

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Josh Berryhill

Opening Prayer: David Key

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

Closing Prayer: Eddie Dickinson

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

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

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

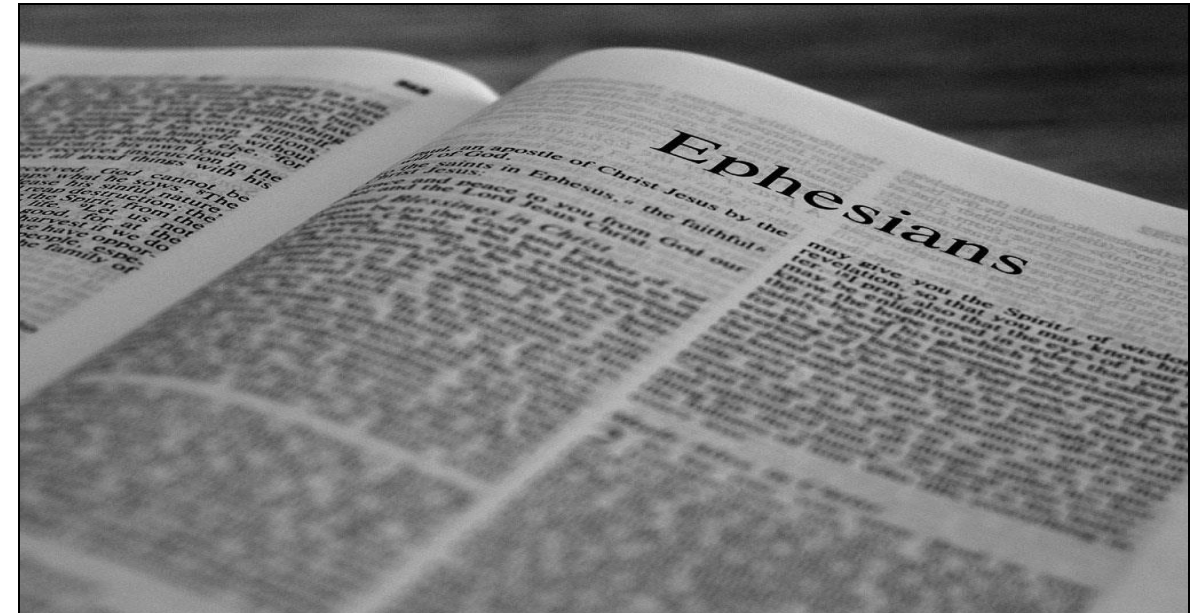
Minister: Greg Lowery

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# Are You Walking Worthy



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**Some Will Depart from the Faith**

By Rodney Nulph

Surely, one of the most troubling and heartbreaking scenarios within our fellowship is to see someone “depart from the faith.” Sadder still, at least to me personally, is when one departs from the faith and then attempts to defend “doctrines of devils” and begins “speaking lies” concerning God’s Truth (1 Timothy 4:1-2). What causes a person to abandon the Truth and to attempt to defend false doctrine and error? While there are most likely many “causes,” consider the following as possibilities.

**Insult.** One thing that causes some to “depart from the faith” is a bitter experience among brethren. Maybe a person feels he got a raw deal from an eldership or suffered an insult or an emotional injury from another member of a congregation. Sadly, such insults are anything but pleasant. Not every eldership conducts itself kindly, not every preacher is always as tactful as he should be, and not every member is as compassionate and courteous as he or she ought to be either. Even Christ, our example, suffered greatly at the hands of so-called friends (i.e., Judas, Peter, the Jews, et al.). Jesus reminded us that there will be heartaches and offences (Matthew 10:24-25; 16:24). Paul had to write an entire letter to a congregation that was not kind to one another (1 Corinthians). However, we must remember that while sometimes our experiences with other Christians are not always what we wish, we are not attached to the Truth or the church because of other members! We are attached to the Truth and added to the church because of our compassionate, kind, merciful and wonderful Savior (Acts 2:36-47). I do not want to give up eating completely because one food gives me heartburn, and neither do I want to give up what sustains me and feeds me spiritually because an unpleasant situation gives me spiritual heartburn.

**Immaturity.** Others depart because they have simply not matured in the faith. While we often think of new converts as immature, sometimes immaturity persists in a person who has been in the church for many years. Coming to church in and of itself will never mature one’s Christianity! That is not to disdain or minimize the need to assemble regularly, but we must understand Christian growth comes not because of hearing only but also doing (James 1:22). We must know the doctrine, but we must also put that doctrine into practice. For some, Christianity is simply putting on a front while in the building, but upon exiting they forget that they are to put into practice what they learned. Growth requires effort, examination and a craving to be like Jesus. Growth is not automatic nor is it easy (2 Peter 1:5-9)!

**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 October 25<sup>th</sup>, 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

Wayne Sherry (Arlen’s old boss): currently fighting cancer; pray that this cancer can be controlled and defeated

**Self-Importance.** Pride and arrogance have surely claimed the souls of many who have departed from the faith. People sometimes want to be perceived as wise and knowledgeable. So, the simple Gospel message, that never changes, becomes dull and boring to them. Thus, they attempt to find some new truth to attempt to display their scholarly abilities. Scholarship without the Truth is like a ship without a compass or a rudder! True scholarship is knowledge of the “old paths” (Jeremiah 6:16). I have known some fellow preachers who have succumbed to this temptation. In an attempt to be “wise,” they became as fools (Romans 1:22ff). We would do well to aspire for what Paul aspired. “For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). As Christians, the message we proclaim and the lives we live are not about us but rather about Jesus Christ! Our goal is to daily reflect His marvelous light (Matthew 5:16). When we fall into the mental trap that the truth and the church are about us, we have lost our spiritual focus and are on a fast spiral downward.

While some will depart from the faith (1 Timothy 4:1ff; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; 2 Peter 2:1; Jude 18; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12, et al.), and as heartbreaking as that is, such does not have to be the case for us. When we suffer insult, let us respond with affection; instead of remaining immature, let us advance; instead of assuming self-importance, let us be abased. In the midst of some who had departed from the faith, Jude’s inspired words are of great encouragement.

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

(Jude 20-25)

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

**I Am Responsible for My Actions**

By Gary C. Hampton

A very powerful thought is recorded on the tomb of an Anglican bishop in Westminster Abbey.

When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change, so I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country. But it too seemed immovable. As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing only family, those closest to me, but alas, they would have none of it. And now as I lay on my deathbed, I suddenly realize: If I had only changed myself first, then by example I would have changed my family. From their inspiration and encouragement, I would have been able to better my country and, who knows, I may have even changed the world. (Anonymous. Condensed Chicken Soup for the Soul. Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen & Patty Hansen, 1996.)

That inscription reminds me of one of the most misunderstood incidents in the life of Christ, which occurred after His resurrection. Jesus had just told Peter that He would be bound and forced to go where he did not want to go when he was old. Peter looked around and saw John. He then asked, “But Lord, what about this man?” (John 21:21 NKJV). Jesus responded, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me” (John 21:22). John reported that a rumor came out of the exchange between Peter and the Lord which said that disciple would not have to die (John 21:23). Of course, the Lord did not say John would not have to die. Instead, he was trying to let Peter know that he should focus on his own relationship to the Lord and let the Lord deal with others, like John.

To be a highly successful Christian, I must determine to take responsibility for myself. Paul told the saints at Rome, “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12). In his second letter to the Corinthian church, the apostle gave a little more insight into the day of accounting. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (5:10). No wonder he went on to command them to, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified” (13:5).

Avoiding disqualification will require me to plant the right kind of seed (actions) in my life. As Paul told the churches of Galatia, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life” (6:7-8).

Nathan, my son, has always enjoyed working in the garden with his granddaddy. One year, he got his granny to send some seeds home from the garden so he could plant them at our house. Of course, his mother and I forgot all about them. When spring came, Nathan asked about the seeds. Teresa found the old pill bottle containing the seeds from granddaddy’s garden. Nathan assured me they were watermelon seeds. Though they did not look like any watermelon seeds I had ever seen, we planted them in mounds the appropriate distance apart. Sure enough, vines began to grow after a short time. Then, came blooms and, later, a slowly elongating green fruit. After several more weeks, we had some of the finest inedible gourds you have ever seen!

Why did we not get the watermelons for which Nathan had his appetite whetted? We did not plant the right kind of seed! Similarly, those who want to go to Heaven and attain the Christian’s ultimate “success” must plant and cultivate the good works of the Spirit in our lives! I cannot expect to plant a selfish, worldly life and reap everlasting life in Heaven.

It seems many people today, as well as in the past, like to blame others for their failures. Flip Wilson, the comedian, used to say, “The devil made me do it.” For others, it is their parents, teachers, society, an inherited defect, environment and hundreds of other things that are to blame for their misdeeds. Rather than blame his upbringing, Paul wrote, “Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief... This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:13, 15). He encouraged his brothers and sisters in Philippi to take a similar attitude by writing, “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (2:12).

Rather than waste my time trying to change the world, I need to take responsibility for myself. When I do, there is a very real possibility that I will positively impact my family. Through them, I can improve my community. An improved community will certainly make my nation better and, if God wills, it can change the world!