

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Greg Lowery

On the Table: Head - David Key
Servers - Bradley Box
Charles Berryhill
Billy Box

Closing Prayer: Ralph Burleson

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

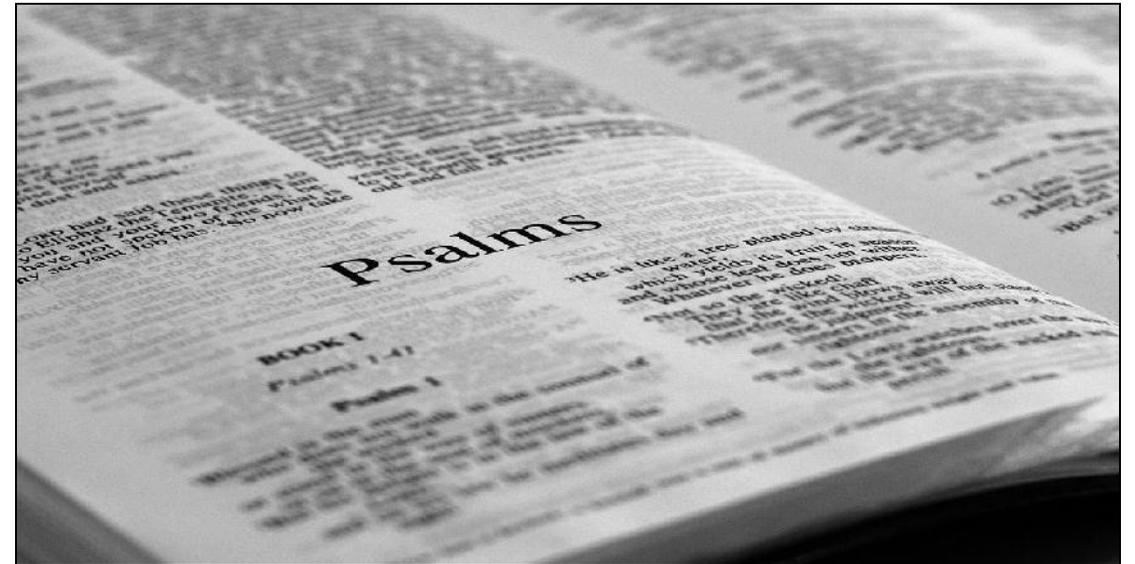
www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill
Minister: Greg Lowery

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On The Lord's Day



The Brilliant Beacon



Seeking First His Reign And Righteousness

By Lee Parish

Have you ever had your worldview rocked? Have you ever been confronted with truth so clear and obvious that you either had to lie to yourself or change your thinking? Those who heard Jesus were presented with that very choice, lie or change.

In the monumental discourse which covers Matthew chapters 5-7, Jesus challenges the worldview of each person.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth (Matthew 5:3-5).

From beginning to end, Jesus challenges their worldview and corrects their misinterpretations of God’s law. He places side by side godliness and worldliness, with both implicit and explicit calls to choose.

In the midst of an exhortation to leave anxiety behind, Jesus instructs us to press forward in faith, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

When you read that phrase, where do you place your emphasis? For many years, I read it with an emphasis upon the word “first.” “Seek FIRST the kingdom of God and his righteousness,” I’d say. It became a matter of degree. As long as I put God’s interests above my own, I’d be satisfying Jesus’ statement. I pressed my worldview into Jesus’ teaching, and bent his will to my own.

But the emphasis is not placed there. The emphasis is upon that which is to be sought, namely God’s reign and his righteousness.

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

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Hunter Coal Corkren: treating his kidney problem with medicine, please be praying that this problem clears up with this treatment

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

David Warren: has been diagnosed with cancer, please pray that it will be treatable

Bobby Sanderson: continues to improve, please pray he has no further problems

Gunner Pendley: recovering from severe brain injury and is in Shepherd’s in Atlanta, please keep him and family in your prayers

Randy Pickard, Sr.: dealing with some health problems, please pray that the doctors will be able to help him

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Wyatt Spann: found new spot on his brain and lower spine, please pray that he will win this fight and defeat this cancer

Frank Farris: is recovering from a stroke, please keep him in your prayers

Kye Jackson: (Lindsey’s son) diagnosed with arthritis he is 2 years old, pray that he will receive successful treatment for this arthritis

Jeff Upton (Donna Martian’s Co-worker): weakness in his legs, please pray that this will improve

Judy Shirley: had part of her lung removed because of cancer and is waiting to hear from the doctors, please pray that she will receive good news

Mary Box: recovering from cracked ribs and some other health problems, please pray that she will get better

Ren Garrison (Donna Martian’s Nephew): will have an operation dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that surgery will be successful in dealing with this problem.

Tyler Upton: is at Shepherd’s in Atlanta dealing with from injuries received in an automobile accident, please keep him and his family in your prayers

DeWayne Wilkinson: had surgery for blood clot in his leg, please pray that he will have a successful recovery

The kingdom of God is God’s reign. Jesus began his ministry with these words, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). God has always had a kingdom, and therefore he has always reigned. He reigned in the garden. He reigned through the time of the patriarchs and judges. He reigned when the people were wicked and when they were righteous. He reigned when they submitted to him as king and when they shouted for a substitute. He reigned when the temple stood in its glory and when it was reduced to rubble. But in God’s grand plan, his kingdom would be seen in its fullness through the work of Jesus.

The righteousness of God references a God who is just or altogether good. Paul details God’s righteousness throughout the book of Romans. God is righteous, and he demonstrates his righteousness through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (see Romans 3:21-26). Through the work of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21), and our life of faith (Romans 1:17), man can become righteous. It is through living by faith, that we pursue the righteousness of God.

When we make God’s reign and righteousness the center of our world, when all other aspects of our daily lives are subsumed into a pursuit for God’s reign and righteousness, it is there that our lives began to look like our Lord’s. He was consumed by magnifying and glorifying the King of kings and demonstrating the Father’s ultimate goodness.

The fruit of such a pursuit is rich and bountiful. Anxiety transforms into trust. Shallow happiness is replaced by deep joy. Our desires meld into our Father’s. Our lives become conformed to the image of the Son. Our steps are directed by the words of the Spirit. Our minds are set on things that are above. And our hearts yearn for the time when we will be in the personal presence of our King and can reside in his righteousness for all eternity.

Obtained at: www.forthright.net

Overcoming Adversity

By Mike Brooks

“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations . . .” (Romans 5:3).

It is not unusual for people to take pride in, or even boast about, the problems that they face in their lives. Athletes will often speak in interviews about “All the adversity I (or we) have overcome” to be successful as an individual or a team. They are not the only ones to use hardships as motivation to try to prove themselves to others. Minorities, the poor, and those with various handicaps will all display their problems proudly to show the extent of their triumphs and successes.

One common error that such pride succumbs to is to feel that one’s particular adversities are somehow special. Maybe they don’t claim that they are more troubled than anyone else, but there is often a distinct flavor of, “I have had to overcome more than most,” at the very least.

Almost always that is simply not true. Problems, difficulties, even opposition and oppression are common to the human experience. Job observed, “Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble” (Job 14:1). The Psalmist proclaimed,

“The days of our lives are seventy years, and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Psalm 90:10).

Pain, suffering, illness, poverty, oppression, social injustice, war, and violence are only some of the many afflictions which fill human history and every nation and culture. Enjoyment of life is obtained only by effort, and it must always deal with adversity. Some certainly seem to have advantages, but no one is exempt.

The ability to deal with problems is one of the more vital life skills which we should seek to acquire. Paul’s words, previously quoted, encourage us to that goal. He did not teach that we should boast in our tribulations, but rather find joy in them. In this he is reminding readers of the words of Jesus in the Beatitudes, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4; see also verses 6 & 10).

The idea that we should be happy while we are suffering seems wrong and even impossible to most of us. Yet it is simply the assertion that happiness is not a product of circumstances. One may be happy whether he is full or hungry, well clothed or not, comfortably warm or too cold (Philippians 4:11-12). Speaking of material prosperity Jesus taught, “One’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15).

One who is secure in his faith in God and his hope of eternal life may be content wherever he is and with whatever God has given. Health, wealth, accomplishments, and fame may be appreciated, but are not necessary. God’s blessings do not depend upon these things, and cannot be measured by them.

Sometimes that which rewards us most is what others would consider an affliction. But as Paul also taught, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecution, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10). God had promised to extend to Paul his grace (verse 9). That was all the apostle would need.

Obtained at: www.forthright.net

Upcoming Events

Today	Tri-County Singing {Here}	2:00 pm
November 2 nd	Trunk or Treat	
November 3 rd	Country Place	2:00 pm
November 10 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm