

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Josh Berryhill

Opening Prayer: Eddie Dickinson

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Billy Box
Bradley Box

Closing Prayer: David Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Lellie Dickinson

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 / Eddy Dickinson

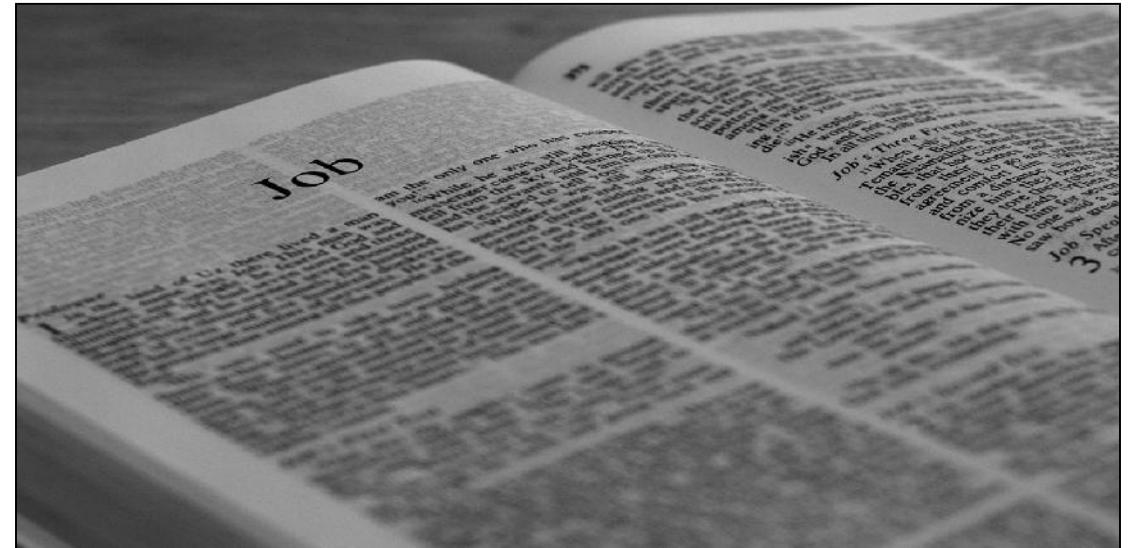
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

Contact Information:
Phone: (205) 465-9142

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

The Reluctant



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The King or the Dictator

By Robert Johnson

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). This simple statement, recorded by Moses, informs us of Who has authority over creation, Who cares for us and to Whom our allegiance should be. He created all things for us because He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). It should come naturally to love God and to follow His will for our lives. Unfortunately, it does not.

While the Father has all authority and has given that authority to the Son (Matthew 28:18), people’s allegiance is all too often given to Satan, who is our adversary (1 Peter 5:8-9). He has always been a deceiver (Genesis 3:13; Revelation 12:9). Since he deals with sin, many have become hardened against the truth (Hebrews 3:13). Because of this, John correctly said, “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19). Satan has no interest in our welfare; he is in rebellion to God, desiring the allegiance that rightly belongs to God for himself. He uses the tools of sin to entice people to follow him, and once people see what has happened to them, and then desire to let go of that lifestyle and its consequences, he works even harder to keep them in bondage to sin. Ultimately, he knows sin will destroy them.

In that Satan is completely in opposition to the will of God and seeks what rightly belongs to deity for himself, he acts like any dictator would. A dictator is one who rules in an absolute and oppressive way. Some synonyms are despot, oppressor and tyrant. While he cannot force anyone to follow him, through temptations and lies, he has garnered quite a following, as all have sinned (Romans 3:23). Is he, then, such a formidable opponent that there is no hope of overcoming him? No! While we should never underestimate his power, he cannot tempt us beyond our ability; God provides a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). He can be deposed, so to speak, when we let go of his influence to follow instead the will of the Father. The love of God in Christ should draw us to His will, the way of truth, the way of grace and mercy, the way to life. “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

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

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 had test run, 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

Jamie Long: scheduled for hernia surgery October 19th, please be praying that there will be no complication with the surgery

Upcoming Events

October 18th Fellowship Meal

October 18th-21st Gospel Meeting
(James Wyers)

Does this mean when we obey the Gospel and come to live in Christ, Satan is no longer a factor in our lives? Sadly, no. Satan may be deposed as dictator of sin over us, but that doesn't mean he doesn't want to return to power in our lives. Every day should be a day of renewal in submission to Christ and living for Him; otherwise, we give the devil an opportunity to regain his position of power in our lives. When Peter spoke of the devil prowling about like a roaring lion, he used the present tense. This is a continual practice of Satan; he never gives up wanting to reclaim his power over us, to take back what has been lost, to cause us to forfeit what we have in Christ. He wants us to be lost, to be part of the eternal punishment he and his angels will suffer (Matthew 25:41). We must be ever vigilant not to lose what we have gained in Christ!

To overcome sin, we must look beyond the temptations the devil offers, look beyond the temporal pleasure they provide, the short-term gratification they offer and see what the end result will be. Yes, there are trials in life, but they exist because of the effects of sin in our world, the result of Satan at work in our lives. The question is who will receive our loyalty, the one true and living God and His Son Jesus Christ, or the pretender, the despot, who only wants us destroyed? Satan doesn't care that we go through trials, as he is the author of evil. God is the One Who loves and helps us through life. We must look beyond today to eternity and ask ourselves where we want to be, with Satan or God, in eternal punishment or in eternal life. We have a true King who loves us; Satan is merely a dictator who, for his own wicked delight, wants to rob us of what God offers. Who will you choose? "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

Staying Faithful

By Gary C. Hampton

Christians must be constantly on guard against Satan. He told God he had been busy going “to and fro on the earth,” which goes well with Peter’s description of a roaring lion (Job 1:7; 2:2; 1 Peter 5:8). Paul described the Christian response to this ongoing assault. He encouraged the Corinthian saints to be firm in matters of faith and not let false teachers shake their beliefs, as they had on the resurrection.

He also urged them to be men in the faith and courageously stand in God’s strength. Further, the apostle reminded them that all of a Christian’s actions should be based on love. Loving actions should end all strife (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

The apostle to the Gentiles directed Christians in Corinth to carefully choose who they followed. He urged them to be subject to those who lovingly ministered to the needs of fellow Christians, especially singling out the family of Stephanas. They had been the first converts in Achaia.

Even Paul needed encouragement. He felt an emptiness because of his separation from the brethren in Corinth. Relief came with the arrival of Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus. Their coming enabled him to write based upon firsthand knowledge so he could address some of their greatest needs. He wanted the Corinthians to receive them as those who had helped (1 Corinthians 16:15-18).

Remaining faithful is not automatic. We must hold the line like soldiers in battle yet be sure our actions are controlled by love. Each of us must seek out faithful workers to follow. Their destination is Heaven, which is where all God’s children long to go.

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

How to Treat Our Enemies!

By Chuck Taylor

Sometimes, it is difficult to see that the goodness of the Gospel should be chosen over the bitterness in the hearts of men. Often, others will speak hurtfully without knowing it. The harmful ways and actions will be born out of a heart that has grown through worldly living. The question is, though, upon what will you choose to focus? Will it be the good or the evil?

Though evil may be present in the minds of others, Peter told Christians, “For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully, for what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God” (1 Peter 2:19-20). Jesus certainly had those who did evil toward Him, and yet, He loved them and treated them with dignity.

Notice John 13. Jesus ate with the twelve disciples and washed their feet before dinner. He then announced that one of them would betray Him. Yet, no one knew that it was Judas. When Judas got up and left the room, there were several thoughts in the disciples’ minds about where he was going, but no one knew that Jesus spoke of him. Jesus treated him without anger! He asked us to do the same to our enemies. Jesus said in Matthew 5:39, “But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other also.” It is true that you may be assaulted, at least verbally, at some point in your Christian life by people who think they are doing right. However, you should never let it embitter you. Simply turn the other cheek.

The calling of God is certainly a high calling. It raises us above the world and asks us to respond to the wrong doings of man with a heavenly response. Jesus knows our sufferings from others and asks us to look at His sufferings as our example of what to do. Don’t fight back! Instead, choose the high road and see the good in others, as Christ would have. Think about it.

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