

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Billy Box

On the Table: Head - Eddy Dickinson
Servers - Greg Lowery
Josh Berryhill
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

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: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

Contact Information:

Phone: (205) 465-9142

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

The Bible Is Enough



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Who Are We?

By Alan Highers

Many people today understand the need of having a sense of identity, that is, a recognition of who we are and whence we came. Adopted children, as never before, are seeking birth records, desiring to know their family backgrounds, notwithstanding the problems this sometimes creates. Others are also interested in knowing their family history: family names, places of birth, ancestral homes, positions and occupations, burial sites, and all other relevant information. Family reunions, it seems, are popular again. Distant relatives converge upon a chosen locale, kinspeople talk and visit among themselves about their various connections, and impressions are deepened about the past. All of this gives us a greater feeling of belonging, it strengthens our ties, and it increases family loyalty.

Loss of Spiritual Identity

In the church over the past several decades, however, there seems to have been a loss of this same sense of identity, this loyalty to the spiritual family, and even this sort of understanding and comprehension about who we are and what we are...

There was a time when one almost never heard of anyone “leaving the church”. People sometimes became unfaithful, went back to the world, or ceased to be active members, but the thought of their leaving and joining some denomination was rare indeed. It almost never happened. Why? It was because members of the church at the time were nearly all grounded in the faith. They knew what was wrong with denominationalism, even if they did not always live up to what they knew was right. They might become unfaithful, but they could not bring themselves to join some religious institution they could not find in the Bible. A large percentage of the members never fell away at all. They were faithful members of the body of Christ all of their lives.

In this day, of course, it is not uncommon to hear about members leaving the church and uniting with a denomination. The change may be because of business interest, social advantage, marital harmony, or life style. In any case, their action represents a lack of understanding about the nature and identity of the church. We are reaping the harvest of twenty-five years of non-distinctive preaching. Many of our young people no longer know the difference between the church of the New Testament and the ecclesiastical kingdoms built by men.

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

Jamie Long: has an upcoming hernia surgery, please be praying for a successful surgery

Susie Sims (Whitehouse): has a benign tumor on the auditory nerve in her right ear, she will taking radiation treatments to stop the tumor from growing, please pray that the treatments will be successful

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

Alex, Stachie, & David Chaffin: fighting COVID, please continue to pray that they will overcome this illness

Upcoming Events

Today	Fellowship Meal	
Tonight	Singing & Prayer Night	5:00 pm

Lack of Knowledge

The prophet Hosea said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (4:6). Isaiah stated: “Therefore my people are gone into captivity for lack of knowledge” (5:13). Amos prophesied that there would be a famine in the land-“not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of Jehovah” (8:11). Lo, there is such a famine today, even in the church. Churches of Christ are facing an identity crisis as we near the end of the twentieth century. We have always been known as a Bible-believing, Bible-practicing people. We have emphasized “book, chapter, and verse,” and “thus saith the Lord”. We have truly been a “people of the Book“. Our preaching and our teaching have been saturated with Bible stories, references, allusions, and quotations. But in these latter days, there is a decreasing emphasis upon the biblical message. Pulpits do not ring out with the gospel story as of old.

The Baptist Messenger recently lamented: “We have raised a generation of sissy preachers. Nobody, it seems, is preaching that the Word of God is the Word of God and that Hell is hot. God has not called us to be ambassadors of good will; he has called us to be ambassadors of God’s will”.

Some time ago a preacher/editor said to me: “Our young people are not buying the old arguments against instrumental music”. I replied: “No, our young people are not hearing the old arguments against instrumental music”. Some of them are soft on the issue of instrumental music-not because they have rejected what they have been taught, but because they have never been taught at all. They do not understand the principles involved. They have never heard the old arguments relating to Bible authority, speaking where the Bible speaks, and remaining silent where the Bible is silent. They have grown up in “socialized” churches where the youth program was strong, but the teaching program was weak. They have majored on minors and minored on majors. They studied Bible school literature that never dealt with distinctive differences with denominationalism because the literature was produced by denominational publishers in the first place and merely adapted for brotherhood use. They were never exposed to “book, chapter, and verse” preaching. Some of them grew up on a style of preaching in which the favorite text was “what is wrong with the church”. The old preachers, the old ways, and the old message, so dear to many of us, became to them an object of scorn and laughter, as they were incited to mirth by a new breed of preachers and youth specialists. It is little wonder that some have abandoned the church in our day!

Need for a Return

Contrary to what some have thought, there is a real hunger and appreciation today for “the old paths”. Distinctive doctrinal sermons, based on informed biblical studies, and presented plainly in a loving spirit, provoke widespread interest. Young people are often the first ones who manifest zeal and excitement at such preaching. Studies have shown for several years that growing churches are those which take a strong doctrinal stance. The old-line liberal denominations have been losing membership for some time. Why should we emulate their failures?

Paul admonished Timothy: “Preach the word“ (II Tim. 4:2). He warned of those who would not “endure the sound doctrine”. The prophet Jeremiah noted that “the prophets prophesy falsely,” but he said the real tragedy was that “my people love to have it so”

(Jer. 5:31). Isaiah was sent to a rebellious people whose plaintive plea was: “Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits” (Isa. 30:10). The warnings of the apostle to the Galatians cannot be overlooked; he said, “But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema” (Gal. 1:8).

There is an age-old tendency on the part of mankind to wander from the righteous pathway. The approach of the Father, however, has always been the same: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto Jehovah, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isa. 55:7).

Let us return to an emphasis upon a “thus saith the Lord”. May the word of God ring out from the pulpits and classrooms of every congregation. If we understand who we are and know that for which we stand, we will be “rooted and grounded in love,” and we will be “no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 3:17; 4:14). Our feet will be planted upon the solid rock and all of us, along with our children and our children’s children, will know what it means to be “faithful unto death” (Rev. 210).

The Spiritual Sword, vol. 26, no. 1, October 1994, p. 1-3.

Does Jesus Cry When We Die?

By Kevin Cauley

We read in John 11:35 these simple and sympathetic words: “Jesus wept [cry].” Jesus felt for others and loved them as we do when we lose someone close to us. The Bible talks about Jesus’ compassion (Matthew 15:32, 20:34, Mark 5:19, Mark 6:34, Luke 7:13). He really did care for others while He lived on the earth.

Jesus’ compassion flowed out of His divinity. It is God Who enabled Jesus’ humanity to have compassion for others and to weep. Psalm 116:5 says, “Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful.” Psalm 117:2 states, “For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!” Psalm 86:15 states, “But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.” In God’s mercy, He hears our cries to Him: “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry” (Psalm 34:15). He cares for us very deeply. Peter wrote, “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). Yes, Jesus cares even now!

Does Jesus cry when we die? Certainly. Jesus mourns over all death. He wept for us in the garden of Gethsemane understanding that He was dying for all (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). However, this mourning is momentary. Psalm 30:5 states, “For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.” In Revelation 14:13 we read, “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”

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