

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	
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 / Eddie Dickinson

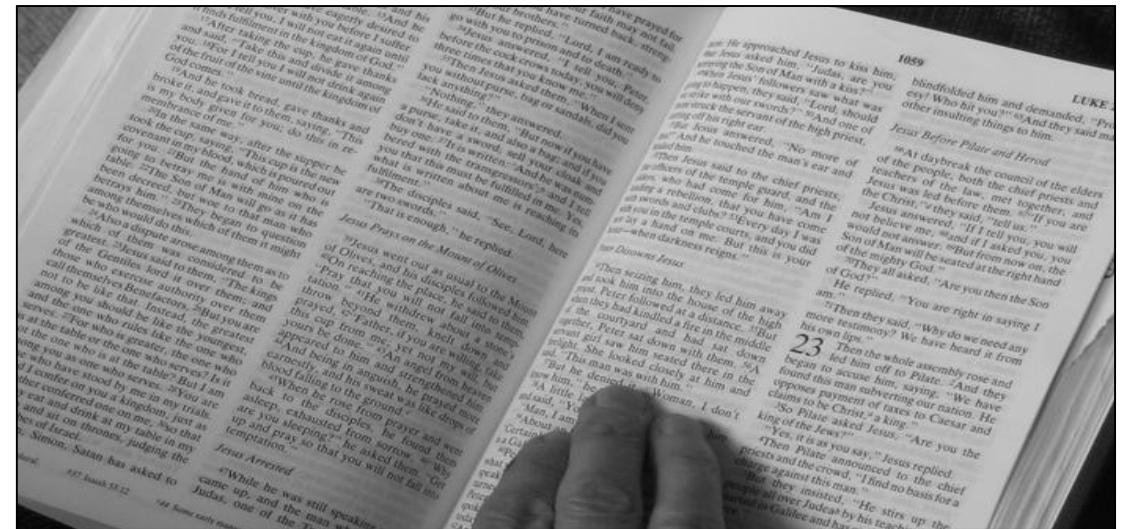
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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Is Satan Using Me



*The
 Brilliant
 Beacon*



A Tongue Just Long Enough to Slit One's Throat

By Mike Gifford

The third chapter of James has a great deal to say about the human tongue. It's not the physical tongue itself that is the focus of discussion. Rather, the word "tongue" is used figuratively to represent our speech. In particular, James is dealing with the way we speak about others. Read carefully these inspired words:

"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceeding blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh." (James 3:8-12).

Keeping the tongue from making unkind and unnecessary comments is a major task. In the verses prior to the reading above, James wrote that the tongue is a fire (verse 6) and that while man has been able to bring beasts, birds and other creatures into subjection (verse7), he has not been able to tame his tongue. Consequently, the untamed tongue goes unchecked in its loose talk and bitter destruction of others through gossip and rumors and catty comments. The untamed tongue lashes out like an uncontrolled, two-edged blade, cutting people apart and eventually slitting one's own throat with words that one day come back to haunt him or her.

Even Christians are not above the temptation to slice away with their tongues from time to time. "Did you hear about..." and "I shouldn't say this, but..." and "I'm not supposed to tell this to anyone but..." are phrases that unfortunately often begin sentences out of Christian's mouths. Paul had to deal with this when he wrote to the Galatians, "For all the law is fulfilled in this one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." (Galatians 5:14-15).

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Please remember the family of Faye Cotton; Mrs. Faye will be deeply missed by so many.

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

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

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

Sue Berryhill: had a cancerous spot removed from her hip, let us pray that the surgeon was able to remove all the cancer, she will get another report in a few days.

Bobby Sanderson: is in rehab at the nursing home in Winfield and he is improving, please pray that improvement continues and that he will have a complete recovery.

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

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

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

Upcoming Events

Tonight	Singing & Praying	5:00 pm
August 5 th	Country Place	2:00 pm
August 12 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm

Thank You To All You Helped

I just wanted to say thank you to all you helped and prayed for Faye over the past few weeks especially. I know that some of you know full too well what her family is going through know after her passing and what they were going through before she passed. Let us continue to pray for this family. Also it is important that we always understand that as Christians our Master expects us to live a life of faithfulness, during the good times and bad. Let us all learn to lean on God and each other more for strength so we can all make Heaven our eternal abode one day. (Greg)

We expect such loose talk from worldly lips, but Christians should be above this careless and unrighteous use of the tongue. We have so many wonderful ways in which we can use our words that it seems we should barely have time to employ them as weapons against our fellow man and, yes, even our fellow Christians. We can teach God's Word (Mark 16:15), speak words of comfort (I Thessalonians 4:18), exhort others to obedience (II Timothy 4:2), and carry encouraging words to those who need lifting up (I Thessalonians 3:5-7). As we think of this, let's remember James' comment that the tongue is a fire. Let's also remember that fire can be a good thing. It can warm. It can cook. It can provide light. Fire doesn't have to be destructive. It can be beneficial. So also that little fire between our teeth doesn't have to be destructive. It can be used for so many wonderful purposes.

Satan has a bagful of useful tools for destroying a congregation of the Lord's church. None is more effective for him than the tool of loose talk among Christians. Such talk leads to "confusion and every evil work" (James 3:16). When Christians have enough time to stand around and criticize, gossip, complain and spread rumors, it usually means that they aren't very busy in the Lord's work. The more we involve ourselves in service to God, the less time we have for such unholy use of the tongue. Dear Christian, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt..." (Galatians 4:6).

Obtained at: www.cartersvillechurchofchrist.org

I Will Do My Best To Serve The Lord...When?

By Victor M. Eskew

The duty of all Christians is to serve the Lord. “Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Rom. 6:18). “But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life” (Rom. 6:22). As we serve the Lord, our desire should be to serve Him to the best of our ability. Surely each of us would affirm: “I WILL do my best to serve the Lord.” Let’s look at this simple statement for a few minutes.

First, it begins with the word “I.” “I” is a personal pronoun referring to self. Our first responsibility in Christian living is to self. Self is the only one over which we have complete control. Ultimately, self is the only person we can truly save. In His instructions about judging others, Jesus teaches us to first judge ourselves. “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?...Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye” (Matt. 7:3, 5). Dear reader, if we do not focus upon self, nothing else really matters (Matt. 16:26).

Second, we read the words “will do.” These words are action words. Action is what Christian living is all about. James reminds us of this in his epistle. “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves...But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” James 1:22, 25). Jesus was a doer during His earthly sojourn. He said: “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). Paul’s life was filled with doing. He summarized the actions of his life in II Timothy 4:7. “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” There are many, many things that a Christian should be doing on a regular basis. From sun up till sun set, our lives are all about doing good and laboring in the vineyard of the Lord.

Third, we read about the standard that we have set for our Christian service. I will do “my best.” The word “best” is defined as “the highest quality, excellence, standing.” Best does not involve “just getting by.” Best does not refer to mediocrity. Best involves one’s whole heart. It involves paying attention to details. Doing one’s best will not allow him to take shortcuts. Best is not about easing one’s conscience.

It is about fully engaging in one’s labor for the Master. In Colossians 3:23, Paul writes: “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” His words were specifically addressed to Christian slaves. In their labors for their masters, they were to do their work “heartily.” The word “heartily” means “with vitality, with life, and with enthusiasm.” It involves putting one’s all into his work. If this is the way the Lord wants Christians to serve their earthly masters, don’t you think He desires the same from His spiritual servants?

Fourth, our best is to be applied to our service. Christians are bondservants. Their responsibility is to serve. Serving involves following the orders of a superior (Rom. 6:16). Serving involves doing the lowly tasks, the difficult jobs, and the thankless chores. Jesus demonstrated this when He took a towel and basin of water and washed the disciples’ feet (John 13:4-5). Just as a servant rises in his master’s house ready to serve the master, each Christians should rise ready to serve his master.

Fifth, the Master whom we serve is Jesus Christ. “I will do my best to serve the Lord.” Under the Old Covenant, the Jews were commanded as follows: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exo. 20:2). Jesus commanded, saying: “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Matt. 4:10). We do not serve self. We do not serve the dictates of others. We do not serve false gods. We serve only the Lord Jesus Christ. He, and He alone, is our Lord and Master.

The statement: “I will do my best to serve the Lord” is packed with deep meaning. It is a serious statement. It involves a serious commitment on our parts. Notice, however, that we have added one word to the statement in the title of this lesson. It is in the form of a question: “When?” In other words, when will each of us do our best to serve the Lord? Our answer should be today. “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee; behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)” (II Cor. 6:2). Now is the only time that we have been promised. Yesterday is in the past. Tomorrow may never come. Dear reader, if not now, when? Take a calendar out and mark the date. Tell us exactly when you plan to do your best to serve the Lord. We want you to do this because the Lord wants to know. He has done so much for you. Now, he wants you to do your best to serve Him. He has a right to know when you will do this. Our prayer is that you will say: “Today. Right now!”

Obtained at: www.oceansidechurchofchrist.net