

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Billy Box

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

Closing Prayer: Eddy Dickinson

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

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

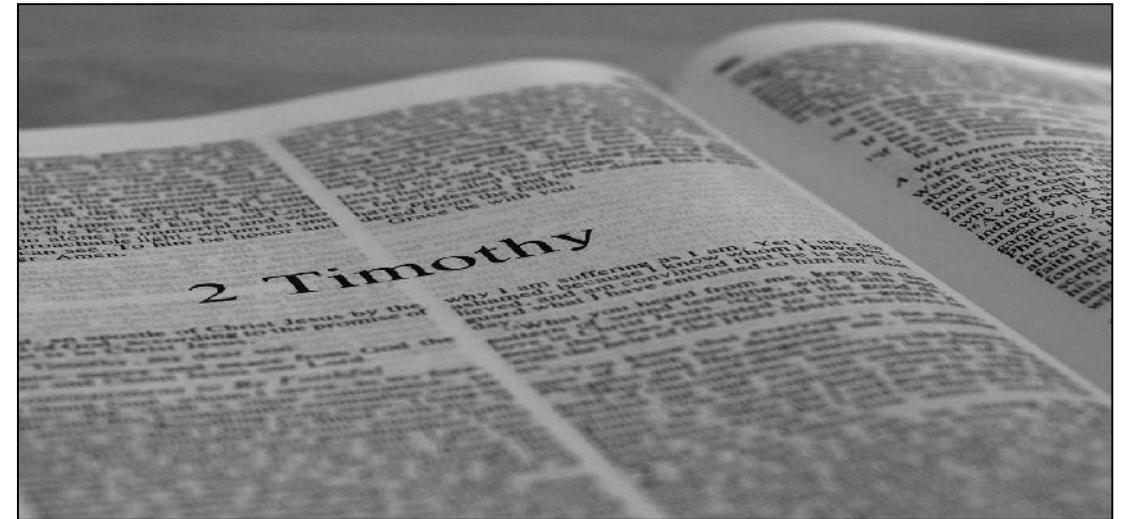
Minister: Greg Lowery

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Perilous Times



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Righteousness Exalteth A Nation

By Batsell Barrett Baxter

When a giant airliner crashes with great loss of life the Civil Aeronautics Bureau immediately launches an investigation to discover the cause of the crash. When the stock market plunges analyst immediately go to work to study the reasons for the economic downswing. When someone becomes sick and dies we are concerned to know the cause of death. If death comes suddenly or if the disease is unusual an autopsy is performed. These are just a few areas in which man seeks causes for effects. We have long been convinced that nothing happens without some prior cause. Every cause has its effect and every effect has its cause. Sometimes the causes are many and intricately interwoven, but always there is a cause behind every occurrence.

When a nation such as ours -the richest, best fed, best clothed, best housed, most powerful, most influential, most modern, most advanced educationally and technically - suddenly reaches a state of near-anarchy, it is time to ask, “Why?” Although some would consider my answer oversimplification, I am convinced that the answer is not hard to discover. “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov.14:34). Our nation occupies its present precarious position, because its people have increasingly turned their back upon God and his eternal principles.

It is quite revealing to read the ten commandments, so basic a part of God’s law for man, and to think of the widespread disregard for these basic principles by modern man. The first of the ten says simply, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me”. How obviously people of our time disregard this commandment, having as the center of their lives their own personal pleasure and satisfaction rather than the God who created them. The second commandment says, “Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image...Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them”. In our materialistic age man often finds himself a slave to the machines and gadgets of the modern world.

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, recently broke his hip and had some of his stomach removed, please keep him and his family in your prayers

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

Al Corkren: is continuing to improve, please be praying that his recovery will be successful

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

David Warren: has been diagnosed with cancer, please pray that it will be treatable

Upcoming Events

Today - Thursday VBS @ 6:30 pm
July 28th 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: received a good report from the doctors Thursday, 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}: she is still dealing with some health issues , please pray that the doctors will be able to help her

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

Kye Jackson: {Lindsey’s son} diagnosed with arthritis he is 2 years old, pray that he will receive successful treatment for this arthritis

Faye Jordan (Vertie’s sister): she is improving and is in rehab in Fulton for 21 days, 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

Jeff York (Vetrie’s son): is back home and continues to improve, please pray that he has no further problems

Judy Shirley: had part of her lung removed because of cancer and is waiting to hear from the doctors, please pray that she will receive good news

Commandment number three reads, “Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain”. We are all aware that we hear this done on almost every corner and almost every hour of the day. Commandment number four reads, “Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy”. In our day, as part of the Christian era, this commandment would mean to respect the Lord’s Day by using it for the worship of God and the service of our fellowmen.

Next, the ten commandments deal with human relationships. The first mentioned is, “Honor thy father and thy mother.” How out of date this sounds in our modern world. Then comes, “Thou shalt not kill”. This, too, seems out of touch with modern reality. Ours is a land of killing and assassinations, and our age has developed more death-dealing machines than any previous century. The command next comes, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” This, too, is foreign to the modern twentieth century, for ours is an age in which the prophets of the new morality are brazenly claiming that the old standards are outmoded and actually harmful to mankind. Then comes the command, “Thou shalt not steal”. It is followed by, “Thou shalt not bear false witness”. Then, finally, we read, “Thou shalt not covet” (Ex. 20:1-17). These commands, stated here in their briefest form, have been the foundation for most civilizations of the past and must be foundation stones in any civilization that is to last. Our widespread disregard of these principles is in large measure responsible for our national plight today. The words of the prophet Hosea are coming true, “They sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind”.

The crucial fact is that modern man-often led by prominent theologians-has ignored God. He sometimes declares openly that God does not exist. Even more often he lives as though God did not exist. The inevitable result is a crumbling of ethics and morals. There is no way to sustain a nation’s moral behavior apart from religion. Unless we return to God and his truths our nation faces anarchy.

It was the apostle Paul in 1st Cor. 10:12, who wrote, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”. As a great and powerful nation this admonition ought to be taken seriously by America. Nations rise, but they also fall. Our future may not be nearly as glorious as has been our past. To use an expression from the book of Daniel, in recent days we may have seen the “handwriting on the wall”.

In a sense our nation is like a man who has suffered a heart attack. Often we hear of some friend or neighbor who has suddenly been stricken with a heart attack and is in critical condition in some hospital. He was a man who pushed himself too hard physically, ate too much of rich foods, and took little care of his body. After the attack he lies critically ill for a few days, during which time it is not known with certainty whether he will live or die. Then, a few days later the doctor smiles and says, “I believe he will make it”. After a few weeks the man is able to go home. He has been shocked and warned by the unexpected attack. He now takes care of his body through rest and through the absence of long extended pressure. He eats more wisely. He protects himself. As a result, he lives many years. Our nation is like such a man. It is now in a state of crisis, but if we are wise, if we return to God and let him direct us, we will yet have many years in which to live. However, this is only if we make amends and live with concern and caution.

Our situation is not hopeless, though it is indeed grave. Having turned our back upon God, as a nation, we must turn toward God and again become responsible to his directions. We are encouraged by the fact that God always is willing to forgive those who seek his forgiveness and change the direction of their lives. The story of the prodigal son (Luke 15) affords us great hope. God never wearies of helping those who return to him and ask for help. This is our hope in this mid-twentieth century in one of the most serious crises of our national existence. May we have the wisdom and the will to return to God while there is yet time.

The Spiritual Sword, vol. 2, no. 4, July 1971, p. 49-50.

Doctrine is Not a Four Letter Word

By Dan Jenkins

The spirit of compromise which permeates our society may be blessing in some areas, but it has little place in regard to the clear teachings of the Bible. Its presence has led to a watered-down teaching in churches in America. While the Bible doctrine about morality is clear, denominations are struggling to deal with divorce for every cause, living together without marriage and homosexuality. The same is true about how God wants us to worship, the organization of church, the path to salvation and many aspects of Christian living. It is as though there is no doctrinal teaching on these matters. This spirit of compromise has made doctrine a four-letter word.

Jesus Taught Doctrine

Take time to read the Sermon on the Mount in its entirety. Do not stop after the Beatitudes (which some would not view as doctrine) but read all three chapters where the sermon is found. It is filled with a precise teaching and leaves little room for religious compromise. Immediately after the beatitudes, Jesus attacks the false teaching of the religious leaders in a series of topics centered around “You have heard it has been said” and Jesus’ words, “But I say unto you.” Clear doctrinal teaching is what Jesus did. He did not think that doctrine was a four-letter word. He exalted it.

At the end of these three chapters, pay special attention to what is said, “When He had finished these sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine, for He taught them as one who has authority” (Matt. 7:28-29). Churches in America, where the teachings of the Bible are being compromised, stand in marked contrast to the doctrinal preaching of Jesus. Remember that Jesus said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me” (John 7:16). What did He do with that doctrine given to Him? He gave it to the apostles. “For I have given to them the words which You have given to Me” (John 17:8).

The Apostles Taught Doctrine

What did the apostles do with those words? How did they use them? After Jesus ascended to heaven, they gave the doctrine to the world. On the day the church began it is stated, “They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42). They taught in the temple and when arrested were charged, “You have filled all Jerusalem with this doctrine” (Acts 5:28). When Paul taught in Athens his listeners said, “May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak” (Acts 17:19). The apostles taught that salvation comes when men “...obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine” (Rom. 6:17).

Let’s talk more about doctrine in next week’s article. Remember that doctrine is not a four-letter word!

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