

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddy Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Greg Lowery

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill  
Servers - Lannie Key  
Ralph Burleson  
Gary Addison

Closing Prayer: Leonard Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper: Katie Berryhill

**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](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

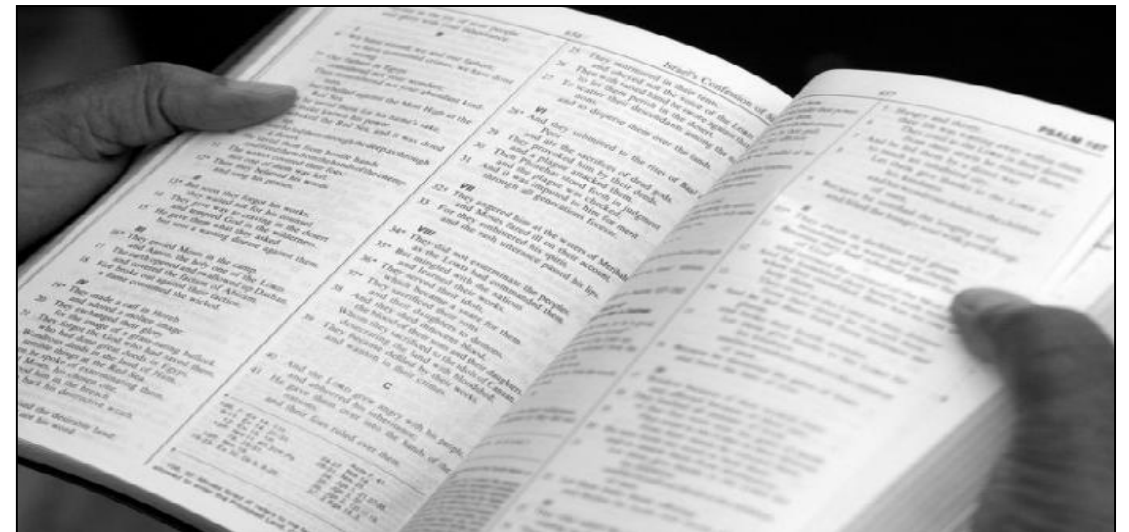
Elders: Deacon: Al Corkren  
Leonard Key / David Key  
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

**Contact Information:**

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

Phone: (205) 465-9142

# And It Came To Pass



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**The Importance of Membership in the Church**

By Sam Willcut

It is a sad truth that we are living in a time when many people are disgruntled with what they refer to as “orga-nized religion.” Thus, while they aspire to be “spiritual” (by their own definition), they refuse to investigate any church, much less the church of our Lord. It is amazing the number of people who claim to read, believe and obey the Bible, but are unclear on what God teaches in His word about this important topic. Must one be a member of the church of Christ to go to heaven? Can one be a Christian and not be a faithful member of the church about which we read in the New Testament?

First, let me underscore the fact that we are living in a generation that seeks to move away from the church. As I get older, I see more and more people try to diminish the role of the church in the life of a Christian. Nevertheless, Christ came to establish this very institution: “I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18). Thus, to diminish this institution is to diminish an aspect of the work of our Savior. How did He build His church? Listen to the apostle Paul: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). In other words, Jesus came to shed His blood in order to purchase this institution. For a follower of Jesus, this sounds very important to me! I cannot diminish the role of the church of my Lord as being unimportant if its establishment cost Him His own life on Calvary!

Second, we must understand the role and purpose of the church. Contrary to a belief that is becoming more and more popular, the role of this valuable institution is not “to collect money and acquire power” (as some allege), although this happens today in pseudo-organizations that pretend to be the church of our Lord. The word “church” in the Greek refers to a group of people whom God calls out of the world and into the body of Christ. In fact, we must remember the important phrase in the New Testament—“in Christ.”

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Faye Cotton: recent blood work was good, goes Sep. 25<sup>th</sup> for more scans, 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: has several ongoing health problems, please continue to keep her in your prayers

Cory Davis Holmes: was born with neuroblastoma, he is undergoing treatments and is showing improvement, 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

Charles Gay: last scan showed shrinkage with his 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

Brandon Adams: {BHS Band Director} diagnosed with stage four liver cancer, please pray that he can receive treatment to defeat this cancer

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Barbra Fields: recently had surgery to remove a tumor from her colon, please pray that cancer will not be found.

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

Sonya Campbell: {Jacob & Whitney Cotton’s Mother} has some respiratory problems, she is home and is showing signs of improvement, please continue to keep her in your prayers

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: having some heart problems, please pray that he can receive help with this

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

Christie Fletcher: will have surgery September 20<sup>th</sup> to remove a place in her mouth, please be praying that the surgery will be successful.

Greg Stidham {Adam Stidham’s father}: suffered severe injuries in a recent auto accident, please pray that he can recover from these injuries.

The Greek preposition translated “in” refers to Christ as a location. Thus, for one to be in the location of Christ, he is in the body of Christ, or in other words, one is in the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). The New Testament teaches that there is no difference. Thus, let us ask this all-important question: “Can one go to heaven who is not ‘in Christ?’” The authoritative word of God answers this question in the negative—Christ is the Savior of His body (Eph. 5:23).

In conclusion, it is unfortunate that there is so much confusion concerning the church of Christ. While I have never stated, “If you are not a member of the church of Christ, you are going to hell,” I have said, “You must be a member of the church of Christ if you are going to heaven!” I can assure everyone that the church of Christ owes her existence to the Lord and His apostles from the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. Let us be sure that we teach the truth, but do so with tactfulness and love in our hearts and on our lips.

Obtained at: [www.churchofchristarticles.com](http://www.churchofchristarticles.com)

**God’s Presence in Our World Includes You**

By Dan Jenkins

It is obvious that God did not remove Himself from the world when Adam and Eve turned away from Him. It is obvious that He did not remove Himself from the world when Noah’s generation totally forgot about Him. It is obvious that He continued to be a part of the nation of Israel when His chosen people so often left Him. God longs to be a part of His creation. The tragedy is that His creation often does not want to be a part of God and His holiness.

God’s eternal plan was to establish the church. What might not be immediately obvious is that from the time sin entered the world His plan was to ultimately find its perfection in the coming of Jesus and the establishment of the church. Paul describes it using these words, “That in the...fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ” (Eph. 1:10). Both Jew and Gentile were to be reconciled “to God in one body through the cross” (Eph. 2:16). His plan was to establish His one body and that body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23).

God’s eternal plan was for the church to reveal Him to all mankind. The beauty of this plan is seen in the Sermon on the Mount. In the beginning of the Savior’s work, He talked about the attitude His followers should have. They were to be poor in spirit, to be meek, to hunger and thirst for righteousness, to be merciful, to be pure in heart and to be peacemakers. When those who followed Him had embraced these beatitudes, they would become the salt of the earth and the light in His world.

God’s eternal plan was for you to reveal Him by being the salt of the earth and the light of the world. This is where each of us must realize that while we might think our lives do not matter, God does not see it that way! He never removed Himself from the world, and He has no intention of removing Himself today. The only way this plan could fail is for us to remove ourselves from the world. We must not let Him down!

God’s plan is powerful, for both salt and light are powerful. Salt seems so small and so insignificant, but food without salt is “tasteless.” Even the smallest light means so much in the midnight darkness. Hidden lights placed under a bushel are worthless, and salt “...if it loses its flavor is...good for nothing” (Matt. 5:13).

Is God’s plan working in America today? That depends on you! Think about this. What if every Christian in this land were exactly like you in the way you are seasoning and lighting the world? God longs to be a part of this great land, and His eternal plan to be a part of it includes each of us. God help us to be His salt and His lights!

Obtained at: [www.churchofchristartivles.com](http://www.churchofchristartivles.com)

**Upcoming Events**

Today	Country Place {Devotional}	2:00 pm
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Nursing Home {Devotional}	2:00 pm