

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Eddie Dickinson

On the Table: Head - David Key
Servers - Josh Berryhill
Gary Addison
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: Arlen Foss

Preparing the Lord's Supper Donna York

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

| | |
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| Bible Study | 10:00 am |
| Morning Worship | 10:45 am |
| Evening Worship | 5:00 pm |

Wednesday

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| Bible Study | 7:00 pm |
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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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Cherishing Our Freedom



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



How People Attain Freedom In Christ

By Mac Deaver

SPIRITUAL freedom is the ultimate kind of freedom and a kind of freedom attainable only as one obeys God who alone can provide it.

Human freedom consists in having the capacity to decide whose servant or slave I will be. As a human being I can and will decide to be either a servant of the one true God or I will decide (one way or another) to continue to serve the Devil. But I will inevitably decide.

To serve the Devil is to practice sin and to involve oneself in the attendant consequences, guilt, and penalty for such a life. To serve God is to practice righteousness and to obtain release from the practice, guilt, and the eternal penalty for sin.

Only God can free one from sin, for in the final analysis sin is committed against God. It is the transgression of God’s law (1 Jn. 3:4). Since it is God who is sinned against, it must be God who determines the basis of freeing one from the grip of sin.

But, how can God forgive me of sin, and how can I know when I have forgiveness of sin and thus freedom from it?

Since I am a free moral agent who is made in the image of God, in order to be free from sin there are various things I must come to know and things that I must come to do. It is up to God to make such information available to me. It is up to me to avail myself of the information and to learn and obey it. If God were to fail to reveal truth regarding this freedom, I could not be free. And even if God does reveal that information (and He has in the Bible), I still cannot be free if I do not learn, love, and live his saving (freeing) truth in my life.

“Jesus therefore said to those Jews that had believed him, 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” (Jn. 8:31-32). Please notice that the freedom here offered as a real possibility to those who had already believed his claim to have come from God is predicated upon their continuing to abide in his word. The word “abide” is “melvnte” from “mevw” the

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: as of yesterday is in the hospital in Tupelo and she will be undergoing tests the next few days to discover what is the root cause of her building up fluids, please be praying that the doctors will be able to discover what the problem is and will be able to treat her illness successfully

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Bobby Sanderson: as of yesterday he was still in the hospital at Tupelo in ICU he is very lethargic and is slow in regaining full consciousness and the doctors are not yet sure why this is happening, let us please pray that the doctors can help him and that improvement will occur soon.

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: had an arteriogram and it came back all clear no blockage, please be praying that the doctors can help him with any other existing problems

Upcoming Events

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| Today | Country Place | 2:00 pm |
| July 8 th | Nursing Home | 2:00 pm |
| July 15 th | Missionary Report {Romania – Ed Bull } | 10:00 am |
| July 15 th – 19 th | Vacation Bible School | |
| July 22 nd | Fellowship Meal | |

significance of which is “to say, to continue”. A true disciple of Christ is one who remains within the confines of his word. He lives within the authorization of that word. He comes to know what that word demands that he know, and he comes to do that which the word demands that he do. The freedom promised by Christ in this passage is conditioned upon the believer’s remaining in or abiding in his word. That word will then provide him with what information he needs in order to attain unto freedom in Christ.

Now, we observe that Jesus here very definitely predicated this freedom upon knowledge of the truth. (And no one can successfully deny the possibility of one’s coming to have such knowledge). Freedom from sin involves and demands that one know saving truth. The truth is able to save one’s soul (cf. Jas. 1:21) in that it reveals facts of which one must be aware and obligations with which one must comply. Regarding facts, consider that God in the Bible has told us such things as (1) sin is man’s basic problem, (2) sinners need saving, (3) salvation or damnation are the choices available to men, (4) God has done what can be done in order to save man, (5) man must obey God to receive forgiveness from sin, (6) etc.

The truths which constitute the Bible contain some facts of which one simply must become aware in order to be saved. For example, one simply cannot ever be freed from his sin if he does not know that the gospel is God’s power for or unto salvation (Rom. 1:16-17).

Now consider, please, that when one comes to understand that the Bible is really telling the truth about facts (such as the death, burial, resurrection of Christ – 1 Cor. 15:1-ff), he is believing those propositions which reveal those truths. When a person comes to know that the Bible is, in fact, God’s inspired word, then he realizes that the Bible is telling the truth after all. And the truth that it tells focuses around the salvation of mankind.

This person thus convinced of the truth of the Bible understands that Jesus is the Saviour of mankind (1 Tim. 4:10), and that for him to be freed from sin, he must listen to the words of Christ and to those whom Christ appointed to preach and teach and write his word.

This person comes to understand that they must believe that Jesus Christ is in fact the Son of God (Jn. 8:24) and that there is no salvation outside of that provided by God through Christ. He comes to understand that He must repent of his sins (Luke 13:3; 2 Cor. 7:10). This is the point at which he stops practicing sin. He ceases to live a sinful life in practice. He becomes sorrow-struck by the fact that he has sinned against God, and thus resolves to do better; he will turn his life around and do God's will. He then recognizes that he must confess that faith in Christ to which he has attained (Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Tim. 6:12-13; Acts 8:37). He must admit to the reality of the conviction which now is his. Then he is ready to put Christ on in baptism. For the Bible teaches that a penitent, having confessed believer, must be baptized in water for the remission of his past sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 8:26-40).

Now he is free from the practice of sin (because he repented), and he is free from the eternal penalty of sin (which is death, Rom. 6:23), because his sins are now forgiven by the blood of Christ, God having promised that such would occur when as a having confessed, penitent believer he was baptized into Christ. He knows that he is a saved man because the word of Christ pronounces him so, and by his remaining with that word, he has become a Christian and thus able to rejoice now in his salvation (cf. Acts 8:39), his conscience being justifiably clear in the matter (1 Pt. 3:21).

From sin-its practice and its penalty he is free at last. He is free in Christ.

The Spiritual Sword, "Freedom In Christ", vol. 19, no. 3, April 1988, p. 17-18.

Jesus Christ the Son of God

By Basil Overton

Some have said Jesus Christ was a good man but not the Son of God. Why do they say He was a good man? Because of what the New Testament says about Him. The same New Testament says Jesus said repeatedly that He came down from heaven and that He was God's Son. If He was not what He said He was, He was not even a good man, because a good man does not tell things about himself that are not true.

Christians are God's children because they are people who have been begotten of God by His Word (Jm. 1:18). But, Jesus is the only Son God has who was begotten as He was begotten. He was begotten of God when His virgin mother Mary miraculously conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Jesus Christ is God's Son and the Savior of all people. He died on a Roman cross for the sins of all people. Three days later God, His Father, raised Him from the dead for our justification (Rm. 4:24; Lk. 24:46-47; 1 Cor. 15:1-3).

The fact that Jesus died for all does not mean all will be saved. Only those who trust in Jesus Christ will be saved. Trusting in Him means believing the wonderful good news, or Gospel, about this wonderful Son of God, and it means repenting of your sins, confessing your faith in Him, and being buried and raised in water baptism in order to have forgiveness of your sins through the cleansing power of the blood of Christ. (Read: Jn. 8:21-24; Rm. 10:8-10; 6:3-4; Col. 2:12)

Jesus said he that believes the good news about Him and is baptized shall be saved (Mk. 16:15-16). Peter told believers in Christ, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). The Lord adds those who do this to His church (Acts 2:41, 47).

The Voice of Truth International, vol. 1, p. 11.