

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Billy Box

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Eddy Dickinson, Ralph Burleson, Gary Addison

Closing Prayer: David Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper: Vertie Mae 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

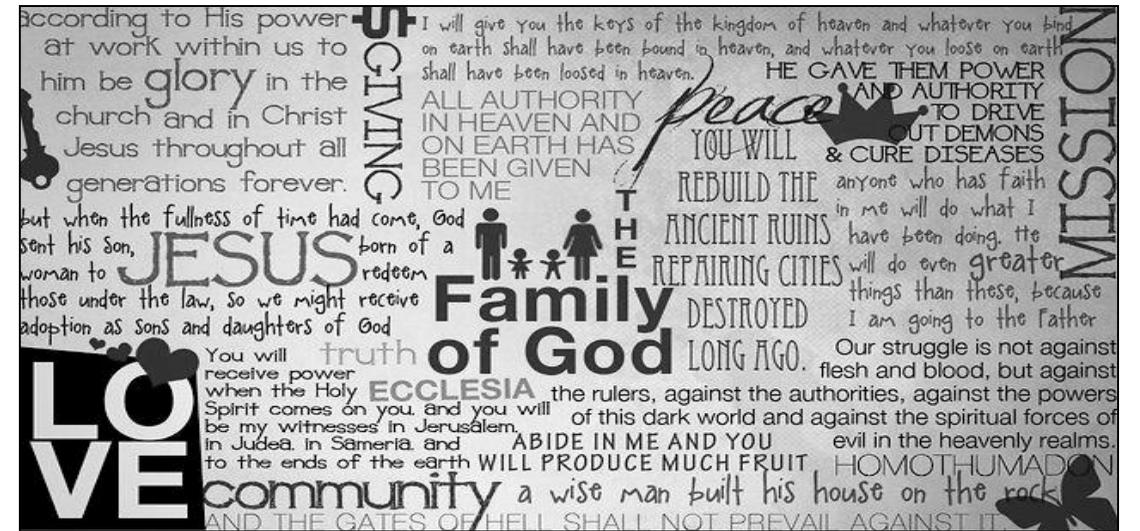
Elders: Deacon: Al Corkren
Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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The Household of God



The Brilliant Beacon



Who Needs the Church?

By Jon Mitchell

There are many people who go through life thinking that their relationship with God is just fine while they have little or no relationship with the church. The reasons they give for staying away from the assembly range from hypocrisy, real or imagined, to the idea that they can just as meaningfully worship at the fishing hole, in the garden or on the couch. The line from the Don Williams song rings true for them: “I don’t believe that heaven waits for only those who congregate.” Their view of Jesus may be that he simply wanted to spread a message of love. They may see the church as a non-vital body part like an appendix that they can just as easily do without.

No one can deny that the church is an imperfect thing. By its nature it will always be imperfect because it is made up of imperfect people just like the folks who criticize it for its imperfections. But neither can one deny the church’s rightful place and priority in the life of the Christian...if one believes what the Bible says. The New Testament simply knows nothing of a faithful Christian who is willfully unattached to other Christians through corporate worship and spiritual fellowship. Here are just a few of the truths that the New Testament teaches us about the church.

First, the church is the body of Christ (Col. 1:24). To cut yourself off from the church is to be cut off from the body, to be amputated. The amputated hand is not only cut off from the arm but also from the head, who is Christ (Col. 1:18). Let’s be real clear. The amputated body part dies. So does the amputated Christian.

The church is also the bride of Christ (Heb. 12:22-24; cf. Rev. 21:2). Think about that for a minute. If we are part of the church, we are part of the bride of Christ. So if we leave the church, what are we doing? Aren’t we basically walking out on Christ? Ending our spiritual marriage to him? (Rom. 7:1-4)

The apostle Paul said that the church is the place where God is glorified (Eph. 3:21). If one leaves the place where God is glorified, how does that one going about glorifying God? Isn’t it a sign that this person is more concerned with what they want than what God wants?

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Faye Cotton: recent scans showed little to no growth, please be praying that some new treatment can be found that will help her

Denise Kimbrell: has completed her treatments; please be praying that cancer will not return

Kay Dodd: received good report from recent scans, will continue treatments just as a precaution, please continue to pray that this cancer will stay in remission

Katie Berryhill: diagnosed with gestational diabetes, please pray that this will be controlled and that she will have a successful delivery

Barbara Wilkinson: still having problem with infection on her feet, please pray that the medicine she is taking will cure this infection

Danny Harbin: recently diagnosed with prostate cancer, please keep him in your prayers

Mable Weeks: recent scans showed no new growth of cancer, please continue to pray that this cancer can be defeated

Cory Davis Holmes: born May 4th with neuroblastoma which has spread to his liver, he is undergoing treatments, please pray for this young child and his family

Sandy McCaleb: has started cancer treatments, please be praying that this cancer can be treated and defeated

Edward Skinner: has been recently diagnosed with cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Charles Gay: has a brain tumor, attends the Cleveland congregation, please pray for him and his family

Adam Stidham; (co-worker of Al) has been diagnosed with leukemia, please pray that this will be treatable

Upcoming Events

Today	Country Place {Devotional}	2:00 pm
August 13 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Rebert Corkren: diagnosed with lung cancer, please be praying that he will receive the help needed defeat this cancer

Kristy Ingram: was diagnosed with cancer and is presently undergoing treatments, please pray that these treatments will work

Pam Burkett: (Kim's sister) is fighting breast cancer, please pray that she can receive treatment that will defeat this cancer

Larry Metcalf: has been diagnosed with lung cancer; please pray that he can receive treatments that will defeat this cancer

Danny Berryhill: the doctor was pleased with the surgery, please be praying that he will make a full recovery and that the pain will be subsided.

Wayne Burleson: had an implant placed into his brain to help control tremors that he is having, please pray that this treatment will be successful

Dewayne Wilkinson: has a fungus growing on his lungs, please pray that with treatment this fungus will be cleared from his lungs

David Key: his surgery went well; please pray that he will make a full and quick recovery

Alice Foster: diagnosed with congestive heart failure and having problems with her lungs she is currently in the nursing home undergoing rehab, please keep her in your prayers

Paul also called the church the household, or family, of God (1 Tim. 3:15). To leave the church is to leave God's family. It is to be the prodigal son or daughter (Luke 15:11-32). And until we, like the prodigal son, "come to our senses," we'll be sloppin' with the pigs.

Peter called the church the possession of God (1 Pet. 2:9). If we decide to no longer be a part of the church, we decide to no longer be part of what God owns. Therefore, we are striking out on our own, being on our own man or woman rather than God's. That might sound good for a while, this independence, but as far as eternity goes it is the last place we want to be.

Finally, Paul said that Jesus is the Savior of the church (Eph. 5:23). Do you want Christ to be your Savior? Do you want him to save you from an eternity in hell? If you do, then you need to be in his body, the church...because he is the Savior of the church. The church is who he saves. Back in Noah's day, there was only one place to be if you wanted to avoid drowning...in the ark. Today, there is only one place to be if you want to avoid hell...in the church of Christ.

The church isn't perfect as it exists on the earth. We've already established that fact and that's news to no one. But it is perfect in its design because God is its Designer. God created it with the realization that it would be populated by imperfect people. A few of those imperfect people may be insincere hypocrites who have no interest in being truly transformed. God knows who they are. But the rest of them are conscientious men and women who are acutely aware of their own sin and shortcomings. They know they are not perfect in and of themselves. But they also know they are perfected by the One who is. So they stay with his church. You would do well to stay with it too.

Otherwise you'll spend longer than you bargained for with those hypocrites you allowed to keep you from the church.

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

Importance of Obedience

By Dan Jenkins

As Jesus began teaching, He went to a mountaintop and with His disciples around Him, He startled those who heard Him by the way He preached. “When Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matt. 7:28-29). So much of what He taught was so different from what most individuals thought about religion.

Many Jews of His day strongly believed that the outward manifestation of their devotion was the evidence of their acceptance by God. They thought that long, repetitious prayers publicly delivered showed that those praying were accepted by God (Matt. 6:5-7). They thought that regular fasting characterized by disfigured faces indicated the holiness of the person fasting (Matt. 6:16-18). They thought that those who gave great gifts to those in need, in such a way so that others saw it, was the proof of great spirituality (Matt. 6:1-3).

Jesus looked at those who taught these ideas and described them as wolves who looked like sheep. He urged His followers to take a deeper look at these religious leaders and judge them by their fruits (Matt. 7:15-16).

Look at the clarity of His words as He neared the end of this discourse, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 7:21). This was the exact opposite of those who defined spirituality with the wrong measure. Those who did this thought their salvation was assured because they called Him “Lord,” yet Jesus said that such did not guarantee acceptance.

He then mentioned other things which would not bring salvation. At the final judgment there would be those prophets (preachers) claiming to speak for God who would be lost. He said that there would be those who claimed they were performing miracles like casting out demons who would be lost. He said there would be those who claimed to perform mighty deeds who also would hear the words, “Depart from Me, I never knew you” (Matt. 7:22-23).

Then, who will be saved? He answers this in one brief phrase and one parable. Who will be saved—those who do the will of My Father (Matt. 7:21)! External religion without obedience to what He says cannot bring salvation. The parable of the two builders vividly shows one’s “spiritual house” does not stand unless the rules are followed.

It is not enough to be religious. The only one who is assured by Jesus of salvation is the one who “...does the will of My Father.” True religion is manifested in the life of an individual, but those deeds come from a heart which first seeks the will of the Father. This shows the importance of obedience!

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