

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: Josh Berryhill

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Eddie Dickinson
Bradley Box
David Key

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

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: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddie Dickinson

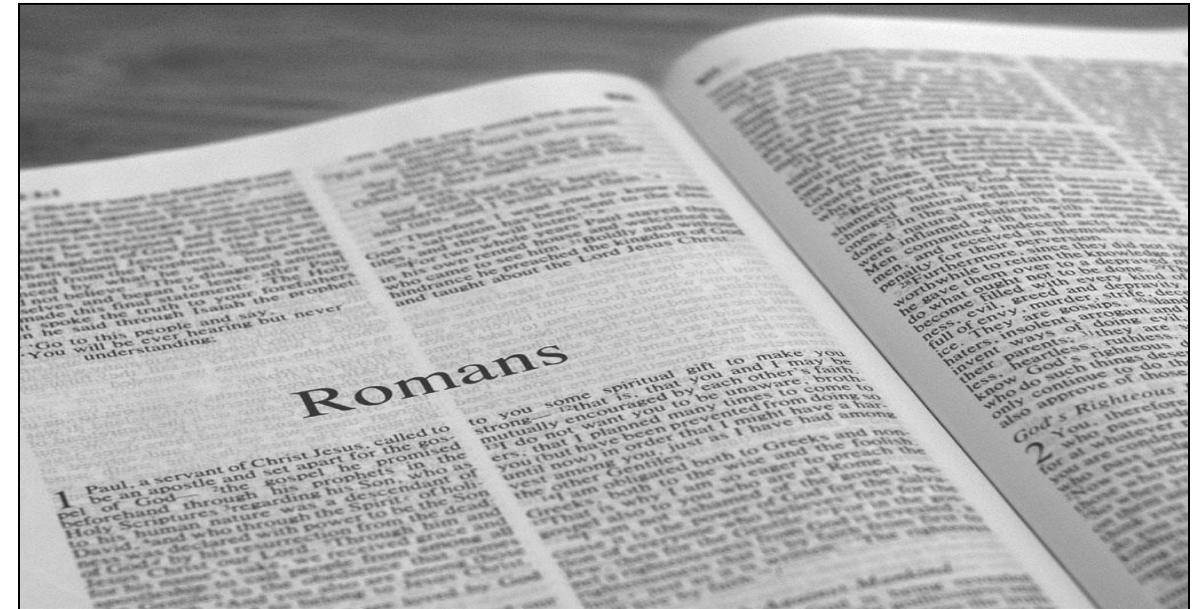
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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No Disputes Over Doubtful Things



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Ethical Standard In The Bible

By Harold Hazelip

People in every age have found it difficult to do right and pleasant to do wrong. But those who have taken the Bible seriously have not counted the choice of right or wrong a matter of personal preference, but rather one of responsibility. It is often fashionable in times of ease to caricature absolute moral standards as “puritan” or “victorian.” In times of crisis, however, such as that provoked by Hitler, we discover that we treasure such ideals as justice, duty, and self-control more than we had realized.

Its Absolute Nature

The Bible begins, not with what man is required to do, but with the story of what God has done. He has loved the unlovable and has, in Christ, sought sinful man. This is basic Christian doctrine-that Christ gave himself for our redemption. Christian ethics are, in a sense, derived from this doctrine: since God has so acted for man, what is man to do?

The ethical standard of Christianity has had such an influence on our moral values that we may accept these values as the natural product of Western civilization. That is, one may reject Christian beliefs and yet retain for a time certain Christian moral principles. Elton Trueblood has often referred to our “cut-flower civilization,” to indicate that many people are living by a faith they have abandoned. Cut flowers may be very beautiful and we may wish to preserve them as long as possible; but, being cut, they are doomed to die. His point is that Christian ethics cannot survive without Christian doctrine to undergird them.

This truth is often illustrated by the vertical and horizontal lines of the cross. The vertical line suggests man’s relationship to God while the horizontal line suggests his relationship to other people. The vertical line supports the horizontal line; that is, how and why we treat our neighbor depends upon how and why we are related to God. Consequently, Jesus could sum up the whole law with the command to love God with all the heart, soul, and strength, and to love the neighbor as one’s self (Mark 12:29-31).

The absolute nature of the ethical standard of the Bible is obvious, then, because God is the source of all its moral requirements. Freedom from the authority of such a standard would not bring liberation but a sense of futility, since life without God would lose real meaning.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Lannie & Glenda Key: be praying for both of them during this difficult time

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister} is in the nursing home in Guin, pray for her she has some ongoing health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Angie Ganey Gardner: fighting against breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

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

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy); planning on gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Pam Braden: she is dealing with some ongoing health problems, please continue to keep her in your prayers

Guy Weeks: is undergoing cancer treatments, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Maddie Bishop (young girl South Haleyville) diagnosed with stage 4 Ewing sarcoma, please pray for her and her family and that treatments can defeat this cancer

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Billy Lee {Carolyn’s Brother} he is in renal failure, is back at the nursing home in Guin, please be praying for him and the staff caring for him

Timmy Weeks: he is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that he will receive treatments that can restore his health

Danny Berryhill: diagnosed with thickness of the heart, please be praying that doctors can successfully help him with this problem

Bill Berryhill: dealing with cancer found new spot on his kidney, please be praying that his battle with cancer can be controlled and won

Mason Estes: he is need of a liver transplant; please be keeping him and his family in your prayers

Frank Farris: is dealing with some health problems, please pray that he gets better

Judy Barker (David Barker’s Mother): she had been diagnosed with bone and lung cancer; please keep her and her family in your prayers

Kristi White: diagnosed with cancer affecting her esophagus, stomach and other areas taking treatments at MD Anderson, please pray this cancer will be defeated

Vertie York: has a spot in her head and will be seeing a Neurologist, let us be praying that it will be nothing serious

Austin Carter (Travis Garrison’s Nephew): scans found a mass on his thyroid, please be praying that this does not turn out to be a serious problem

Its Universal Nature

If the Bible were only a checklist of “do’s” and “don’t s,” and this list covered every conceivable situation in the life of every person, all reflection on its teaching would be unnecessary. However, the Bible not only deals with the “whats” of man’s behavior but with the “whys” as well. It not only gives specific applications to common virtues and vices, but also provides the principles for specific judgments about unnamed problems. Loving one’s neighbor as one’s self or rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s may actually be applied very differently by different Christians, but that these principles have universal validity for reflection and application would not be a matter of dispute.

One’s view of Biblical authority is central at this point. The Bible is obviously not just a book of oracles, such as the Koran, to be memorized and repeated mechanically. Nor is it just a collection of words of men about God, reflecting their own deep insights into the nature of the universe and themselves. It is rather a record of God’s disclosure of Himself, His nature, and His will to man. Reflection on its truths and principles will provide direction in any conceivable situation.

Its Unchanging Nature

The fact that the Bible does not make specific applications to every twentieth century situation is sometimes cited as evidence that its ethical standard was temporary. One may lightly suggest that “drunk camel driving” would not be as dangerous as “drunk auto driving,” especially if one has had a smart camel, and consequently there was not the same need for a moral injunction against drunken driving in the first century as in the twentieth. But changing applications are not to be equated with changing standards. Loving one’s neighbor as one’s self, or Jehovah’s requirement to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, are unchanging principles which are relevant to changing situations. While some specific applications of these principles are made within scripture, e.g. Gal. 5:17-21, the lists of virtues and vices are never suggested to be exhaustive, but do show the basic principles in action. Sacrificing principles to satisfy situations is not a Christian approach. After all, God may have his own way of releasing a woman from a concentration camp if she does not impatiently cast herself upon her own ingenuity.

The great influential works in ethical thought since the New Testament period have usually been written in a devotional mood (“I have tried His way and have found Him to be true”) rather than a polemical mood (where one’s basic intention is to refute another). The Christian’s life is the best evidence of his belief in the ethical standard of the Bible. Yet it is well to remember that God’s requirements for all men’s lives are stated in an imperative tone. (Micah 6:6-8; Mark 12:29-31). And these requirements are not limited to a general command to love; love is dependent on divine direction. We know we have passed from death to life because we love, but loving God means obeying His commandments. (I John 3:14; 5:3).

The Spiritual Sword, vol. 1, no. 2, January 1970, p. 45-46.

The Inspiration Of The Bible

By B.C. Goodpasture

The Bible is here. No one can doubt that it exists. How did it come into existence? Is it wholly the work of man? wholly the work of God? or is it a product of the cooperative work of man and God? It is not wholly the work of man. He could not have produced it if he would. Its contents are beyond the reach of human authorship. He would not have written it if he could. It condemns too many things which men by nature hold dear. It did not come, like the original draft of the ten commandments, written on tables of stone, from the omnipotent finger of God. It was produced by the cooperation of God and man. “Men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter I:21 .)

Is the Bible a product of human reason? Is it merely a book of literature, or is it an inspired volume? If inspired, in what sense? Is it inspired only in the sense that it bears the marks of literary genius as do the writings of Shakespeare, Milton, and Browning? Or is it inspired in the sense that it was written by men under the influence of the Holy Spirit?

The question of inspiration is vital. If the Bible is not of divine origin, we cannot rely upon its statement of fact; we need not bow to its claim of authorify; and we cannot derive hope and comfort from its promises. If it represents only the efforts of uninspired men, we may view its contents with little or no concern. On the other hand, if the Bible came from God, its authority is unquestionable and its statements are infallible.

The Spiritual Sword, vol. 1, no. 2, January 1970, p. 58.

Why Does the Earth Still Spin?

Ralph Clevinger

The prophet Habakkuk had a problem. He saw the evil, pain and suffering inflicted by the wicked upon the righteous. Listen to his plea.

O Lord, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, “Violence!” And You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises. Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds. (Habakkuk 1:2-4 NKJV)

Habakkuk desired to see the wicked punished for their actions. He called for the Lord to intercede on behalf of the righteous. He wanted to see justice. The Lord answered his pleas by giving him an answer. The Lord would raise up the Chaldeans to bring a judgment against His people. The Lord’s explanations displeased and confused Habakkuk. The truth was the Lord had a reason for the plan that He revealed to Habakkuk.

Today, the earth is still full of evil, pain and suffering. One cannot deny this fact when it is ever present in television and social media. The news continually speaks about it. People make posts about the hurt and pain happening around them. The evil of this world readily works itself into the normal conversations of life. The temptation to cry out “How long!” remains today.

Peter enlightened the reader to the longsuffering of God. Hear his words. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). The Lord gives time for all of mankind to turn away from wickedness. Contrary to popular belief, the Lord does not seek whom He can punish. The Lord “desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). The world still spins in the hope others will come to Him.

Let us take advantage of the day! There are many who are lost in their sins. There are many who desire to find the cure to their souls' diseases. We have the answer. Let us spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all who will hear!