

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

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

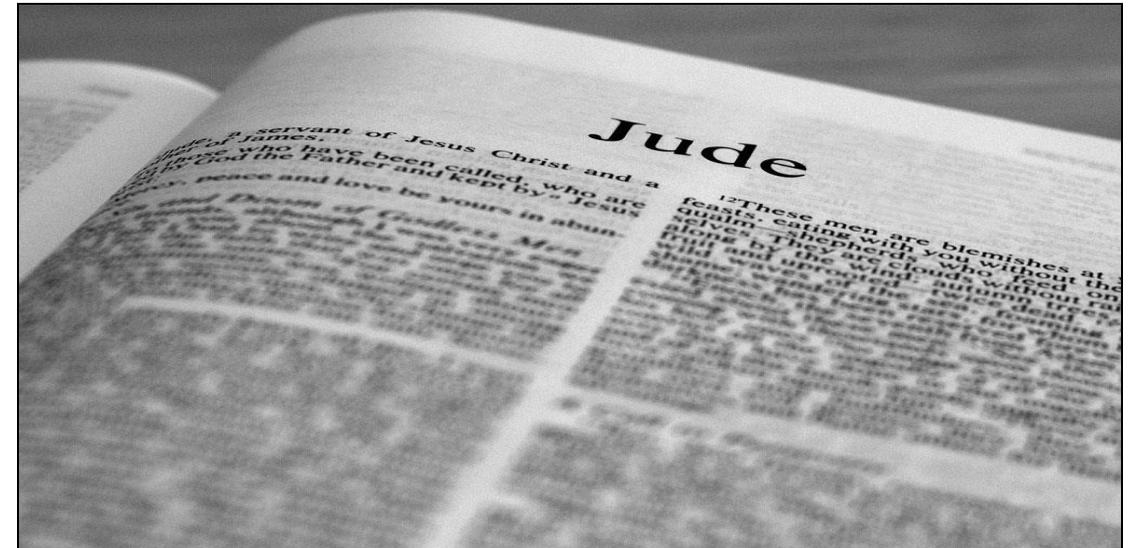
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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# Contending For The Faith



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**John’s Doubt, Our Challenge**

By Lee Parish

The forerunner for the Messiah was in prison, punished for presuming to speak truth to power. Though John had pointed others to Jesus, he still had followers. These disciples reported to John all that Jesus had been doing (Luke 7:18), most notably raising a widow’s only son from the dead (Luke 7:11-17).

When John hears of these wondrous miracles, he is dismayed. He sends two disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” (Luke 7:19). Perhaps John is discouraged because Jesus is doing these wonderful things and John is confined. Perhaps John was anticipating the Messiah’s work to be quickly accomplished.

Remember, this is the one who announced with such conviction, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29). It is he who received confirmation from the Father that Jesus is “the Son of God” (John 1:34). John is no stranger to the nature of the one called Jesus. But prison and possible death likely has a way of causing a person to need reassurance.

The Lord answers the disciples gently, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard” (Luke 7:22). Then Jesus draws upon prophecy from various places in Isaiah. The coming of the Messiah would bring with it the healing of the deaf and blind (Isaiah 35:5), the raising of the dead (Isaiah 25:8, 9), and the proclamation of the good news to the poor (Isaiah 61:1).

The coming of the Messiah also heralded a new age when the Way of Holiness shall be opened, whereupon the redeemed walk and the ransomed of the LORD come to Zion (Isaiah 35:8-10). The year of the LORD’s favor was announced by these miracles, but it included so much more.

**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 gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Virgie McMillan (mother of Ann Box: dealing with complications from a recent stroke, please keep her in your prayers

Don Lawrence: recovering from knee replacement, please be praying that he has a successful recovery

Karen Chaffin: has had fainting spells, please pray that the doctors can determine what is wrong and that she will have no serious problems

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

Bill Berryhill: will be having a bone scan this week; please be praying that no cancer will be found

Yet those blessings are only for those who are not offended by Jesus (Luke 7:24). Jesus is both the cornerstone and the rock of stumbling. His appearing brings about the ultimate in choice. John needed to be reassured that Jesus was everything the prophet declared him to be. Jesus wanted John to see that the blessings were more than temporal.

John was no Caspar Milquetoast, he came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1:17)! He had the task of smoothing roads and turning hearts. He lived off the land (Matthew 3:4), and was not swayed by power or position (Matthew 3:7).

John was a prophet, but he was also the subject of prophesy. In Malachi 3:1, John is the first “messenger,” whose purpose was to “prepare the way” for God in the flesh. In Malachi 4:5, John is “Elijah the prophet” who heralded the great and awesome day of the LORD. His groundwork included turning the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers (Malachi 4:6).

By virtue of the greatness of John’s prophesied position, his faithfulness to his function, and his humility as a herald, Jesus declared, “among those born of women none is greater than John” (Luke 7:28). Consider how lofty a tribute this is. This is the Creator of all flesh, the One who knows the hearts of all men (John 2:24; Acts 1:24).

Yet, even the least in the kingdom is greater than John. We have greater knowledge (Luke 10:23, 24; 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11), greater blessings (Ephesians 1:3-14), greater access (Hebrews 4:14-16), greater hope (Hebrews 6:19, 20), and a greater covenant (Hebrews 8:6-13).

One can certainly be shaken in their faith. John’s need for reassurance did not cause the Redeemer to rebuke him. Rather, after a reminder to John’s disciples, Jesus praised the great man.

Considering that we live in the culmination of all things, with greater knowledge, blessings, access, and hope in our greater covenant, how much stronger should our faith be?

“Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required”  
(Luke 12:48).

If we are in the kingdom, we are greater than John. Always remember, our greatness is not due to the quality of our lives, but the quality of him who died and lives forevermore.

Obtained at: [www.forthright.net](http://www.forthright.net)

**For The Sins Of The Whole World**

By J. Randal Matheny

Religions are often identified with certain people groups. They are limited, mostly, to certain regions of the world. They make up a part of the culture of those groups. They do not always welcome outsiders. There are a few so-called world religions, but most of these are also limited.

Jesus died as the “atoning sacrifice” sent by God, “not only for our sins but also for the whole world” 1 John 2.1-2. This is a staggering affirmation. The apostle John writes it in the context of the need of a group of Christians to have a sacrifice for their sins and to be forgiven even after their conversion. It implies several things.

One, God loves and wants to forgive everyone. We do not have a regional God nor a religion restricted to a select group. He created all people and offers forgiveness on the same basis, through faith and obedience. We all get in by the same door, by being immersed into Christ.

Two, every single person in this world is just as precious in God’s sight as I am. I may think that others of certain groups are weird, strange, different, or inferior. God doesn’t. He values both beggar and billionaire, both the super successful and the twenty-something still living with mom and dad. The children’s song hits the right note, applied to children and grown-ups: “Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.”

Three, God has put me in this world to tell the news about Jesus and how he forgives sins. Was John reminding his readers that, since they were saved, they needed to be about the task of saving others? Whatever his point at mentioning that Jesus is the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, the truth cannot but raise all eyes to the ripe fields to be reaped for salvation.

Four, it tells us the enormity of Jesus’ sacrifice for sin. How could our Lord not shrink from the cross, in the Garden of Gethsemane, as he thought of the task before him? Jesus went willingly to the cross. He came with this mission in mind. His suffering was severe, especially in his soul. There are those who say that Jesus would have died had I been the only human in need, and they are right, but they miss the point. The point is that I am not the only human in need; it was the sins of the whole world that made him bleed.

That Jesus died for the sins of the whole world is motivation not to sin. And it is our joy when we do sin. As well our reminder that we have the solution for sin, not only for ours, but also for the whole world.

How about we tell them?

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