

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Greg Lowery

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill
Servers - Charles Berryhill
David Key
Bradley Box

Closing Prayer: Ralph Burleson

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

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

Determined We Will Conquer



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Well-Driven Nails

By Denny Petrillo

“The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd” (Ecclesiastes 12:11). Even though my grandfather was a master carpenter, I was not blessed with his construction abilities. My thumb can attest to the accuracy of my hammer strikes. Trying to nail drywall to the stud can be quite the adventure. I suspect that most who have tried to nail something to a wall have had the frustrating experience of having the nail miss the stud. Whatever is being attached simply will not stay.

Solomon expressed the desire of every preacher. He wanted his words to “stick.” He worked hard and pondered how things could be said that would have the desired effect. His “nails” were “given by one Shepherd.” That is, God gives them. So, God gives spiritual carpenters the nails, and it is their job to make sure they nail them in the right spot. There are several significant lessons that we can learn from this.

First, we’re not using just any “nail.” The words we speak are not ours (or shouldn’t be) but are the words of God. Paul wasn’t ashamed of the Gospel because it is “the power of God for salvation” (Romans 1:16). People don’t need to be given our “nails” — our thoughts, beliefs and opinions. They need to be given the Word that can save their souls (James 1:21).

Second, we have to know where the studs are. Preachers need to know the people to whom they preach. Teachers need to know their students. How many times have we heard a lesson or sermon that had no relevance to us? We feel like it was wasted time. When we’re teaching the eternal truths of God, we need to make sure that they are reaching the hearts of our listeners.

Third, we have the responsibility of doing it right. No one wants a carpenter who can’t drive a nail in the right place. Equally, no one wants a preacher or a teacher who hasn’t taken time to make sure that what is being said is absolutely true according to God’s Word. James warned that one should be careful about deciding to be a teacher, because teachers will incur a stricter judgment (James 3:1). As Solomon said, we need to become “masters of these collections” of wisdom teachings (which ultimately have God as their source).

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

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

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

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

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

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

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

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 taken radiation treatments to stop a benign tumor from growing on the auditory nerve in her right ear, 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. Planning on traveling to Italy for gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Boone Bozeman: (infant son of Alicia and Cory Bozeman) is home from having surgery for a disease in his intestines, please pray that he will have a successful recovery

Tony Lawrence: is in UAB with critical injuries from a car wreck, please pray that he will be able to recover without any serious complications

Virgie McMillan (mother of Ann Box: dealing with complications from a recent stroke, please keep her in your prayers

Don Lawrence: had a temporary knee replacement because of an infection. He will be taking antibiotics to clear up the infection and then will have a total knee replacement; please be praying that the infection will clear up

Upcoming Events

September 20 th	Fellowship Meal	
September 27 th	Missionary Report {Stacy Ferguson}	10:00 am

Doors in the Word of God

By Gary C. Hampton

Doors in the Word of God can be hopeful or hopeless. Unfortunately, man sometimes closes a door against the Lord. How often do we limit God by refusing to let Him in? The rich young ruler turned away from the Lord rather than sell his possessions and give the money to the poor (Matthew 19:22). The people of Jerusalem would not get close to the very Lord who came to deliver them words of truth (Matthew 23:37). The church in Laodicea heard the Lord say, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20). It is sad to think an assembly of Christians would not let the Lord inside.

Our loving Father has promised to give His children protection. The story of Noah includes, “So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in” (Genesis 7:16). Behind that door, Noah, his family and the animals he had taken in remained safe, while all other flesh died. The devil correctly charged God with putting a protective barrier around Job (Job 1:10). Even in times of temptation, He will provide a way of escape (2 Thessalonians 3:3; 2 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13).

Paul understood it is within the power of the Sovereign of the universe to give His people a door to tell the good news. God placed doors before the apostle in Ephesus and Troas (1 Corinthians 16:8-9; 2 Corinthians 2:12). Christians need to pray for contact with seeking souls today.

Each of us has an important choice to make. We can close the door against God, losing the many blessings He has promised. Or, we can obey Him and find doors closed around us to keep us safe. Additionally, those choosing God’s protection must ask for open doors to tell others the Gospel. “Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles” (Acts 14:27 NKJV).

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All of Scripture

By Robert Johnson

There are all sorts of ways to think about the Bible. It is its own library, containing 66 books which offers us God’s wisdom regarding life and eternity. It’s like a large mansion, with each room having different items in it, but considered together, one can get a clear picture of the One Who built it and gave it the order it possesses. It has been considered being like a quilt, each piece its own unique design and offering its own perspective but providing a rich tapestry when all the pieces are joined together.

Another analogy of Scripture is it being like a jigsaw puzzle. Most pieces cannot be identified alone, apart from the other pieces they join. When they are all put together, you have a clear picture of what it’s all about. Viewed as separate pieces, without any connection, it can be hard to see the whole picture. Taking verses and passages of the Bible out of context, viewing them in isolation from the whole, one can draw wrong conclusions and misinterpret what God communicates to us through His Word. By patient study, putting it all together, we not only understand what each section of Scripture says, but we have a better understanding of what God’s overall plan is for all of humanity, as well as how that fits into our lives individually.

Like a jigsaw puzzle, some people begin a study of Scripture, only to just connect a few pieces here and there. They don’t stay with Bible study to gain an understanding of the complete theme of God’s Word to see how it all fits together for their lives. Such an approach can be discouraging, causing them to give up, never seeing the beautiful picture for life God offers us. Others study the pieces that interest them but never try to connect them to the whole. They can draw wrong conclusions about not only each piece but what they infer the whole emphasizes. Many errors and false teachings have come about from not connecting the whole teaching of Scripture together, focusing on just isolated parts here and there.

The view that Scripture presents of itself is found in Paul’s statement to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” Paul spoke of Scripture as a whole, not a group of individual books or letters that are disjointed and have no continuity to the whole.

The Bible is not a loose collection of books, each applying only to itself and not to be related to the rest. The sixty-six books in the Bible are those inspired by God, those that God wanted us to have as His Word. We recognize they were written under various circumstances and times to various groups and individuals. However, by also considering them together as a unit, as God’s Word for us, we have a complete picture of Him and His will. By examining Scripture this way, we can have a complete understanding of what we must do to be saved, of how we can live the Christian life and of the promise of eternity. All Scripture is inspired of God, and all Scripture reveals God and His will to us.

We need to take the time to look at each part of Scripture and connect it together to see the marvelous unity it possesses and the purpose it serves, offering us eternal life and leading us in the way that guides us there. We’ll never get there reading it haphazardly, bits and pieces here and there, or even worse, taking a pair of theological scissors to it, trimming the pieces to fit how we want it to look. Instead, put it together for our lives as God desires. Can we read it from cover to cover? Yes. Can we read it a book at a time? Of course. Can we choose themes to examine? Definitely. All of this can help enrich our view of the complete picture it offers and of what it reveals about how we should live. Never forget, however, that the theme of God’s love in Christ touches it all and how that love affects how we respond.

Determine to spend time each day in this book of life, the Bible. Look at each piece, but connect them together. See how all of Scripture fits together in all of life to bring us to eternity. Don’t miss the point God seeks to make for your life through all of Scripture! Don’t misunderstand what it says by only focusing on one piece! Find the blessings it can offer you when you’re willing to connect it all together in the picture of your life. “The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever” (Psalm 119:160).

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