

**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
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**Visit Our Website**

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

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key  
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

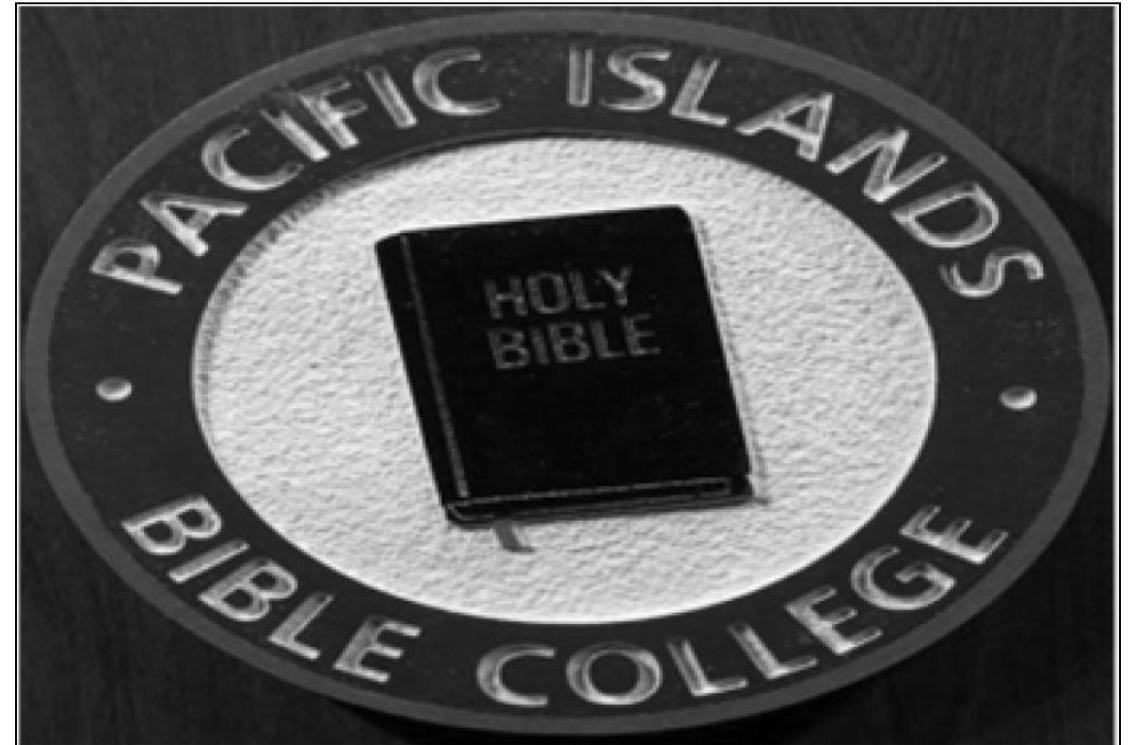
Minister: Greg Lowery

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

# Missionary Report

## Stacy Ferguson



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**Looking at the Cross**

By Dan Jenkins

The way Christians look at the cross of Jesus is vastly different from the way the ungodly look at it. Paul sums it all up in these words, “It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For the Jews request a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness” (1 Cor. 1:21-23). This is so far removed from the way saints see the cross.

**Pagans look at the cross.** Every god of every pagan was powerful—more powerful than any man. The very concept of deity being killed by mortals was beyond comprehension. As the early church brought the message of the cross to the entire world, it was foolishness.

**Jews look at the cross.** They were expecting the coming of the Messiah. Those who understood could see that God had promised to someday send a prophet, priest and king to live among them. With their view of the Messiah, the cross became a stumbling block. One does not have to submit to a king who is so helpless or listen to a mortal who claims to be a prophet. Jesus may have said, “You have heard that it was said, but I say to you...,” but who cares what Jesus said, for he is just a man claiming to be someone great. One cannot put their trust in a priest like Jesus to save them. What was said at the cross sums it up: “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God” (Luke 23:35).

**Christians look at the cross.** Read the rest of the words of Paul to the Corinthians. “We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” It is truly amazing how differently a pagan, a Jew and a Christian would hear the same sermon. What is the right view? Look at the cross through the eyes of God.

**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

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

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

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

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); planning on traveling to Italy for gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Tony Lawrence: is improving and is scheduled to go home soon, 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

Vertie York: having problems with her heart & blood pressure, she is scheduled to see a doctor in Tupelo, please pray that it is nothing serious

Karen Chaffin: has had fainting spells, please pray that the doctors can determine what is wrong and that she will have no serious problems

Nelda York Bishop: is scheduled to have spinal surgery in a few weeks, please be praying that the surgery will be successful

**Upcoming Events**

Today	Missionary Report {Stacy Ferguson}	10:00 am
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Built within God’s eternal plan is a weekly communion with Jesus at His table. As you remember Him every week, make sure you truly see who He is. Remember His body and His blood. As you remember Him every week, look at yourself—let a man examine himself. As you remember Him every week, see the future—proclaim His death until He comes.

God has no other message for mankind. The Jews asked for a sign and the only sign given was the cross. The Greeks sought wisdom, but the only wisdom God had for them was Christ crucified. We must never forget the cross and what happened there. A failure to look at the cross, to remember what happened for us, will result in us being “barren and unfruitful and blind” (2 Pet. 1:8-9). See the cross like God sees it!

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

**Four Factors Behind the Cross**

- 1. **GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE**  
"The determinate Council of God"  
Acts 2:23
- 2. **MAN'S SINFUL HATRED**  
"Ye have taken and by wicked hands crucified and slain"  
Acts 2:23
- 3. **CHRIST'S SUBMISSIVE WILL**  
"A man approved of God"  
Acts 2:22
- 4. **SATAN'S INFERNAL OPPOSITION**  
John 12:31-32; 14:30

Acts 2:22-24

Barnes' Bible Charts

## Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

By Rodney Nulph

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). To rightly divide the Word of Truth, one must use certain principles of interpretation. Sadly, some approach the Bible in a completely different way than they would approach any other book. While the Bible is certainly not just “any other book,” the rules of interpretation are universal in nature. Context is key when it comes to understanding any communication. This is certainly true when it comes to rightly dividing the Bible. How does one go about properly interpreting God’s Word in its context?

Firstly, there is the age context. When one begins to study the Bible, the first thing necessary for an honest interpretation is to determine in which age the penman was writing. There is the Patriarchal Age (creation to Sinai). Key figures during this dispensation were Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. There is the Mosaic Age (Sinai to the cross), which included great men like Moses, Joshua, David, Isaiah and Jesus. Lastly, there is the Christian age (cross to Judgment Day), which included people like Paul, Peter, John and Luke, as well as includes you and me. At one time, God spoke in different ways (directly to the Fathers in Patriarchy; through the Law of Moses in the Mosaic Age or in Judaism), but now God speaks to us through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-3). Therefore, religious authority to which we must turn is not what Moses said or what Elijah preached but what Jesus commands (Matthew 17:5).

Secondly, there is the historical context. One reason why some have a difficult time understanding God’s Word is that they try to view the Bible through the “lens” of today, instead of looking through the lens of history. Looking through first century glasses really aids in our understanding of first century things. There are five great questions that help aid in the historical context. Question #1: Who is speaking? Question #2: To whom is it being spoken? For example, when Jesus said, “You are of your father, the devil” (John 8:44a), He was not speaking to you or to me, but Jesus was addressing the unbelieving Pharisees (John 8:13). Question #3: From where was it being spoken? For example, when John said, “I was in the spirit on the Lord’s Day” (Revelation 1:10), he was not in some “mystical trance,” but rather, John was in exile on an island called Patmos.

Although he could not be present with the saints on Sunday, his spirit or his mind was with them. Question #4: When was it being spoken? For example, when Jesus said to the thief on the cross, “Today, thou shalt be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43), the new covenant had not been yet ratified (Christ was still alive), and therefore, the thief did not have to obey the Great Commission command (Luke 24:47) to “repent and be baptized” (Acts 2:38), which command was given after Jesus’ death, not before! Question #5: Why was it being spoken? For example, why did Paul ask the Corinthians, “What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in?” (1 Corinthians 11:22)? Was there some law against eating in the meeting place? When one studies the context, Paul was correcting their misuse of the Lord’s Supper, not addressing eating in the meetinghouse at all.

Thirdly, there is the textual context. There are essentially three areas to consider in the realm of textual context. There is the immediate context. What is happening in the preceding and following paragraphs? There is the remote context. What is going on in the entire chapter? There is the book context. What is the context of the entire book in which this paragraph falls? We must be willing to search out the textual context of anything we are studying! Context is key when it comes to rightly dividing God’s Word.

Rightly dividing God’s Word takes initiative and effort. Study is not for the faint of heart but rather for those who really desire to know truth. There is a story told of a seasoned Gospel preacher who was preaching a meeting in a distant town. Following his sermon, a woman approached him and said, “I would give my life to know the Bible like you do!” To which he replied, “That is exactly what it cost me.” Truth is costly and cannot be obtained by accident. God rewards those who “diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). Seek Him daily, study His Word regularly, and see your life change before your very eyes!

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