

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

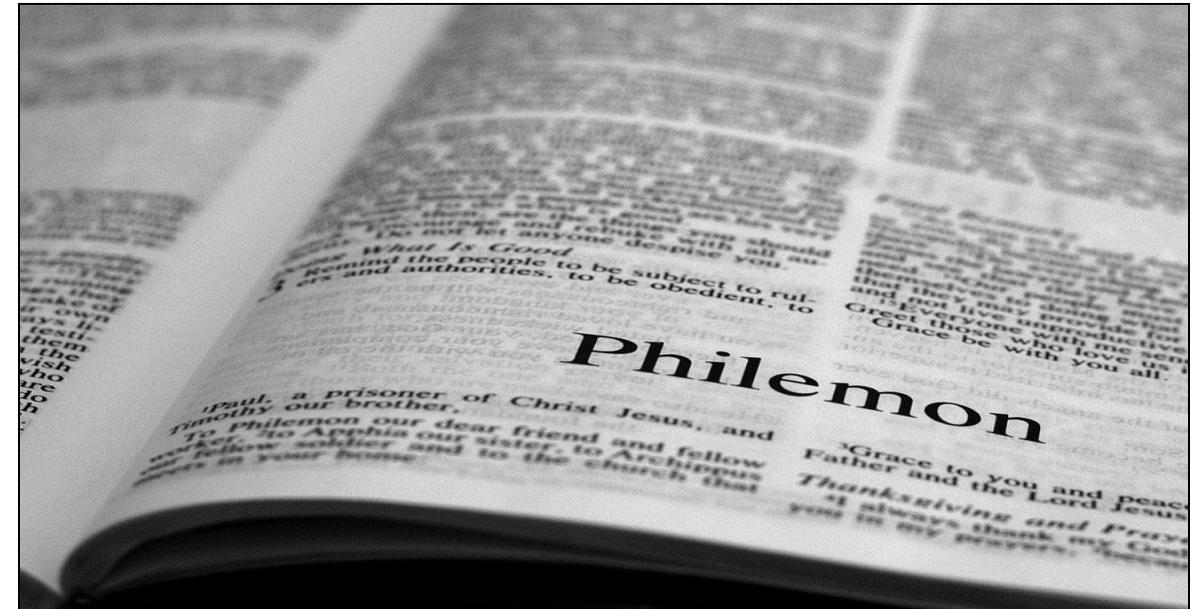
Eddie Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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***The Acknowledging
of Every Good Thing
Which Is In You In Christ Jesus***



***The
Brilliant
Beacon***



Religiosity and Real Faith

By Robert Johnson

I recently looked at a map of the world that was coded regarding which places were more religious and which were less religious. The map was not coded by types of religion, such as Christianity, Buddhism, Islam or the like, but just religious expression in general. Interestingly enough, Latin America, South America and Africa were coded as being from average to most religious, depending on the state or region. Also of interest is that North America, most of Europe and Australia were coded less to least religious.

What the map reinforced to me is that most people have some measure of religious expression or what could be termed religiosity. Sociological studies suggest there are at least three components to religious behavior: knowing (cognition in the mind), feeling (affect to the spirit) and doing (behavior of the body). What most measures of religiosity find is that there is at least some distinction between religious doctrine, religious practice and spirituality (from an article about religiosity on Wikipedia). Religiosity, then, is not so connected to the belief in God per se or what Scripture teaches about Him and Christian living but how one has been taught or what one feels or the benefit one believes is gained from doing certain things. Being religious doesn't always mean being genuinely spiritual or believing the truth of the Gospel or living as God commands.

When we think about being part of the Lord's church, we should always be willing to ask ourselves why we do what we do. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were committed to their traditions, performing them religiously, yet that did not make them acceptable to God. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness" (Matthew 23:27-28 NKJV). In a more general way, Jesus asked, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

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.

I suppose the point of it all is, when does one stop going through the motions and actually believe and practice his or her faith from the heart? There is a difference in the two. Different people can engage in the same activity but for totally different reasons. It is not something others can automatically perceive about us but what we come to know by looking inside ourselves, by honestly appraising ourselves. Scripture repeatedly reminds us God is a discerner of the heart – of our motives. “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the spirits” (Proverbs 16:2). Scripture can help us discern such, but we must be honest with ourselves to allow it to make a difference in us. “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

David said, “Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4). David wasn’t saying God will always give us what we want in life, but that if our delight is in God, in living for Him and pleasing Him, then that is where our heart’s desire will be as well. He will place His desires within us. It is similar to Jesus reminding us to always ask, seek and knock to have God’s genuine blessings in our lives (Matthew 7:7-8). Truly there is something wrong if we claim to love God, if we go through the acts of religion, but our desire is still as worldly as the world around us (James 4:3).

May we from the heart grow to have a greater desire for God, and from a pure heart seek Him and His will for our lives. That is not religiosity, but real faith and a real relationship with God through His Son. That is where peace, joy and love can be found and sustained in our lives.

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

King Jesus, Rightful Ruler of All

By George McNulty

In the first century of our calendar, something remarkable happened. In the desert province of Judea, a baby was born to a peasant couple in an obscure village. This Child, regardless of His poor and humble beginnings, was of royal lineage found in Matthew 1:2-16 and Luke 3:23-3. He was the direct descendant of King David, ruler of the united kingdom of Israel.

During the lifetime of Christ on earth, the means of establishing a legal entitlement to the throne was available to all. This is significant because, after the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70, there is no legal way of establishing a rightful heir to the throne. Jesus, thus, had the last and the only legitimate claim to the title of King. His royal lineage through Joseph, his legal father, could be traced to King David through King Solomon, and through his mother Mary, His line went through David’s son Nathan. No matter which way you trace it, Jesus was the rightful heir to the throne and not the Roman puppet, king Herod or his family.

God chose how His people are to be governed. He revealed His ways in His Word, and we obey. It’s that simple! In John 14:15, our glorious Lord said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (NKJV).

Yet, do we love and obey Jesus? Some claim they obey Him but follow their own ways, even while saying they serve Him. Remember, the mob that called for Christ’s death was religious, and yet, look at what they did! When our Lord stood before them, that angry mob yelled, “We have no king but Caesar” (John 19:15). Jesus witnessed nothing less than a cry of treason. They committed the sin of their forbearers when God’s anointed ruler was rejected in favor of the people’s popular choice: “They set up kings, but not by Me; They made princes, but I did not acknowledge them” (Hosea 8:4). They rejected their natural sovereign for a heathen brute.

The prophet Isaiah told us who is in control: “The government will be upon his shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (9:6). The Lord Jesus Christ Himself said, “All authority has been given unto Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18).

God chose the method of government for His kingdom. He could have chosen a republic like Rome, with a senate of advisors for the emperor. He could have chosen a democracy like Athens. Instead, He chose an absolute monarchy. Preachers, elders, deacons and the rest of the flock have one duty – to be totally loyal to the King of Kings. Let us serve Him with honor and joy.

The simple truth is this: The Lion of Judah defeated the Eagle of Rome. The King of the Jews was and is the reigning King of Israel. He is the King of His church, the kingdom on earth. He is the righteous Branch of David. No one can succeed Him to the throne! His will must be done (Matthew 6:10)! The great beauty of our most Holy God is the everlasting and sacrificial love He showed toward us. Jesus is the best King we can ever have, and He deserves our loving service. Earthly rulers come and go, but Christ remains the same, “yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). It is a wonderful comfort to all who love Him and know that Jesus is ruler of all!

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