

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

Elders: David Key / Billy Box
Eddie Dickinson

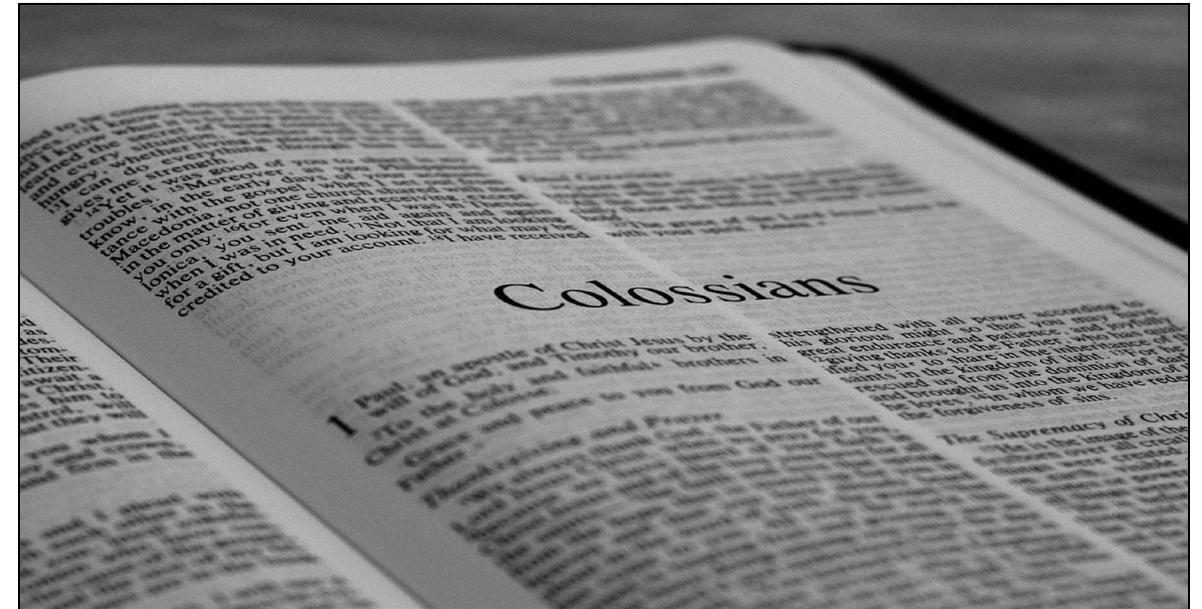
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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The Image of the Invisible God



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



You Will Die, But You Can Live!

By Doug Dingley

It is mid-September a I sit down to compose this article. COVID continues to ravage and wreak havoc amongst our families, churches, schools, communities, state, and nation. There is probably no one at this point who has not felt it’s deadly reach and results at least somewhere within their circle of family, friends, and/or acquaintances. And yet, as we all know, COVID is not the only thing that is continuing to take people’s lives. Average everyday people still continue to die daily from everything from cancer, to car crashes, to a thousand other causes.

Although it may be hard for some to accept (even though they know that it is true), the fact of the matter is, that everyone is eventually going to die from something. “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 15:50). Even those who are alive when the Lord returns will still have to have their souls separated from their physical bodies in order for them to enter the spiritual realm (1 Cor.15:42-55). But either way, everyone is going to have to experience this separation of their souls from their earthly bodies, or, “die” (Eccl. 12:7).

The realization of this truth is one reason why we, as members of the Lord’s church, study, worship, and do the things we do, the very specific Biblical way in which we do them. Understanding that every single human being on the planet will one day have to leave this earth and appear before the judgment seat of God (2 Cor. 5:1-10), we spend what precious little Bible study and worship time we do have together, seeking to draw ever closer to, and developing an ever more intimate spiritual relationship with almighty God through His Son Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:8-21).

We do not believe that we should be wasting either our own or anyone else’s precious time with any other, more frivolous, and/or more worldly pursuits, when there is so much spiritually at stake – namely our eternal soul’s destination. Therefore, we do not seek to spend our time trying to draw a crowd or entertain through mirth, songs, skits, or drama; but instead, fully devote ourselves and what little precious Bible study and worship time we do have, to exploring, examining, explaining and obeying, only what Their word, the Bible, actually teaches – the Bible alone, which the Lord Himself said would be that which would judge us all on the last day (Jn. 12:48).

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

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 25th, 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.

Michael Cook (Doris’s Nephew): has a blockage in an artery doctors treating the blockage with medicine, please pray that the medicine works

We make it our priority to follow the Apostle Peter’s divinely-inspired instructions (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Ptr. 1:20-21), as seen in 2nd Peter. “...As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue... giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ... Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (1:3-11, 3:18).

To spend one’s brief earthly life consumed with either ignoring, seeking to avoid, or failing to fully prepare for that which is ultimately inevitable anyway, seems a rather sad and futile pursuit, when that event can instead be faced with the full peace, comfort, confidence, and assurance, that can only come through an in-depth knowledge of God, through an in-depth study of His holy word, does it not?

We all have an appointment with death. We all have an appointment with God. We will all have to face Him in judgement. Seeking to ignore, avoid, or evade it, will certainly not in any way change it – except to leave us totally unprepared for it.

If you are at all concerned about where you will spend eternity, and would like to begin to prepare for when your time does come to leave this world to go and face God, then please consider coming to get better prepared along with us here at the Lord’s church. Let’s study and get ready together, shall we (1 Thess. 5:1-11; 2 Ptr. 3:10-12)

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

The New Is Better Than the Old

By George McNulty

Since the fall in the Garden of Eden, the race of Adam has been failing spectacularly. God took mercy upon mankind and spared Noah and his family, but, even then, the human race let Him down. Later, He gave men the Law of Moses, but they couldn't keep even the Ten Commandments without messing up. Israel tried obeying the law, but their sacrifices for sin were corrupted by priests and judged partial. They loved their prophets to be positive, and the kings were hopeless. The history of humanity is one of inhumanity and failure. The Holy Bible tells us of the catastrophe that we humans have made of things. What must God think of the world that we corrupted? What is the Holy Spirit telling us throughout the pages of the Old Testament? Human beings could not keep the Law and broke it over and over! We created idols to justify infanticide and sin, and nothing's changed in the last 4,000 years!

All of our sacrifices were insufficient for salvation; they only covered but did not blot out sin. The priests that we trusted were corrupt, such as the sons of Eli. "Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD" (1 Samuel 2:12 KJV). Samuel also addressed the religious leaders of Christ's days on earth when He spoke of these self-righteous men. "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). John the baptizer addressed the same in Luke 3:7. Just look at the checkered history of the judges of ancient Israel. Samson had a tryst with Delilah and that sin brought his ruin. True, his sacrifice literally brought down the pagans in their temple, but that sacrifice did not have the power to save the people forever.

Then the people decided they wanted to have kings just like other nations (apparently God wasn't good enough to be their King)! God relented, but even then, the people were not pleased! The first king, Saul, brought the nation to ruin through his pride. Then, God chose David, the great warrior-poet of Israel, who led Israel to victory. Yet, even David was subject to sinful desires, and in 2 Samuel, we read about the tragic events that unfolded. The kings that reigned after David in the south were also a mixed bunch of good and bad; those in the north were idolatrous, hopeless and, therefore, terrible shepherds. When God sent His prophets to the people, they turned on them and murdered them; false prophets, however, were loved because they told the people what they wanted to hear rather than what they needed to hear.

In 1 Kings 22:8, Israel's monarch said, "There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." In His mercy, our blessed Lord said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not" (Matthew 23:37).

In every way, Christ is superior to all men. The Word tells us that the new brings better than the old! In Christ, we have a new, superior law and an incorruptible High Priest, an eternal King Who will not waiver in His duty or ability! He is our Sovereign, not our servant! The covenant, in its timeless power, is on His terms, not ours. Hebrews 9:16-17 tells us how and when the New Covenant – the New Testament of God – came into effect. Men died for their kings, gods and treasures throughout the ages, but our God and King died for us! We are the sinners in need of His salvation (Romans 3; 6:23). He is incorruptible and victorious (Jude 1:6)!

Yes, the New Covenant is altogether better than the Old Covenant. Paul told about the events in the Old Testament in 1 Corinthians 10:12, which reads, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." In reading these examples, we can clearly see man's failure and his folly of trying to make things right with God in his own way. Cain offered what he willed, not what was required. Men doubting God led to the demand of an earthly king. God wasn't good enough for sinful men! In Jesus Christ, we have the fulfilment of God's promise. The people wanted a man who was king instead of God, and this resulted in disaster. Yet, God had His answer to men's stubborn nature; He was going to come into human history and take His rightful place as the King of humanity. Christ's land is not just Israel but the whole earth. In that sense, everywhere on this planet is the holy land, for it is God's land! God – in the Person of Jesus Christ – is the Priest (Hebrews 9:12), Prophet (Matthew 21:11) and King (John 18:36)!

He is the Mediator, our Judge and our Sacrifice. He is the very spotless, sinless and pure Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world! Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:1). We obey because we love Him and consider it an honor to serve Him.

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com