

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddie Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Greg Lowery

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

Closing Prayer: Al Corkren

Preparing the Lord's Supper Donna York

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 / Eddie Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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Missionary Report



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Memories

By Michael Brooks

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you” (Philippians 1:3 NKJV).

As I go back through some of the pictures I have taken over the past 30 years of traveling in other countries, many memories come to mind. Some are of events. Many have to do with places I have been to and seen. Most of those memories, however, are of people whom I have encountered. These vary from near-hostile confrontations to casual business dealings and to deep and abiding friendships and fellowship in Christ.

As Paul wrote to the church in Philippi he began with a tremendous compliment to each member. Paraphrased in more contemporary English he said, “Every time I think about you I thank God.” That simple statement demands that we reflect on our memories and ask, “How many times do I reflect on those whom I know and feel such appreciation for them and for their impact on my life?”

Sadly, we are often prone to dwell on negative experiences and on complaints and criticisms of others. We harbor grudges and resentments. We spend time thinking about those who have harmed us rather than those who have offered help. If we are sick and hospitalized we talk about the many church members who did not come to see us rather than those few who did. If we are honest we, unlike Paul, might have to say, “When I remember you I get angry.” That is almost certainly more of a statement about us rather than those whom we remember.

Paul’s prayer for the Philippian Christians continues: “Always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that he who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:4-5).

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Lannie & Glenda Key: be praying for both of them during this difficult time

Leonard Key: having a cancerous spot removed from his ear Monday, please pray that everything will go well

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

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 scheduled for hip replacement surgery July 14th, please be praying that the surgery will be successful without any complications

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 {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

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

Bill Berryhill: dealing with cancer, please be pray 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

Grady Powell: recovering from recent heart attack, please pray that he has a successful recovery

Clay Jones: recovering from recent ATV accident, please pray that he recovers without any complications

Becky Jones: she has been diagnosed with renal failure; please be keeping her in your prayers

The Apostle’s memories of his beloved Philippian converts included, in addition to gratitude, joy for their fellowship with him and optimism for their continued faithfulness to Christ. Should we not seek to focus our memories and associations upon those who provoke in us the same emotions.

Yes, there is much evil in this world. There are many people of bad character and behavior. These impact us and create challenges and obstacles that may seem difficult to overcome. But never forget that there is also much good in this world, and people who love us and wish us only good. Let us focus on these, remembering the good they have done for us and giving God the credit and the thanks for their involvement in our lives.

Let us remember those people who make us happy and grateful and about whose future we feel confident. Let us also strive to be the kind of people who provoke those kinds of memories in others.

Obtained at: www.forthright.net

Vacation Bible School

July 18th – 22nd

6:30-8:00 pm

“A Royal Adventure”

Which is the real thing?

By Michael Brooks

“Since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you. For though he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you. Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you – unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified” (2 Corinthians 13:3-6 NKJV).

I once had my email hacked while I was out of the country, then used to try to raise money fraudulently by writing to my home congregation in my name, saying I had an emergency and needed several thousand dollars to be sent to me immediately. Those in the church office recognized the appeal as false because, as one reported to me later, they asked, “Have you ever seen anything written by Mike with that many grammatical mistakes in it?” Maybe all that high school and college English had some value after all.

When men of the tribe of Ephraim attacked Jephthah’s army because they were not invited to participate in the battle against the Ammonites (Judges 11-12), survivors from Ephraim’s defeated army sought to escape across the Jordan River. Jephthah’s men guarded the fords and asked each one who came to cross to say the word “Shibboleth.” Those who were Ephraimites could not pronounce it correctly, but said “Sibboleth” instead. Those were killed at the crossing points, being unable to hide their true identity as enemies.

The church in Corinth was troubled by teachers of the circumcision party who sought to undermine Paul’s teaching by claiming that he was not a genuine apostle (2 Corinthians 10:7-11). They demanded proof of his authority (13:3). In turn, Paul suggested that they would better examine themselves to see if their faith was genuine (verse 5).

Similarly, John commanded, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1). Many teachers were visiting early churches, each claiming inspiration by the Holy Spirit. John warned that some of those claims were false. How were they to determine genuine prophets from those who were

counterfeit? “By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God” (1 John 4:2-3).

How do we identify the truth, or distinguish it from falsehood? Today, just as in John’s time, there are many “spirits” (different teachers) abroad in the world. One may be easily confused by the various doctrines that abound. John showed that first we must compare all teaching against the proven standard of Scripture.

The Spirit does not contradict himself. If one who comes today is not preaching the same gospel originally taught by the Apostles of Christ, he is not to be believed or accepted (Galatians 1: 6-10). Anything not preserved for us by God’s Spirit (i.e., anything not taught in the Bible) is of men and is fleshly, not spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:6-16).

This is not a new tactic, developed in modern times. Even as the Gospel was being preached for the first time in Europe we find sincere believers comparing the apostle’s message with Old Testament prophecy “to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

A second test of truth is to examine the results of what is taught. Paul wrote to Titus to confront false teachers who “profess to know God, but in works they deny him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work” (Titus 1:16). God’s grace has taught us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live “soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:11-12), not in strife, laziness, and immorality.

Jesus is “the Truth” (John 14:6). He is genuine and real. His disciples must follow truth and deny all that is false. By doing so we are able to “save [ourselves] and those who hear [us]” (1 Timothy 4:16). But if we believe and teach that which is false, we find ourselves under a curse (Galatians 1:8-9). May that never be.

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