

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Josh Berryhill

Opening Prayer: Billy Box

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

Closing Prayer: Eddie Dickinson

Preparing the Lord's Supper Deborah Box

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 / Eddie Dickinson

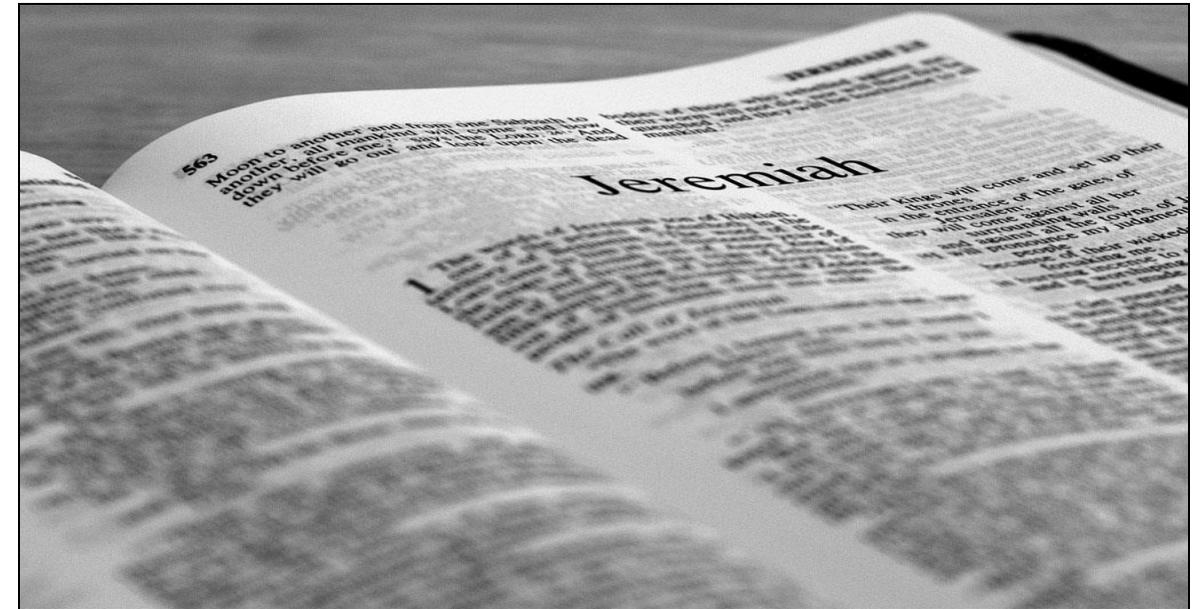
Minister: Greg Lowery

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God's Authoritative Word



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



I Can't Believe I Did That!

By Rodney Nulph

Are there things in your life for which you have great regret? Almost certainly if any of us could go back and relive certain times in our lives, we would do things differently. Hindsight is 20/20! Most likely, we all can remember times when we acted in an undesirable way or said some words that were less than sweet. Sometimes when we think of such times, we think to ourselves, "I can't believe I did that!" Sadly, those occasions often bring feelings of guilt and shame to the point that it affects our current thoughts and actions. In fact, sometimes these thoughts bring on depression, a sense of worthlessness, and sometimes even worse.

In the Spring of 1959, an Air Force major entered a Texas mental institution for the second time. He had tried to commit suicide twice, and he had been arrested for forgery and robbery. For years, he had been drinking heavily, and his marriage had disintegrated. Yet only 15 years before, he had been a model officer, headed for a promising career. One momentous event precipitated the major's plunge; he flew the plane over Hiroshima when the first atom bomb was dropped. Shortly afterward, the major began to be haunted in his dreams by throngs of Japanese men, women and children. Then, his own life began to collapse. The psychiatrist who treated him said that the major was subconsciously trying to bring punishment from society to atone for the guilt he felt over Hiroshima. Unresolved guilt was destroying his life!

While many do not suffer from such extreme guilt and remorse, we all sometimes experience feelings of guilt and shame regarding our past. How are we to cope during such times? What should we do to combat these feelings and deep-seated emotions? What do I do when "I can't believe I did that?"

Firstly, consider the blessings of guilt. The ability to blush and to feel shame is a God-given blessing. However, like all good things, the devil launches his fiery dart to twist the good and causes it to be anything but a blessing. Guilt is feeling sorry for something we have done, while shame is a result of not dealing properly with that guilt. When we sin, feeling guilty is a good thing, but allowing that guilt to turn into shame is not. When Paul indicted the church in Corinth for their sins, Christians felt guilt and repented. Paul, then, praised them. "As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief..." (2 Corinthians 7:9 ESV).

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 is recovering from recent surgery for 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 still recovering from a stroke, please continue to keep him in your prayers

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 cancer

Billy Lee {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

Mason Estes: he is need of a liver transplant; please be keeping him and his family in your prayers

Charles Berryhill: having issues with his bladder, please be praying that it is nothing serious and that the doctors will be help to help him

When Nathan scripturally pointed out the sins that David had committed, David felt guilt, and rightly so, because he was guilty of the charges. However, David handled that guilt properly, and later wrote, “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered” (Psalm 32:1). Blushing over our sins is a blessing (Jeremiah 6:15; 8:12).

Secondly, consider the baggage of guilt. Sadly, when we fail to deal with guilt properly and scripturally, it often turns into shame and becomes heavy baggage we carry each day. Often when guilt becomes shame, we experience undue anxiety. When David was filled with shame due to unresolved sin in his life, he penned, “When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer” (Psalm 32:3-4). Instead of basking in the daily new mercies of God (Lamentations 3:23), David was filled with misery and undue anxiety.

Frequently when guilt becomes shame, we experience annoyance. Shame is like a little dog constantly nipping at your heels. Everywhere you go, anything you do, that shame is always there. You see it in the mirror each morning, you remember it when you are at work or school, and it often even haunts your dreams at night. Shame is annoying!

When guilt becomes shame, we experience animosity. As Peter’s ordeal unfolded outside the palace where Jesus was being falsely tried, the crowds began to press Peter asking if he was a friend of Jesus (Matthew 27:69-72). However, as that pressing became more intense, Peter’s shame burst forth into animosity, “Then he began to curse and swear, saying, I know not the man...” (Matthew 27:74). Interestingly, people who carry around the baggage of shame every day usually are difficult to get along with. They are always ready to fight and are disagreeable with anyone and everyone who crosses their shame filled path.

Thirdly, how can we rid ourselves of guilt? Since we all experience guilt and since that guilt sometimes become shame, what can we do to butcher and slay this heavy weight we carry about? Firstly, we must accurately pinpoint why we feel guilty. While it is good to feel guilt over something we have done wrong, there are times when guilt occurs regarding situations over which we have little or nothing to do. Take ownership for wrongs done, but guard against owning sins that are not yours!

Secondly, we must ask for pardon for those things that we have done wrong. Ask God for pardon (1 John 1:8-10) and ask others for pardon for sins committed against them (James 5:16). Admitting our sins and asking for pardon from those involved is a great “load-lifter” of guilt and shame!

Thirdly, accept the power of forgiveness. Jesus came to earth, died, was buried and resurrected so that we may have a perfect plan for forgiveness! We are not perfect, but God’s plan is! His grace reaches us when we do what He commands! David’s guilt and shame were lifted when “I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord: and thou forgave the iniquity of my sin” (Psalm 32:5). Often getting rid of guilt and shame is simply accepting God’s wonderful and awesome forgiveness, which only He can give.

Were we given the opportunity, all of us would change some actions we have done in the past. While it is impossible to go back and redo, we can, thanks to God, go forward and rejoice! Praise Him, Praise Him for, “He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him” (Psalm 103:10-13). No longer must we dwell upon, “I can’t believe I did that,” but now please God, help me to believe you did just that – forgave me!

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

A Christian’s View of Death

By Gary C. Hampton

Someone suggested David’s words in Psalm 37:4-5 are a good representation of the way God’s children view death. The shepherd king wrote, “Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.”

The Christian’s view of death begins with life. David instructed, “Delight yourself also in the Lord” (Psalm 37:4a). Paul portrayed this when he declared, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). The widow willingly gave all she had because of this type of thinking (Luke 21:1-4).

David continued, “Commit your way to the Lord” (Psalm 37:5a). Commitment to the Lord led Dorcas to make all sorts of garments for the widows (Acts 9:36-43). Their tearful display of her works resulted in Peter raising her from the dead. Paul gave up his own life and lived with Christ making the controlling decisions in his daily walk (Galatians 2:20).

The Christian sees death as desirable because of what follows. David said the one who delighted in the Lord would discover that He would give him the desires of his heart (Psalm 37:4b). The apostle to the Gentiles desired to be with the Lord (Philippians 1:23). Living a life fully committed to the Savior resulted in the Lord bringing to pass what Paul trusted Him to do (Psalm 37:5b).

John described Heaven in wonderful terms (Revelation 21:1-6). Paul confidently looked forward to receiving a “crown of righteousness” because he had committed his eternal soul to Christ, living as He directed (2 Timothy 4:6-8; 1:12). He was willing to gladly give up his temporary, physical home to be clothed in an eternal home (2 Corinthians 5:1-4).

God’s children should live their lives for Him. He will reward us with a beautiful home in Heaven when we do.

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