

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddie Dickinson

Opening Prayer: David Key

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

Closing Prayer: Al Corkren

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
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**Visit Our Website**

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

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

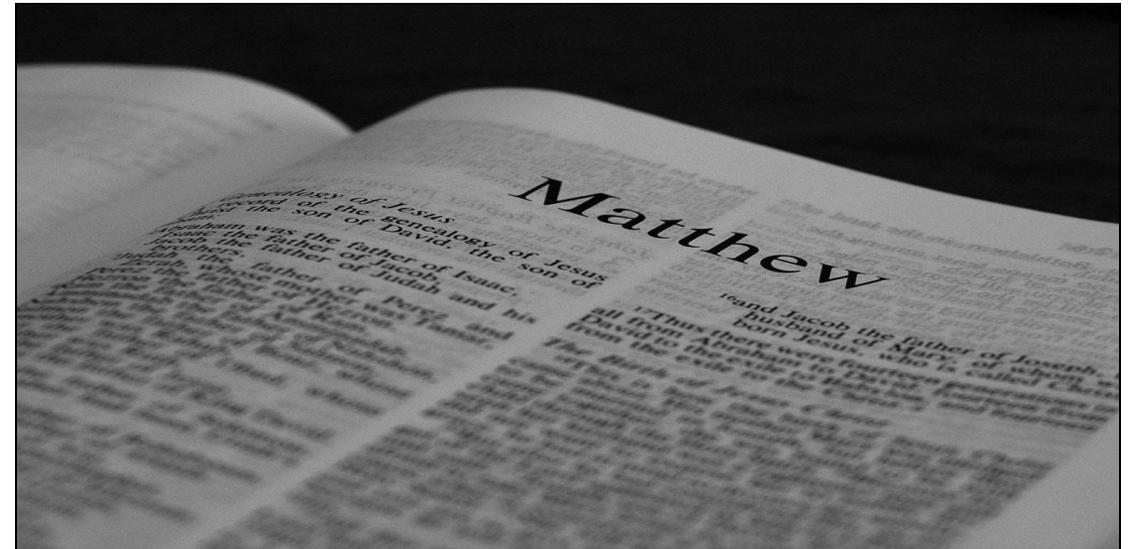
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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Brilliant Church of Christ  
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Brilliant, AL 35548

# Questions Concerning Hell



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**The Christian and His Vote**

By Sam Willcut

Several decades ago, the question “What would Jesus do?” was a big fad. Jesus, along with all those in the first century, lived when the Romans were in power. Even several centuries preceding this, we know that the world was ruled by dictators (Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and Greek). However, if Jesus and the apostles lived in a democracy, what would they do? For those who live in such countries (such as the USA), we have a luxurious privilege and blessing that many citizens of other countries do not possess—we have a voice! Yes, even Christians have a voice when it comes to the election of our political leaders! Totalitarian governments do not allow people to express their choices at the polls, but countless individuals in the past literally have given their lives to make this freedom possible. God has blessed us to have a “government of the people, by the people and for the people” (as President Lincoln addressed at Gettysburg). Inherent within this privilege is a responsibility as citizens—to inform ourselves of the issues and the candidates. Thus, voting is a choice of people who enjoy civil freedom!

How to deal with the government has always been a problem for the people of God. When the Pharisees attempted to trap Jesus regarding the subject of taxes—a quite sensitive issue among people both then and now—he asked for a coin and responded, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s, and unto God the things that are God’s” (Matt. 22:15-21). Unfortunately, it seems that there has been, and will always be, tension between our obligation to God and our obligation to our country. While we are citizens of a heavenly country (Phil. 3:20), and the kingdom of God is not of this world (John 18:36), we are still to view our governmental rulers with respect (Rom. 13:1-7). Regrettably, some Christians do not exercise their right to vote. From a civic perspective, they become apathetic. Alexander Tyler, a Scottish historian, wrote about the fall of the Athenian republic and stated that most nations progress through a specific sequence from rise to power and then to collapse. Detailing such, he itemized these stages as follows: bondage to spiritual faith, spiritual faith to great courage, great courage to liberty, liberty to abundance, abundance to selfishness, selfishness to complacency, complacency to apathy, apathy to dependency, and dependency back to bondage. As a nation, where do we fall in this sequence? As a Christian citizen, where do we fall in this sequence? Do we personally care?

**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

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: please continue to pray that he will continue to improve

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

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: recovering from spinal surgery, please be praying that she has a successful recovery

Jamie Long: doctor was pleased with the outcome of his hernia surgery, please be praying that he has a successful recovery

Pray for all those dealing with COVID especially those of the household of faith.

Pam Braden: she is dealing with some ongoing health problems, please pray that those working with her can help her

Bobby Sanderson: dealing with COVID and pneumonia, please keep praying that he overcomes these issues

How tragic that very few Christians have undertaken the duty of serving in a public office! Many Christians are crestfallen when it comes to seeking civic leadership positions, because they believe the corruption within would quite literally choke any godly influence out from the good-hearted child of God. Yet, the quandary lies in the fact that while the general attitude among Christians is negative toward politics and politicians, it is equally true that our democratic nations need men and women of faith in leadership positions now more than ever! We need good people who will exercise godly wisdom to bring about reformation (Prov. 14:34). How will we ever reach this point if we choose never to voice our opinion or cast our vote? If God could act through human kings of days gone by (often influenced by godly men, such as Daniel and Nehemiah), why could He not act through His own people today when they serve in leadership positions?

William James (1842-1910), a renowned philosopher and spokesperson, once said, “There is but one unconditional commandment, which is that we should seek incessantly, with fear and trembling, so to vote and to act as to bring about the very largest total universe of good we can see” (“The Moral Philosopher and the Moral Life”). He also stated,

The deadliest enemies of nations are not their foreign foes; they always dwell within their borders, and from these internal enemies, civilization is always in need of being saved. The nation blessed above all nations is she in whom the civic genius of the people does the saving day by day, by acts without external picturesqueness; by speaking, writing, voting reasonably; by smiting corruption swiftly; by good temper between parties; by the people knowing true men when they see them and preferring them as leaders to rabid partisans or empty quacks. (“Memories and Studies”)

Therefore, Christians ought to desire to be good citizens and exercise their freedom to vote according to principles of character and morality. Indifference and apathy are truly the worst enemies in the civic arena—may they never be demonstrated by the people of God! It is time to stand boldly against the sins of our nation and the issues that affect morality! May every Christian exercise his or her right and privilege to vote, and accompany such with fervent prayers (1 Tim. 2:1-2)!

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

**Hell is for Real**

By Doug Dingley

“Hell is for real.” When was the last time you heard someone say that? When was the last time you heard some money or power hungry televangelist teach that soul-searing truth (2 Peter. 2:1-3; Acts 20:30)?

Some number of years ago a book came out about a little boy’s supposed experience of dying and going to heaven for a few minutes (said experience itself later publicly confessed to be fraudulent), proclaiming that ‘heaven was for real!’ Now, of course we already knew that based on much better and more reliable testimony because God in the flesh – Jesus Christ Himself – very clearly and plainly told us so (Jn. 14:1-3 and etc.). But my point is, why isn’t there a popular, best-selling, and well-known book out there proclaiming that ‘hell is for real?’ The reasons should be obvious: Because the thought of eternally ongoing punishment in the flames of eternal hell make most people extremely uncomfortable (And why not? The Bible says that it is ‘the many,’ or the majority of people who will choose the easy way that leads there – Matt. 7:13-14). Because Satan continues to do everything in his nasty and deceptive power to keep unsaved people so preoccupied with the things of this world that they have neither the time nor the interest to truly explore the horrors awaiting them there (2 Cor. 4:3-4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; Rev. 14:9-11). Because few want to face the fact that hell is every bit as real as heaven. In fact, many have pointed out that Jesus actually talked and taught more about hell than He did about heaven! So why don’t we do the same, as those who claim to be following in His footsteps?

This fact is, that people who are totally oblivious to the fact – folks that neither know nor understand – that they are sick and soon going to die without proper medical treatment have no reason to seek help from a physician. Likewise, those who are kept totally in the dark about the horrors of hell that await all sinners who have not received God’s grace and forgiveness through their faith, repentance, and gospel obedience (Acts 2:38-41; 2 Thess. 1:7-10), will typically find little reason to take us, or the salvation we offer, very seriously (if at all), as long as they have no idea of what it is they need to be saved **FROM**.

Let us make sure, as those who claim to be following in Jesus’ footsteps to heaven, that we too, make sure that people know the hellish reality of their eventual eternity that they desperately need to be saved FROM, before trying to teach them that they need to be saved at all. Otherwise, if they feel they are fine as they are, why would they listen?

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

**Hell - A Misery that is Real**

Luke 16:23-24

**HELL IS A PLACE OF SENSATION  
"TORMENT"**  
Luke 16:23

← || || →

**HELL IS A PLACE OF SUFFERING  
"HE CRIED"**  
Luke 16:24

**HELL IS A PLACE OF SEPARATION  
"AFAR OFF"**  
Luke 16:23

← || || →

**HELL IS A PLACE OF SOLICITATION  
"HAVE MERCY ON ME"**  
Luke 16:24

Barnes' Bible Charts