

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddie Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Al Corkren

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

Closing Prayer: Billy Box

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: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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

Contact Information:
Phone: (205) 465-9142

Missionary Report

Mike Brooks



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Believing What One Reads

By Mike Brooks

“How can you say, ‘We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us?’ But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie. The wise men shall be put to shame; they shall be dismayed and taken; behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord, so what wisdom is in them?” (Jeremiah 8:8-9, ESV).

How often have we heard or said, “You cannot believe everything you read?” Human writers make mistakes. They also are always influenced by their own preconceptions, experience, education, and abilities, to say nothing of pressure from outside to conform to the demands of others. Sometimes, sadly, they just plain lie.

Even when it comes to sacred Scripture, which is from God and therefore is true (2 Timothy 3:16-17), we today are dependent upon other humans to preserve, translate, and explain it to us (as in Nehemiah 8:5-8). God’s word is absolutely dependable. Human teachers, not so much so.

I was with Bangla friends in a communications store a few years ago. There were signs in the window telling of the services which the store provided. I read one of the signs that was printed in the Bangla language. An employee laughed and said, “You are reading that from the English, not the Bangla.” Until then I had not noticed that the other window, on the opposite side of the door had a similar sign printed in English. I replied, “No, I am reading the Bangla – the English is not the same.” My companions laughed and agreed that the wording differed.

English readers of the Bible today are blessed to be heirs of nearly 700 years of Bible translation, primarily by sincere believers whose goal was to render God’s words as accurately as possible into the language of the common man (that is, those who knew English). Some translations have been primarily or entirely the work of one person. Others have been done by committees of various sizes. The modern reader has a wide range of choices, most of which are demonstrably scholarly and accurate. If there is any doubt as to the fidelity of a particular translation to the original one has many others with which to compare it.

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

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

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

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

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Jack Willis (Meg Rutledge’s Father) is fighting cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Josh Berryhill: dealing with back trouble, please pray that with proper medical treatment that he will improve

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Ruth Addison: ongoing health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Nelle Fraizer (Lellie’s Sister); she has some ongoing health problems

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy) in March. Doctors have suggested that they go to Italy for gene replacement treatment that hasn't been approved in the U.S. Treatments will take 4 months; please pray that these treatments will be successful

Amelia Key: recovering from recent hip surgery, please pray for a successful recovery

Upcoming Events

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Today | Missionary Report (Mike Brooks) | 10:00 am |
| August 9 th | Missionary Report (Jerry Bates) | 5:00 pm |

But whenever humans are involved, mistakes can be made, and errors can be introduced either accidentally or deliberately. Jeremiah warned Israel to trust God’s word, but be wary of the scribes (copyists and teachers). Our Bibles are reliable, especially when one studies from multiple translations. But commentaries and other study helps must always be read critically with awareness of the limitations of any writer.

We should always be mindful of the responsibility of the reader or hearer. Note that Jeremiah concludes concerning the wise men who read the scribes’ writings, “Behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord, so what wisdom is in them?” One who listens to men, regardless of the claims they make, and follow error, are themselves responsible.

The young prophet from Judah who died because he believed what an older prophet told him (1 Kings 13:1-32) is an example of this responsibility. God had given him direct instructions. The older prophet claimed to have his own, contradictory, message from God. But that man was lying. When the young prophet believed and followed his instructions God pronounced judgment upon him, not the lying older man.

Many today blindly trust and follow a particular preacher, commentator, or church tradition, not trying to determine their accuracy. The Bible clearly warns us that the reader will account for what and whom he or she believes and follows.

Obtained at: www.forthright.net

Time Well Spent

By Mike Brooks

“If the ax is dull, and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength, but wisdom brings success” (Ecclesiastes 10:10 NKJV).

I recently watched a man in South Asia cut down a mahogany tree with a hatchet. The tree was probably 20 inches or so in diameter, with a fairly full top, and he climbed up near the top then began trimming branches. When he had it trimmed down to the main trunk only, then he came to the ground and cut it at the roots. Some of the work he did with a crosscut saw, but most was with a hand ax. If you have never tried it, take it from me, that is a hard job. This man did it well, and it did not take a very long time.

One secret to his ease and quickness was that before he started, he took several minutes to use his hone and sharpen the blade of his ax. Dull axes don't cut well. A sharp edge will make any cutting job easier and faster, and it will produce a much better overall result.

The Preacher of ancient Israel (also known as the author of Ecclesiastes) understood this principle. One can expend energy and time in preparing properly for a task, or one can spend extra energy and time in trying to complete a task for which he lacks tools, skills, or proper planning. To an inexperienced person, time spent sharpening an ax may seem like time that is wasted. The truth is one often saves much time in the long run by using a little to prepare well before the job is begun.

Notice the last line of the text quoted above. “But wisdom brings success.” In this case, it was wise to sharpen the axe. Experience teaches us and one is wise who learns those lessons. Folly is to neglect one's tools and so make his work more difficult.

There are other applications of this simple saying. First one must recognize that the ax is dull. Not everyone knows how to do that. Not everyone thinks to do it. But those who correctly evaluate the situation avoid problems from the very beginning. To do a job efficiently one must acquire the proper tools and skills, and enlist sufficient help. Or in other words, make good preparation.

Finally this saying illustrates that when one uses his mind he may often spare his back. Thinking to sharpen the ax meant that he did not have to use as much strength. Wisdom helps us in many ways, not least to avoid unnecessary and unproductive effort.

The proverb presented by the Preacher is not primarily intended as a guide to forestry or cutting trees. He placed it at the end of a brief paragraph about work (Ecclesiastes 10:8-10). In the previous verses he stated that one may suffer as a result of well-meant efforts. For example one who works in a stone-quarry may have one fall on him. One who cuts wood may be injured in his labor. That is the nature of certain tasks – they are dangerous. But he is not suggesting that his readers refuse any work that includes risks. Rather he is advising that the worker be aware of the risk and take appropriate precautions.

That is a fair and accurate appraisal of life. We will face hardship. Whatever we do may endanger us. But if we prepare well, and take heed of the dangers, we have a good opportunity for success. That is true both physically and spiritually. In the Preacher's experience, if one sharpens his ax and works carefully he will be blessed in life.

Obtained at: www.forthright.net