

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: Eddy Dickinson

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Josh Berryhill
Ralph Burleson
David Key

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

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
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Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

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

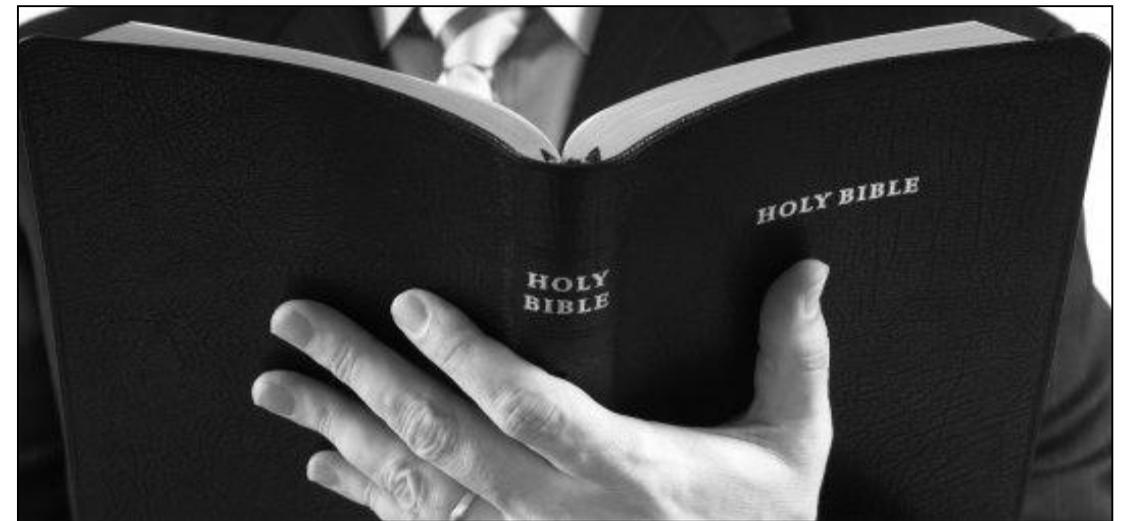
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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Astonished At His Doctrine



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Only Scriptural Truth Can Save

By Alan E. Highers

When confronted with Jesus Christ, Pilate was constrained to ask, “What is truth?” (John 18:38). Through the centuries many others have raised the same question, and it is admittedly one of the most important questions of the ages. Men have answered the question in different ways. But Jesus answered the question simply and directly in his prayer to the Father when he said, “Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). He further equated truth with the word of God when he declared: “If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

Saving Power of Truth

The scriptures are replete with the claim that we are saved by the truth. In fact, the power of the gospel of Christ is essential to every stage of Christian growth and development. Consider the following:

1. It is through the power of the word of God that we become Christians. We are begotten by the gospel, and our souls are purified in obedience to the truth (James 1:18; I Pet. 1:22-23). The gospel is the power of the gospel unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), and Paul stated, “Now I make known unto you, brethren, the gospel. . . by which also ye are saved” (1st Cor. 15:1-2). If one is saved at all, he is saved by the gospel.

2. It is through the power of the word of God that we grow as Christians. The milk of the word is spiritual nourishment by which we grow unto salvation (1st Pet. 2:2). We are to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2nd Pet. 3:18). To the Ephesian elders Paul stated: “And now I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified” (Acts 20:32). The scriptures furnish the man of God “completely unto every good work” (2nd Tim. 3:16-17).

3. It is through the power of the word of God that we overcome temptation and abide in Christ. The Psalmist said, “Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psa. 119:11). Further: “Great peace have they that love thy law; and they have no occasion of stumbling” (Psa. 119:165). In each instance when Satan tempted Christ, he answered with these words: “It is written. . . (Matt. 4:4,7,10).

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 & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

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

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

Hunter Coal Corkren: treating his kidney problem with medicine, please be praying that this problem clears up with this treatment

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

Timmy Weeks: recovering from recent surgery for nerve damage in his wrist and hand, please pray that he has quick and successful recovery

Al Corkren: surgery went well to fix break in his leg, please be praying that his recovery will be successful

Angie Ganey Gardner: fighting breast cancer and waiting to have surgery, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Upcoming Events

Today	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
June 16 th – 20 th	Our Gospel Meeting (Vance Hutton)	
June 16 th	Fellowship Meal	

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Wyatt Spann: is currently fighting a brain tumor, please pray that with medical help he can win this fight

Bobby Sanderson: recovering from recent infection, please pray he has no further problems

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

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 have no further problems

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

Frank Farris: is recovering from a stroke, please keep him in your prayers

Terri Avery {Bill’s daughter-in-law}: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that this cancer is treatable and can be defeated

Faye Jordan (Vertie’s sister): surgery went well to replace the mesh for her hernia, please pray that she will have no further problems

Jeff Upton (Donna Martian’s Co-worker): weakness in his legs, please pray that this will improve

4. It is through the power of the word of God that we shall someday be judged. Jesus stated, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). God shall judge the secrets of men through Jesus Christ by the gospel (Rom. 2:16). In describing the judgment scene, John says the “books were opened. . . and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (Rev. 20:12).

Therefore, the word of God is powerful and essential from the point of becoming a child of God to the last day when God shall “judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained” (Acts 17:31).

Condemning Power of Error

Just as it is the truth that saves, so it is error that condemns. Paul spoke of those who “received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God sendeth them a working of error, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2nd Thess. 2:10-12). There is no indication in this text that individuals were insincere in their belief; they genuinely believed, but they believed a lie. In spite of their sincerity, Paul states that they would be judged or condemned because (1) they received not the love of truth, (2) they believed a lie, and (3) they believed not the truth. How could it be plainer?

In the great commission Jesus said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16). “He that believeth” – believeth what? The context makes clear what men must believe. Jesus had commanded that the gospel be preached; this is what men must believe. Thus: “He that believeth (the gospel) and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth (the gospel) shall be condemned.” We cannot escape the conclusion that rejection (disbelief) of the gospel is cause for condemnation. This further emphasizes the importance of truth, for one may reject the creeds, opinions, doctrines, feelings, and speculations of men and still be saved, but according to Jesus, one may not reject the gospel and be saved.

In the Galatian letter Paul laid double emphasis upon the contrast between truth and error when he said, “But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema. As we

have said before, so say I now again, if any man preacheth unto you any gospel other than that which ye received, let him be anathema” (Gal. 1:8-9). This admonition presupposes several important considerations: (1) the gospel exists, (2) the gospel is available, (3) the gospel is understandable (they had “received” it), and (4) the gospel is distinguishable from error (they were warned about any “other” gospel).

Not only must the gospel be preached and believed, but it must be obeyed. Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him (Heb. 5:8-9). The Lord shall someday be revealed from heaven (with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might” (2nd Thess. 1:7-9).

Importance of Truth

The wise man said, “Buy the truth, and sell it not” (Prov. 23:23). The poet of Israel declared, “Oh how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psa. 119:97). Also: “The law of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul: the testimony of Jehovah is sure, making wise the simple” (Psa. 19:7). These tributes to the truth serve to undergird our faith and to remind us of its eternal significance. How true is the observation of George Salmon in his classic work on *The Infallibility of the Church*:

I fear it will be a long time before men are so philosophic as to understand that a man is not your enemy because he tries to correct errors in your opinions; and that the more important the subject the greater the service he will render you if he makes you change your false opinion for a true one.

The apostle Paul asked, “So then am I become your enemy, by telling you the truth?” (Gal. 4:16). To ask the question is to answer it. The truth must be told. Jeremiah well said, “And if I say, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name, then there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with forbearing, and I cannot contain” (Jer. 20:9). May we study the truth to have that burning fire within our bones, so that we “cannot contain.”

The Spiritual Sword, vol. 5, no. 1, October 1973, p. 10-12.

Paul In Athens

By Winfred Clark

When we speak of Paul in Athens, we are not speaking of Athens, Alabama. We speak of Athens, Greece, for that is where he stood before those who were given to idolatry. It is there that he speaks of God and identifies himself as a believer in God. Notice carefully a statement he makes in Acts 17:24, “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that HE IS (emphasis mine) Lord of heaven and earth.” Pay close attention to the fact that he says HE IS. Of course, this speaks of his existence, but it also speaks of his activity and position.

I. Paul Could Well Say, He Is Great

Surely the one who made the world and all things therein must be called great. His great power is surely demonstrated in the creation. When we consider the greatest feat of man, such as putting men on other planets, this is small indeed compared to the power and strength of God. When man arrived to set foot on the moon, he found a place that God had made.

He is not only great in His power, but He is great in His control. He is Lord or ruler of heaven and earth. There is no place beyond His control. Man is answerable to God everywhere.

II. Paul Could Well Say, He Is Good

We learn from verse 25 that He is not only the source of life but also the sustainer. Again, it is in Him that we live and have our being. We are reminded of the language of James when he speaks of every good and perfect gift being from above (James 1:17). Yes, Paul could well say that HE IS GOOD.

III. Paul Could Well Say, He Is Gracious

God had in the past been gracious to man in overlooking some of his ignorance, but now Christ had come, and provision had been made. Man must then do the will of the Lord in order to enjoy the benefits provided. It is wonderful that even in Athens some did just that. Certain men did believe. They would thus turn from idols to serve the living and true God. [*Expositions of “The Expositor”*, vol. 1, p. 553.]