of God is not likely to be very appealing to you. And it is for this reason that servanthood represents a path of life that most are unwilling to travel.

What we must always keep in mind is the fact that one of God's major objectives for the followers of His Son is that they become like His Son in all ways. Paul puts it this way, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Rom.8:28-29). God's desire is that we be conformed to the image of His Son, that we be like Him.

Obviously, there are many things about Jesus that we should want to imitate: His walk with God, His knowledge of Scripture, His prayer life and His purity. But what about Jesus' example of service? I believe that this is one of the most important ways that God wants us to conform to the likeness of Jesus. Look at how Jesus characterized His own life and purpose: "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

Another song in our hymnal, called the Servant Song, says: "Lord, make me a servant, Lord, make me like you; for you are a servant, make me one too." Jesus came to serve, not be served and if this was true of the Master then certainly it must be true of the follower.