

**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)

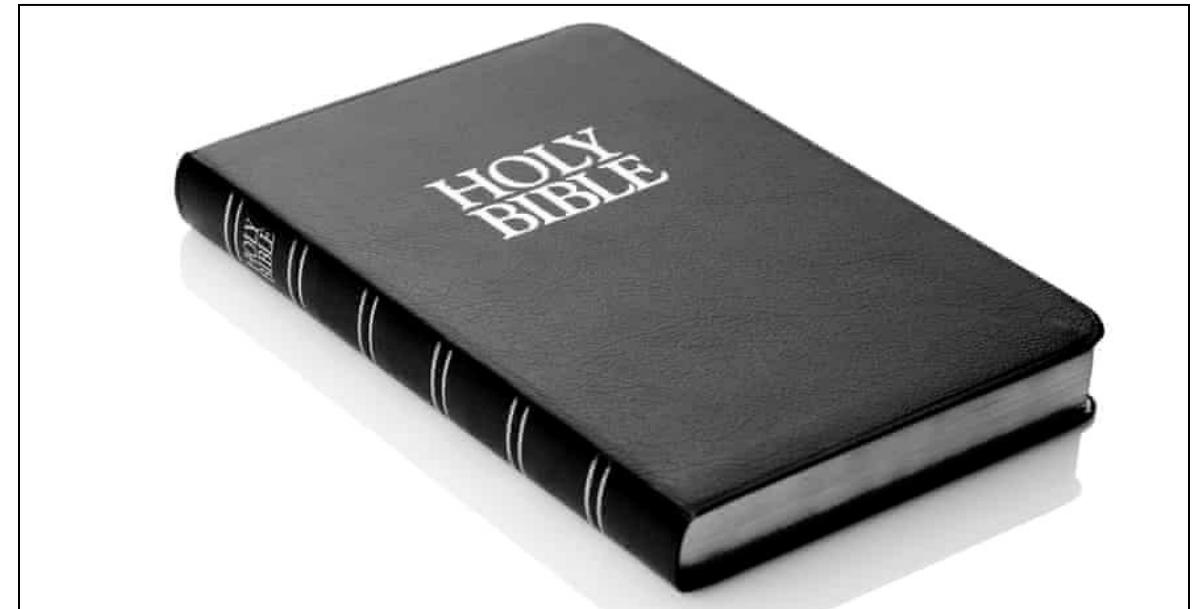
Elders: Leonard Key / David Key Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Billy Box / Eddie Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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Phone: (205) 465-9142

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

# Gospel Meeting



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**Are We Too Attached to This Life?**

By Brian R. Kenyon

Fear of death. That is the bottom line. Whether people are afraid of their own death or the death of their loved ones, fear of death is the main reason why this virus has shut down America and much of the world. It is not really about sickness (which happens all the time) or politics (though plenty are seizing the “opportunity”); it is ultimately about the fear of death. Threats on life such as this are great times for us to reflect on our level of attachment to this life.

**Human Life Is Valuable**

There is no doubt that human life is inherently more valuable than any other life (Genesis 1:26-27). This is why that intentionally taking innocent human life is always sinful. This is also why only Jesus’ blood was sufficient (Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:24-26; Revelation 1:5). Even Jesus knew the value of human life, including His own. Part of Him did not want to physically suffer. He prayed, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me” (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44 NKJV). “This cup” refers to the suffering Jesus knew He would have to endure (Matthew 20:22). Thankfully, He desired to do His Father’s will above all else, “nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” Thus, He joyfully “endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2). If Jesus saw the value in preserving physical life, then so should we! We must take every reasonable precaution during this pandemic to protect ourselves and those around us. However, are some, who should be the stalwarts of courage, crouching in panic, covering their light to the world?

**Human Life Is Temporary**

People living today benefit greatly from medical advancements. Illnesses that routinely ended human life a century or so ago are almost forgotten. The lack of news stories about AIDS testifies to this generation. People are no longer dying en masse because of the development of effective medications. We should be thankful to live at such a time as this. However, even with all these advancements, God determined physical existence to be temporary. No one will live forever in this body (Hebrews 9:27). Yes, the human spirit is immortal (Ecclesiastes 12:7), but concerning the flesh, “The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years... For it

**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 has been placed under hospice care, please keep her and her family in your prayers as they go through this trying time

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

Hayden Lackey: he will be going to Children’s, let us be praying that they will determine why he is having seizures and that they can be stopped or controlled.

is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Psalm 90:10). Therefore, if we think we can avoid physical death, we are mistaken. If Covid-19 does not take us out, something else will. This, of course, is not to say we should live recklessly. Rather, it should cause us, first and foremost, to realize our mortality and seek God through Jesus while He may be found (Acts 17:26-28; cf., Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:20). Are people who call themselves Christians really Christians as the New Testament teaches? Are some New Testament Christians presently more focused on this life than on the life to come (1 Corinthians 4:16-5:7)? What we focus on will control our lives (Proverbs 23:7; Romans 8:5-8; Colossians 3:1-2)!

**Human Life Is Fearless in Christ**

One of the beautiful blessings through Christ’s sacrifice is that Christians have no reason to fear death. The writer of Hebrews declared, “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham” (Hebrews 2:14-16). This passage teaches the “fear of death,” not death itself, is that from which Christians are delivered. “Release [deliver, KJV]” means to set free, perhaps comparable to being released from a lasso (cf. Luke 12:58; Acts 19:12). Fear enslaves (Romans 8:15, 21; Galatians 5:1). Those who refuse God’s gift of deliverance are still enslaved to the fear of death. Even if a person is a Christian, death occurs. However, Christians need not fear it for at least three reasons: (1) Christ came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8); (2) Christ’s resurrection makes death powerless (1 Corinthians 15:26, 55) and (3) Christ has complete authority over death (Revelation 1:18).

Jesus’ death, and thus the delivery from the fear of death, applies only to “the seed of Abraham,” which are those whose faith is like Abraham’s (John 8:39; Galatians 3:26-29). Although the spiritual world was made aware of Jesus’ death and its implications (Ephesians 3:10; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18-22), Jesus did not die for angels. If a person is not the “seed of Abraham,” then he or she has every reason to fear death. People become the spiritual seed of Abraham when they obey the Gospel (i.e., believe that Jesus is the Christ, John 8:24; repent of their sins, Acts 17:31; confess their faith in Jesus, Romans 10:9-10 and are baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins, Acts

2:38, which puts them in Christ, Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27-28). Have we obeyed the Gospel? Do we have fearlessness in the face of death, knowing that Christ will see us through (Matthew 10:28; Revelation 2:10)?

**Concluding Applications**

Let us consider these attachment-to-this-life questions. First, how much time are we spending in the Gospel’s good news compared to the world’s virus news? We must continually “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). If we are now news junkies, we may be too attached to this life. Second, how much are we trusting in men compared to the promises of God? Are we allowing experts to persuade us to lose confidence in God? Long ago, Jeremiah said, “Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord” (Jeremiah 17:5). God promised, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). If we feel abandoned by God, we may be too attached to this life. Third, are we feeling more enlightened by Dr. Fauci than by the God-breathed Scriptures? Yes, there is much to learn from medical personnel at times like these, but are we more enamored with the science of the spreading virus than the Savior of the transforming Gospel? If our spiritual growth is on hold because of this virus, we may be too attached to this life. Let us be strong and courageous in the Lord!

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

**The Danger of Shallow Biblical Knowledge**

By Dan Jenkins

When I was a student at Freed-Hardeman University, the Mooresville congregation near Lewisburg, Tennessee wanted to send me to help spread the gospel in Georgia. Through one of teachers at the college, I made contact with the church in Savannah, and I preached in my first gospel meeting in an attempt to plant the church Statesboro, Georgia.

I was there for two weeks knocking on doors and inviting the people to the upcoming meeting. On the Sunday before the meeting began, I worshiped with the Bull Street congregation where W.F. Buffington was preaching. I will never forget what he said in that Sunday morning Bible class.

He was discussing a topic dealing with the application of Biblical truths to a moral situation. There was a new convert in the class who felt like he was a Bible scholar and continued to interrupt the older preacher. Brother Buffington was kind, but the young man persisted in his effort to interrupt the teacher. Finally brother Buffington had had enough so he said, “\_\_\_\_\_”, you are still too worldly to discuss this and you are not as smart as you think you are. The best way you can help this class is to be quiet and listen to what God says.”

I have thought of this often over the years and have found myself in a similar situation. People who have just a shallow knowledge of the Bible fail to remember what Paul says, “Knowledge puffs up...and if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he know nothing yet as he ought to know” (1 Cor. 9:1-2). The actions of that new convert are such a vivid illustration of that old adage, “A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.”

The wisdom of Solomon on this topic is seen in Ecclesiastes chapter five. “Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.” To hastily speak in the house of God is to act as a fool. When it comes to Bible study, I think often about that new convert. Brother Buffington’s advice, “Let your words be few.”

So many times, we speak too rashly about spiritual matters, especially when our knowledge is shallow. As you study your Bible, listen to what God has said. It is foolish for anyone to add his own opinions about spiritual matters. Study the Bible. Study it often. Study it deeply. Then, humbly tell others about what you have learned.

I will never forget that young convert’s actions.

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