

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: Eddie Dickinson

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery  
Servers - Josh Berryhill  
Bradley Box  
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: David Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Linda Lawrence

**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 / Eddie Dickinson

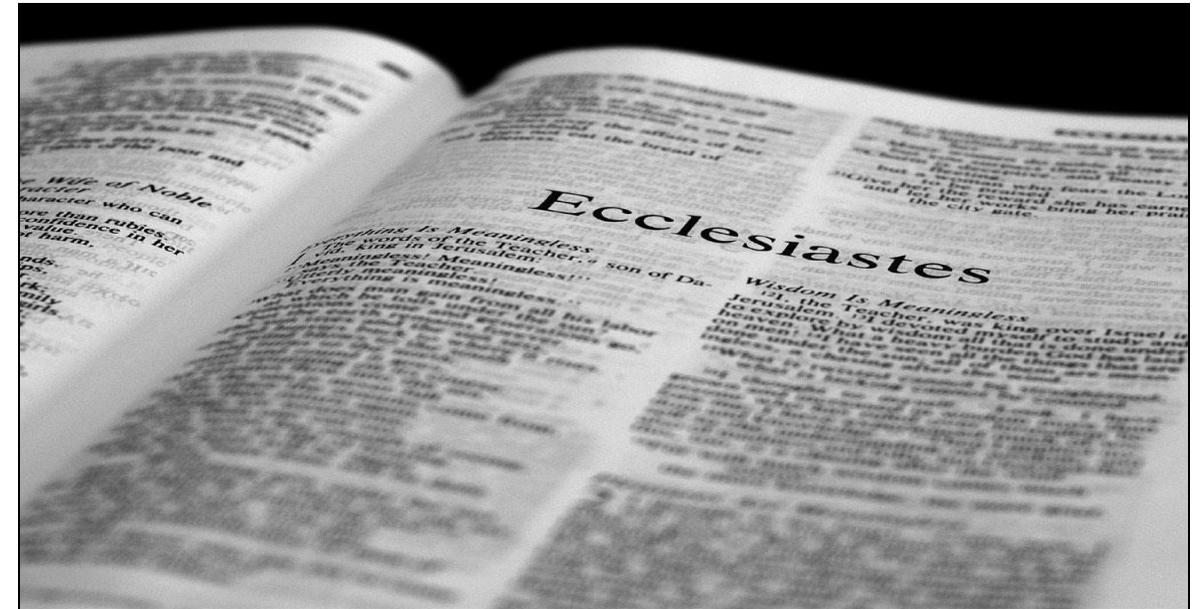
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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# There Is No New Thing Under The Sun



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**Parables: Earthly Stories Heavenly Truths**

By Dan Jenkins

The disciples of Jesus had no idea about the nature of the kingdom Jesus had come to established. The Old Testament was filled with promises of the coming King and His kingdom, but no one on this earth understood what it would be like (1 Cor. 2:8-9). Jesus used parables to help those disciples see what was about to happen.

In Matthew chapter thirteen, there are eight parables He gave to them. The first describes the coming kingdom being like a man sowing seed. They could not comprehend the meaning and asked Him to explain. The second parable is about a man who sowed seeds into his field and the enemy who came at night and sowed tares (weeds) in that field. They did not comprehend this parable, so He also had to explain to them its meaning.

The failure to understand these beginning parables blocks the ability to find the truths of God. Mark’s account adds one thought not found in either Matthew or Luke’s account. “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?” (Mark 4:13). One cannot comprehend the nature of the kingdom of heaven until he grasps what Jesus was saying. Those who view the coming of the kingdom as being in the future with Jesus establishing His kingdom and reigning on the earth for a thousand years have not begun to understand these earthly stories with a heavenly meaning which Jesus taught.

Jesus only explains the first two parables, and they become the basis of seeing the meaning of all the parables. You may think you do not know much about the Bible, but do you understand these parables? You likely know more than you think. These stories open the door to deeper truths.

Do you know what the seed was which was sowed in four different types of soil? Do you know what each of those kinds of soils describe? Do you know the identity of the man who sowed the seed in the story of the tares? Do you who the enemy was who secretly sowed weeds in the field where the good seed was sown?

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

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

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister} is in the nursing home in Guin, pray for her she has some ongoing 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: fighting against breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

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: is recovering from a recent stroke, please be praying that there will be no long term complications or any further problems

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.

Pam Braden: she is dealing with some ongoing health problems, please pray that those working with her can help her

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Guy Weeks: is undergoing cancer treatments, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Sandy Markham: is recovering from knee surgery, please pray that she makes a complete recovery

Maddie Bishop (young girl South Haleyville) diagnosed with stage 4 Ewing sarcoma, please pray for her and her family and that treatments can defeat this caner

Billy Lee Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother} he is in renal failure, is back at the nursing home in Guin, please be praying for him and the staff caring for him

Timmy Weeks: he is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that he will receive treatments that can restore his health

Kristen Eddy: she is recovering from knee surgery, please pray that she will have a successful recovery

Hagen Dickinson: he is recovering from jaw surgery, please pray that it heals properly and that he has no complications

Danny Berryhill: diagnosed with thickness of the heart, please be praying that doctors can successfully help him with this problem

Bill Berryhill: recently underwent surgery to remove cancer from his jaw, please be praying that his battle with cancer can be controlled and won

The disciples had no idea what Jesus was saying, but because He explained the meaning of these parables you can know the answers to each of the questions asked in the previous paragraph. If you do not know, I urge you to simply sit down and read the accounts in Matthew 13 and Luke 8. If you already know the answers, I urge you to slowly read the verses again and pay attention to every word Jesus used. You may not know them as well as you think you do.

One cannot read until he learns the alphabet, and one cannot understand the kingdom until he learns the parables!

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**Where is Your Faith?**

-  **Many have their faith in SATAN**  
1 Peter 5:8-10
-  **Many have their faith in SIN**  
Proverbs 14:9 • Isaiah 30:1
-  **Many have their faith in SELF**  
2 Timothy 3:1-4
-  **Many have their faith in the SAVIOR**  
Ephesians 1:13
-  **Many have their faith in the SCRIPTURES**  
1 Peter 1:23-25
-  **Many have their faith in the SAINTS**  
Ephesians 4:11-19

**WHERE HAVE YOU PLACED YOUR FAITH?**

Barnes' Bible Charts

### **Pleasure in Unrighteousness**

By Kevin Cauley

Sin is pleasurable; that is why so many people do it. They use sin's pleasure to numb themselves to life's true responsibilities. Moses refused to participate in it. Hebrews 11:24-26 states, "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward." People have long sought to justify their desires to pursue a life of pleasure and invented many rationalizations along the way. One of these rationalizations is the doctrine of salvation by faith only. It is one of the greatest lies repeated today.

The doctrine says that you are saved when you call upon Jesus as Lord, and then, you can do whatever you want; if you keep on believing in Jesus (whatever that means), you will be saved. Jesus said just the opposite in Matthew 7:21-23: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" There are going to be a lot of disappointed people on the day of judgment because they believed the lie of faith only, but sin is pleasurable, and they would rather have pleasure in unrighteousness than believe the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).

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### **You Can Do This**

By David Myers

While on a mountain and after giving the apostles the Great Commission, Jesus said, "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen" (Matthew 28:20). Before ascending to Heaven to be with the Father, our Lord gave these men (and us) the assurance that He would be with them to the finish line (cf., Hebrews 13:5; 12:1-3).

Later in the New Testament, we have another example of a great servant of God who was also concerned about believers not making it to the finish line. One of the themes of 2 Timothy is to finish the course, to stay in the race and to not shrink back in faith and give up (Hebrews 10:39). Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 about fighting the good fight, finishing the course and keeping the faith. Going back to 2 Timothy 2:1-8, Paul encouraged Timothy (and us) to learn obedience like a soldier, the rules of the athlete and the patience of a farmer.

Remembering and believing the words of Jesus and the apostle Paul, the question is, "How do we keep from quitting and stay in the race?" Paul gave the answer in 2 Timothy 2. First, he encouraged Christians to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (v. 1). It will be His grace that will enable us to finish the race. We cannot run this race and make it to the finish line on our own. Remember, we are not alone (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5).

Second, Paul reminded Timothy, "Remember that Jesus Christ, the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to [the] my gospel" (2 Timothy 2:8). When we live our lives from day to day and act like Jesus is not alive and present in our lives, it will greatly affect whether we will finish the race and cross the finish line. Paul finished his words of encouragement with this affirmation, "Therefore, I endured all things for the elect [chosen ones], that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10). Do you want to make it to the finish line? Paul said to be strong in the grace of Christ and remember He has risen, and we are not alone.

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