

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddy Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Al Corkren

On the Table: Head - David Key
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Greg Lowery
Josh Berryhill

Closing Prayer: Lannie Key

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: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

Contact Information:
Phone: (205) 465-9142

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

Walking In Truth
A Study Of 2nd John



***The
Brilliant
Beacon***



Heart-Searching

By T. Pierce Brown

In Psalm 139:23-24, the psalmist said, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me, and know my thoughts; And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.” The word “heart” is used over 800 times in the Bible, translated from more than six different words. Most of the brethren whom I have heard speak on the matter have equated the heart with the intellect. That is not as definitive and exact as it should be. It is more nearly accurate to think of the heart as the subconscious mind, the wellspring of all activity. As Proverbs 4:23 puts it, “Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.”

However, that is not my subject today. I will neither have time or space to deal with the sixty different kinds of hearts mentioned in the Bible nor with the dozens of allusions to other kinds. There are hard and soft hearts, pure and impure, wise and foolish, dark and enlightened, single and double, trusting and faithless, fixed and wavering, and faint and strong. Since God will search and try our hearts, it behooves us to do some heart-searching first and make sure we have the kinds of hearts that please Him. Let us view some kinds of hearts for which we should strive.

First there is the grateful or thankful heart. Without this, none of the other kinds God wants will ever be developed. The pitiful story in Luke 17:12-19 of ten men who were healed, and only one returned to give thanks, is typical of humanity in general. If we are to develop thankful hearts, what elements constitute it or make it possible?

To have a thankful heart, there must be a thoughtful heart. Do you realize that gratitude, to make sense, has to be to a person? You may be thankful for a thing, but you must be thankful to a person. Logically, psychologically, philosophically and theologically, one who does not believe in God cannot properly say, “I am thankful” for anything that God provides. One might be glad that he had a phone that would ring, but he could not properly be thankful to the phone.

Paul said in Philippians 4:6, “In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” He did not say, “For everything be thankful,” although it is a wonderful truth that when one learns to be thankful in all circumstances, he can come nearer being thankful for whatever may happen to him in God’s providence. For example, the lepers we mentioned would

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: she has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Jack Waldon: {Linda’s Brother-In-Law} he is under hospice care, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Billy Lee: {Carolyn’s Brother} diagnosed with renal failure, please keep him in your prayers

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister}: is back in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray that her health continues to improve

Connie Autrey: recent scans show that the cancer is shrinking, please continue to pray that the treatments will continue to work in defeating her cancer

Doug Roberts: is in the nursing home in Hamilton recovering from a recent stroke, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments that this cancer can be defeated

Timmy Weeks: knee surgery went well please pray for a successful recovery

Bobby Sanderson: continues to make improvements, please pray that this continues

Don Lawrence: plan to meet with doctors to determine the course to take concerning blockage with kidneys, please be praying that this problem can be successfully removed

Upcoming Events

Today	Fellowship Meal	
November 18 th	Bible Bowl {Eldridge}	2:00 pm
November 25 th	Tri-County Singing {Tidwell Chapel}	2:00 pm

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Angie Ganey Gardner: she has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Amy Weeks {Donna’s Niece}: has asked for prayers to help overcome addictions, please pray that she will turn to God for help and strength

neither have been thankful for the leprosy nor in their leprous condition. Yet, it is possible that, having been cured by Jesus, if they had been properly thankful for that, they might even have been thankful for the leprosy itself, for through it, they met Jesus.

Being thoughtful also should help us to be humble. If one asks you how you came to be in the position you are, physically, spiritually, financially, socially or otherwise, you may profess the reason to be luck or providence, but in reality, you probably think, “I was smarter than the other fellow or I worked harder than him” or another reason equally true. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:7, “For who maketh thee to differ? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive?” If God had meant for us to pat ourselves on the back, He would have made our joints different. However, it is simple and natural to bend the knee. So, humility and a thankful heart are intimately related, and one will help create another.

There is another group of words that describes a heart which is pleasing to God. In Psalm 51:17, the psalmist penned, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” To have a broken and contrite heart, we must first be aware of what sin is and how bad it is. Then one must be aware of having done that specific wrong. As long as Saul believed Jesus was a liar and an imposter, it was impossible for him to have a broken heart for persecuting Him. Often in my private Bible studies, I have had persons tell me, “Everyone knows when he is wrong.” It is not so. Also, one may know he is wrong, but not how badly wrong he is. Jesus said, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” They knew they were wrong, but they did not know that they were crucifying the Savior. That does not mean they were excused. It does mean that when they learned how bad their sin was, it was easier for them to have a contrite heart (to be pricked in it) and to repent.

So often, we have heard persons use the expression, “I’m not that bad” or similar expressions. Frequently, they are not really comparing themselves with anything specific. They simply do not think their particular sin was bad. Surely Adam and Eve felt that way. Yet, look at the consequences of their sin! No doubt Ananias and Sapphira felt that way. Just a little lying is not “that bad.” It was bad enough to cost them their lives.

When I survey the wondrous cross on which my Savior died and realize it was “little” sins like mine that placed him there, it breaks my heart. It was envy, covetousness, lack of commitment to God’s way, failure to stand up for what was right and other similar attitudes that put Him there.

In the Parable of the Soils in Luke 8:5-15, Jesus spoke of the “good and honest heart.” That is the heart that does not offer some lame excuse when it hears what God wants, but simply does what it can to comply with His will. When it hears, “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish,” it does not respond, “I am better than Mr. Jones.” It just repents. When it hears, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,” it does not respond, “Yes, but he that believeth something and is not baptized shall be saved also.” It just leads him to obey. Saul of Tarsus had a good and honest heart. He had lived in all good conscience all his life (Acts 23:1), but when he was told, “Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins” (Acts 22:16), he did.

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Be Involved

By Derek Broome

There was great excitement in the air in Acts 2 when the church began. Those who were being saved were added to the Lord’s church just as we are today. As the church in the first century, it began to work for the Lord. Its members met with each other house to house. They continued in the apostle’s doctrine. They worshipped. They worked. They took care of one another. As the church began to grow, more and more congregations of the Lord’s church were being established from city to city. Elders were put into place in each congregation to shepherd the flock, and the Word of the Lord continued to spread.

As Christians living today, we are a part of that same church that began in Acts 2. When we are baptized for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38), Christ adds us to His church (Acts 2:47). As part of the body, we serve God. We worship Him in spirit and in truth. We are obedient to His Word. We follow His Will. We come together on each Sunday to worship Him and to remember Christ and His sacrifice. We come together to lift each other up, encouraging and supporting one another, praying for one another. We come together to give unto the Lord from the depths of our hearts, to praise and honor God. We come together.

The Lord has set many commandments before us as His church, the things that we must do. While, yes, we should do those things because God has commanded us, we should also do them out of love (John 14:15). We should love to worship God. We should love to come together. Lifting up other people should bring joy to our hearts. The work of the Lord and spreading of the Gospel should not be something that we just feel obligated to do, but such ought to be something that we love and desire to do.

We should also know that as a child of God we are needed in the body. Our individual talents make us who we are; they make us special. Those things that set us apart as individuals make us unique and very much needed for the work of the Lord. When we do not come together, we are not only breaking God’s commands (Hebrews 10:24-25), but we are also not supporting our fellow brethren. We need to love God and each other so much that we want to be a part of His spiritual body.

As a church, we come together. We come together on Sundays to worship God and to lift each other up. We come together outside of worship to continue the work of the Lord. My hope is that we will all come together to do God’s will.

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