

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddy Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Josh Berryhill

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Arlen Foss
Gary Addison
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: Lannie Key

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: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

Contact Information:
Phone: (205) 465-9142

Brilliant Church of Christ
930 Main Street
P.O. Box 222
Brilliant, AL 35548

Are We Guilty Of Abusing The Rules



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Properly Using The Law Of God

By Mike Brooks

“But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners” (1 Timothy 1:8-9 NKJV).

During a discussion of a preacher’s work in an Asian country, the response came repeatedly: “I must rebuke them.” The brother’s idea of the mission of an evangelist was to reprove and correct, to always search for wrong and chastise the guilty.

While it is true that preachers and other Christian leaders are commanded to “rebuke” (2 Timothy 4:2) and to “stop the mouths” of deceivers (Titus 1:11), that is only a part of their duties. They are also charged to “exhort and convict” through sound doctrine (Titus 1:9), and to “convince” and “exhort” (2 Timothy 4:2).

Paul’s correspondence with his young co-workers (Timothy and Titus) begins with a firm warning against legalistic former Jewish teachers (1 Timothy 1:3-11). They are described as “Desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm” (1 Timothy 1:7). He goes on to describe the purpose of God’s law, which was to inhibit and control evil activity, not the conduct of the righteous.

We often struggle to define the ideology called “Legalism.” Some define it as “emphasis upon law” but that is vague and subject to miss-application. Many apply the term to anyone who insists on obedience to a set of rules, regardless of the nature of those rules. That is simply too broad. By that definition, Jesus was a legalist (Matthew 7:21; 28:19).

Paul’s description of the false teachers in 1 Timothy 1 is a good start towards a proper definition. The key to a proper understanding of and relationship with God’s law is to recognize its purpose. God intended it as a barrier to wrong conduct (Romans 7:7). It identifies and warns against evil behavior. Without law we cannot know what God deems sin, nor can we avoid it.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Faye Cotton: please continue to keep her and her family in your prayers

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

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

Doug Roberts: is in the nursing home in Hamilton recovering from a recent stroke, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Bobby Burleson: (Mrs. Barbara’s Brother) he has throat cancer and doctors not giving much hope, please pray for him and his family

Rosa Melton: she has been diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver, please pray that the doctors can help her to overcome this great problem

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Bobby Sanderson: is showing signs of improvement from knee surgery, please pray that this improvement will continue

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

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

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

Levi Sides: he is having some heart troubles and will have an arteriogram done July 11th, please be praying that the doctors can help him with this problem

Upcoming Events

Today	Tri-County Singing {Tidwell Chapel}	2:00 pm
July 1 st	Country Place	2:00 pm
July 8 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
July 8 th	Fellowship Meal	
July 15 th – 19 th	Vacation Bible School	

The legalist, however, uses the law to restrict and inhibit even righteous behavior. A good example of this is the Pharisees’ condemnation of Jesus’ disciples for plucking grain on the Sabbath day (Mark 2:23-28). The Lord responded, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). In other words, God’s purpose in giving the law was to serve mankind. The legalistic Jews reversed that, maintaining that the purpose for which God made man was to keep the law.

It is true that righteous men will obey God’s will. It is also true that God’s will is not intended to restrict nor to inhibit or discourage righteous conduct. Note the following: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

Those who have been transformed by the renewing of their minds (Romans 12:2) have no sense of bondage to a set of rules. That which they desire to do is right and good because it is based on God’s own nature and will. Continually demanding “Thou shalt,” and “thou shalt not” is neither necessary or productive. They are not the people for whom those commandments were designed. They already obey, because it is their nature.

To continually demand obedience to strict regulations is to imply that even God’s faithful followers are depraved and incapable of doing right naturally. Even worse, such regulations are almost always designed to produce conformity to the enforcer’s standards rather than God’s.

The legalist wants others to be like himself. God seeks to mold us by his Spirit into his own image (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Obtained at: www.forthright.net

People can misunderstand

By John Henson

The transfiguration of Jesus must have been an amazing sight for Peter, James, and John. Still, the significance of the event could be misunderstood.

Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone until after he was raised from the dead (Matthew 17:9). Why weren't the other disciples to know? Why keep the knowledge from them?

The reason was probably simple: people can misunderstand.

The Jews had been fighting the Romans ever since appointing John Hyrcanus II as ethnarch around 47 BC.

When the Idumean Herod was crowned king by the Romans he also faced rebellions from the Jews. One major uprising was led by a man named Hezekiah who was executed.

After Herod's death, a series of revolts were led by Judas, Hezekiah's son and two others: Simon of Perea and Athronges, a shepherd. In AD 6, Judas and an army of Zealots rebelled against the Romans.

The Jews were convinced God was going to drive the Romans from their land and give them their freedom. Much of this belief centered around the coming Messiah who, they thought, would restore the land to them.

The Jews believed they would begin to realize their dreams when Elijah appeared as they thought Malachi's prophecy said (Malachi 4:5-6). They believed that before the Messiah appeared, Elijah would come to "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers".

The Jews made the mistake of thinking the Messiah would create an earthly kingdom in which he would restore Israel and rule. Those militant Jews, like the leaders of the several plots to overthrow the Romans, mistakenly thought they were doing God's will.

Jesus, the Messiah, did not come to the world to create an earthly kingdom. He came to build a spiritual one, the church (Matthew 16:15-16). His purpose was not to create a limited national Israel. His purpose was to seek and to save all those who are lost (Luke 19:10) and save them eternally.

There are still people even now who believe Jesus is coming back to create a physical, earthly kingdom and will reign here a thousand years. They believe this even though Jesus told Pilate he had not come to do any such thing (John 18:36).

People can misunderstand many things. It was important for the disciples to wait until after the resurrection, so they could understand the whole picture. Then, they would not make any mistakes but would understand the plan much better.

God sent John, Jesus' cousin, to prepare the way for his son. In that sense, John was the Elijah that Malachi predicted. The Jews did not recognize him, although in appearance he looked remarkably like Elijah. Herod had him executed (Matthew 14:10) and Jesus would also be executed by a Roman governor, Pilate.

Jesus' mission on earth was to seek and save the lost eternally. The Bible does not teach about some future earthly kingdom. It teaches about a heavenly one.

The apostle Paul wrote, "For our momentary, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison because we are not looking at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NET).

Obtained at: www.forthright.net