

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
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Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

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

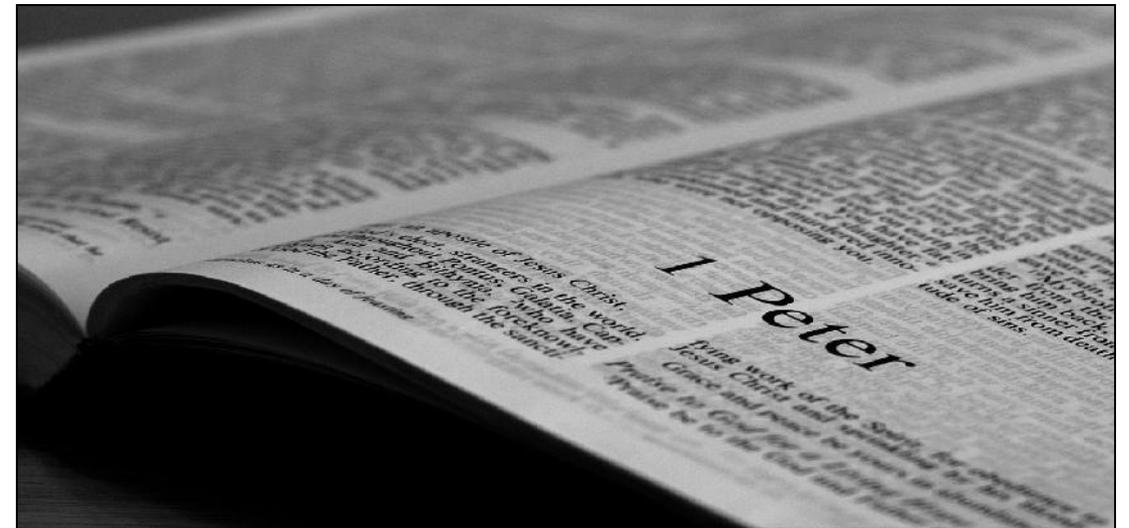
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

Contact Information:
Phone: (205) 465-9142

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

Hope



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Jesus Called Himself “The Light of The World”

By Kippy Myers

In John 8:12, Jesus refers to Himself as “the light of the world”. The significance of this statement becomes particularly clear as we compare the work of light to the work of darkness.

The most fundamental work of darkness is to hide things from view (Isa. 29:15). God evidently made the darkness of nighttime to hide the things of daylight hours so that man could clear his mind of them and thus rest from their attendant responsibilities. In this sense, darkness is good.

But there is also a spiritual type of darkness which would hide the light of truth from man. Satan is the source of all such darkness. He is so deceitful that he can even make men think that his darkness is light (2nd Cor. 11:13-14; Luke 11:35). He deceives them into thinking that the murky darkness of sin and uncertainty is the way that things are supposed to be and should be. He thus blinds the minds of the unbelieving (2nd Cor. 4:1-2), keeping them in the obscurity of sin. These walk about in the darkness of Satan’s lies and do not realize where they are going (John 12:35; 1st Jn. 2:11). While in sin, they are lost in the darkness that sin is and that sin produces (Psa. 82:5). Some of these spiritually blind also lead others into darkness (Matt. 15:14).

The most fundamental service of light, however, is to overcome darkness and to show things as they really are, free from shadow or illusion. Light and darkness are therefore natural enemies, the presence of one necessitating the absence of the other. But, of the two elements, light is the more powerful (Eccl. 2:13). Although darkness may seem powerful as it thickly covers all things which are not in the light, it cannot overcome light (John 1:5), whereas light easily overpowers darkness. Thus, light dissipates darkness and reveals what it concealed, bringing clearly into view what darkness had hidden. The superiority of light limits the scope and effects of the inferior darkness.

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: is recovering from recent knee surgery, please continue to keep him in your prayers

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

Don Lawrence: meet with doctors concerning blockage with kidneys and are going to wait until February before taking further steps, please continue to keep him your prayers

Upcoming Events

Today	Tri-County Singing {Tidwell Chapel}	2:00 pm
December 2 nd	Country Place	2:00 pm
December 9 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
December 16 th	Holiday Fellowship	(after evening service)

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

God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all (1st Jn. 1:5). Naturally, the Son of God is also light (John 1:4-9). In fact, He is the epitome of light in every way. He shines like a light upon everything He touches and with His torch of truth, reveals the true nature of all things including God, sin, Satan, love, temptation, etc. He illuminates the way to heaven, the way to stay out of sin, the way to get the most out of life, etc. He enlightens the darkness of evil, ignorance, disaster, punishment, and death. In every particular, Jesus is the light of the world.

In complete contrast, Satan deceives man and veils the true nature of things, telling man that it is good and pleasant to partake of the lusts of the world, that sin is not a very serious matter that social acceptance is our goal, and that indifference is success. Christ drives away such darkness and unveils the truth that sin condemns the eternal soul (Matt. 25:46).

Christ shows us what we could not see without Him. Without Him we would remain in ignorance (Isa. 42:16; Job 38:2). But He brought to us the light of truth which will judge us in the day when all things will be shown as they truly are (John 12:48; Dan. 2:22). Even the wicked who love darkness rather than light will have to come to the light and have their evil works manifested and reprovved (John 3:19-21). Jesus will then “bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the heart” (1st Cor. 4:5).

To follow Jesus and the light of His word brings life (John 14:6). To reject Him is to walk in darkness which brings death (Rom. 6:23). A Christian, therefore, walks in “the light of the glorious gospel of Christ” (2nd Cor. 4:4) as Christ is in the light (1st Jn. 1:7). We who were formerly of darkness are now of light (Eph. 5:8) since God “hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Col. 1:13). We subsequently shine this radiant light of the gospel into the world, illuminating the truth (Phil. 2:15) and bringing glory to God (Matt. 5:14). If we remain in the light, we will be ushered into the eternal kingdom of heaven where there is no need for sun or moon, for “the Lamb is the light thereof” (Rev. 21:23). So let us keep our eyes on Him (Heb. 12:2), follow in His footsteps (1st Pet. 2:21), and obey His directions (John 5:40), for if we follow Him, we “shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

Jesus as the saving light of the world brings to mind an event which happened in a wooded area long ago, where lived a pioneer man and his young son. Several murders had occurred in the area and always in the midnight hours. One night the man heard a prowler at the front door. Having no defense against the murderer, he decided to make a run for it. He awoke his son and whispered to him, “Boy, it’s late at night and the murderer’s after us. I’m going to light this lamp and take out the back door. I can’t carry you, so you’ve got to follow close. You stay right with me and keep in the light or you’ll get lost in the woods. Now remember, Son, there’s death in the darkness. You’ve got to stay in the light with me or it’s all over, understand?” The youngster sleepily nodded “yes” and quietly followed his father out the back door. The pair narrowly escaped with their lives.

There is a murderous devil after us too (1st Pet. 5:8). Let us stay near Jesus and walk in the light of His word, not being characterized by secret sins and works of darkness - for there is death in the darkness, but life in the light.

The Spiritual Sword, “Jesus – What He Called Himself”, vol. 18, no. 4, July 1987, p. 12-14.

Hope for the Future

By Dan Jenkins

It is impossible for us to imagine the emotional rollercoaster endured by young Daniel and his three friends. They had lived all of their lives in one of the most spiritual times in the history of the Jews. In the six decades before they were born, king Manasseh and king Amon, had brought idols into Solomon’s glorious temple. Yet Daniel grew up knowing only of the temple worship which Josiah had restored. For the two decades before they were taken Babylon, the worship of God had been restored—they knew nothing of idolatrous worship. If you marvel at Daniel’s faith, remember that the world in which he lived was a world where the Jews faithfully served God.

Three years after Josiah’s death, Daniel was taken by Nebuchadnezzar to serve him in Babylon. That “rollercoaster of faith” descended into a pagan world saturated with immorality. After Daniel and his friends arrived in Babylon, idol worship began to flourish once again because of the new kings, sons of Josiah. Nebuchadnezzar would

soon make two more assaults against Israel and finally destroy the holy city. Jeremiah was in Jerusalem and watched as Jerusalem was filled with false prophets. They prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar would return the holy temple vessels taken from the temple and be defeated by the Jews. These prophets were courageously confronted by Jeremiah for twenty-three years (Jer. 25:3). The world in which Daniel had been reared no longer existed. Sin had returned to Judah and God had sent the sword, famine and pestilence to try to get the Jews to see His judgment and return to Him.

Jeremiah sent a letter to those Jews who had already been taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. It specifically told them they would be in Babylon for seventy years, but then the prophet told them of God’s promise. “I know the thoughts I have toward you...to give you a future and a hope” (Jer. 29:11). Two chapters later, God said, “There is hope in your future...that your children shall come back to their own border” (31:17).

How could there possibly be hope? The temple was destroyed, the city was leveled and the only physical connection Daniel could have with Jerusalem was to go to his window and pray in the direction of the ruins of the temple. How could there be hope when Nebuchadnezzar demanded all those in Babylon worship his golden idol. (Remember the fiery furnace?)

There was no physical evidence there would ever be a return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. How could there be hope when they were in a hopeless situation? The answer is simple. God promised them a future and God cannot lie. Are you on a “rollercoaster of faith”? Has your world collapsed around you? Have hope, for God cannot lie about your future!

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