

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddie Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Greg Lowery

On the Table: Head - Al Corkren
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Arlen Foss
Josh Berryhill

Closing Prayer: Billy Box

Preparing the Lord's Supper Michelle Lowery

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

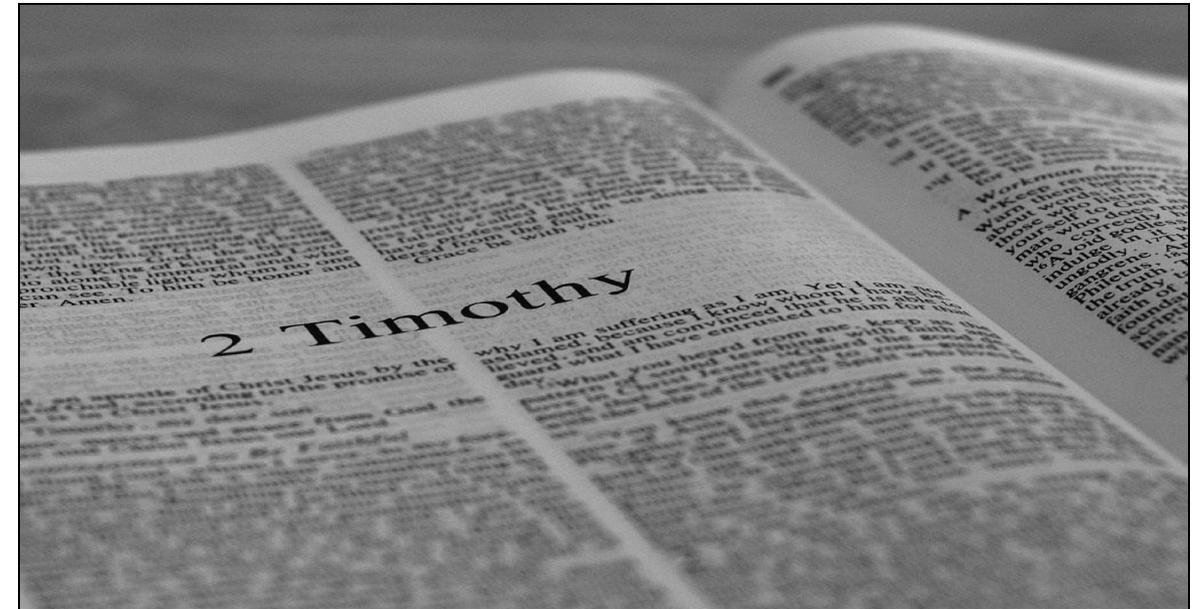
www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

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

Contact Information:
Phone: (205) 465-9142

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

Generation After Generation



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



First Things First!

By Rodney Nulph

One day, an expert was speaking to a group of business students. “Okay, time for a quiz,” he told them, pulling out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed mason jar, setting it on a table in front of him. Then, he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, “Is this jar full?” Everyone in the class said, “Yes.” Then he said, “Really?” He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks.

Then, he smiled and asked the group once more, “Is the jar full?” By this time, the class was onto him. “Probably not,” one of them answered. “Good!” he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in, and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, “Is this jar full?” “No!” the class shouted. Once again, he said, “Good!” Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked up at the class and asked, “What is the point of this illustration?”

One eager boy raised his hand and said, “The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!” “No,” the speaker replied, “that’s not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is that if you don’t put the big rocks in first, you’ll never get them in at all.”

Isn’t that just how life can be sometimes? We get all filled up with little things that really do not matter and never have time or room for the big things that matter most. Just think about all the “little” things in life that fill up our jars: worry, fear, discouragement, arguing, bickering, etc. When these and more fill our lives, we have no room for the big and beautiful things like joy, peace, tranquility, harmony and calm assurance that God is on His throne and ruling. Consider some of what the Bible says about “first things first.”

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: is planning on having total shoulder replacement surgery, let us be praying that it will be done without any complications

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

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.

Firstly, fill your life with the right passion. In contrast to being passionate for the earthly, Jesus reminded, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6 NKJV). Paul admonished Timothy, “So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22 ESV). When we fill our jar with the earthly, it is impossible to fit in the spiritual! There is little wonder why Jesus demanded, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...” (Matthew 6:33 NKJV). Your real passion shows!

Secondly, fill your life with the right prayers. Sometimes we talk to everyone about everything but have no time for communication with the One Who really matters – God! A man who filled his jar with prayer, penned, “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Notice, “First of all...!” “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6 ESV). We often want to see change – change in the world, in our careers and in our congregations. Do you really want things to change for the better? God reminded His people of old, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV). “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14). We long for just the right governor, president or political staff to change the world, filling our jars with little pebbles. Yet, the answer to real change is in the “Rock of Ages”! Your prayers matter!

Thirdly, fill your life with the right perspective. How many of our jars are filled with negativity, doom, destruction and frustration today? We live with constant agitation! Why? Because our jars are filled with pebbles of perspective that do not really matter in the big scheme of life. Children of the King are commanded, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2). What we think, yes, our perspective really makes us who we are (Proverbs 23:7). Paul reminded his friends in Philippi to keep the right perspective. “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

We all have loads of things to fit into our jars each day. To live the abundant life that God wants us to live, we must put in the rocks that matter most. If you and I put in the right passion, the right prayers and the right perspective first, the other things will fill in where needed. God said it for our benefit, so let's remember – first things first!

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

Take a Stand

By Royce Pendergrass

A characteristic of a real hero is that he or she blossoms when things get bad. Just when it seems there might be no hope of correcting or living through a bad situation, a true hero comes to the front and tackles the situation. In other words, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." We probably don't see this played out any better than in our extreme military situations. Soldiers will risk (and often sacrifice) their lives to do whatever it takes to save a fellow soldier or others who are in danger of hurt or death. They stand up for each other.

Another instance of the bravado of others is when their children are in danger. Just about any of us would give our lives to save the lives of our children. We stand up for those we love. An amazing story is that of Abraham to whom God gave a son in his old age. Abraham had lived 100 years without being blessed with a son who would be his seed through Sarah. We know that Abraham loved Isaac greatly after waiting all those years for his arrival. God spoke to Abraham about this and told him, "...Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you" (Genesis 22:2 NKJV). Abraham went about to obediently do as God instructed him, but God intervened after seeing Abraham's faith. Abraham had taken a stand for God, and through faith, he was willing to do whatever God told him to do.

Christians must always take a stand for God with an even greater degree of strength than would be exercised in saving our own lives or those of others. We often sing a song entitled, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus." The second stanza says, "Stand up for Jesus! The trumpet call obey; forth to the mighty conflict in this His glorious day. Ye that are men now serve Him against unnumbered foes. Let courage rise with danger

and strength to strength oppose." The number of foes who are against God and truth is always much greater than those who are His followers. That sometimes makes it seem like an impossible task. Yet, when things seem impossible, think of Abraham's faith and the stand he took to be obedient to God. A part of the last stanza of the song says, "To him that overcomes a crown of life shall be." Eternal life is the reward the faithful will receive at the Judgment.

We've all heard the old adage that "those who stand for nothing will fall for anything." Christians have many things for which to take a stand. First of all, the faithful must "stand in awe of Him [God]" (Psalm 33:8). After all, He is the great Creator and the One to be feared when we disobey Him. The psalmist said, "My heart stands in awe of Your word" (Psalm 119:161). It is God's Word that tells us what we must do to be acceptable to Him. Christians must stand in the Lord's grace. "This is the true grace of God in which you stand" (1 Peter 5:12).

Christians are advised, "by faith you stand" (2 Corinthians 1:24). Paul said to "stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free" (Galatians 5:1) from the bondage and result of sin. He also said to "stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11). Satan is crafty and knows how to hit you where it hurts! Further, in verse 14, Paul told them to "Stand... having put on the breastplate of righteousness." The faithful must "stand fast in the faith" (1 Corinthians 16:13) and "stand fast in the Lord" (Philippians 4:1).

To be pleasing to God, Christians must take a stand on many things. Every soul will make a stand at the Judgment Seat of God to "give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12). Resolve to make that final stand one where you will hear "...Enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:21)!

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