

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Charles Berryhill

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill
Servers - Bradley Box
Ralph Burleson
Blake Eddy

Closing Prayer: Al Corkren

Preparing the Lord's Supper Mary Eddy

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

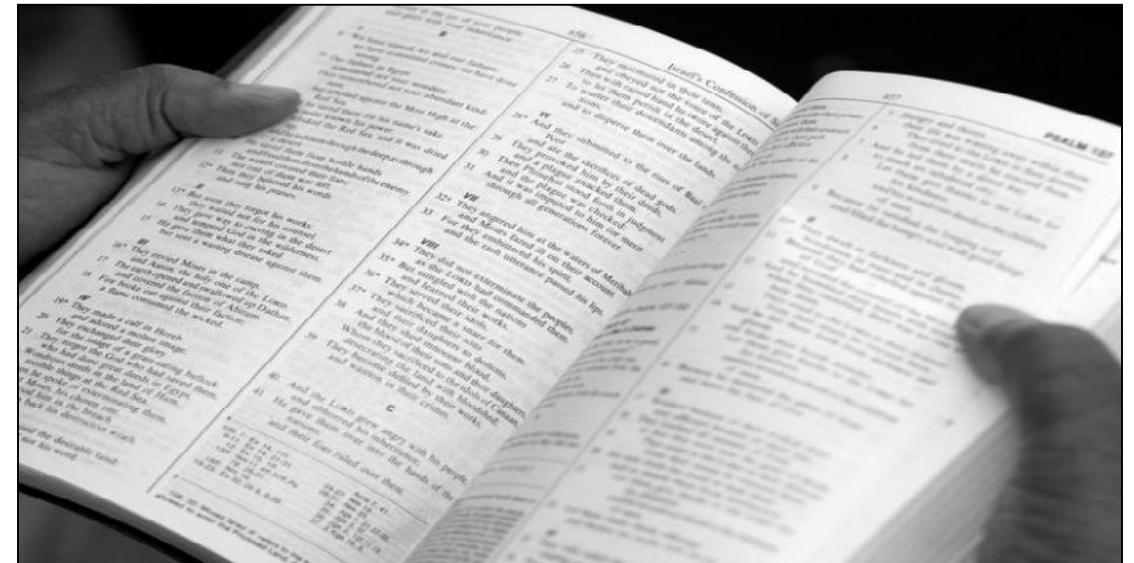
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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Making Our Pathway True



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



A Question Jesus Didn't Like

By Ben Giselbach

“And desiring to justify himself, he asked, ‘And who is my neighbor?’”

The familiar question prompted Jesus to tell the most well-known story of all time—the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). You recall how the priest and the Levite, upon seeing the helpless man who had been beaten, bloodied, and left for dead, moved to the other side of the road. They were unwilling to help.

As we teach this story to our children in Bible class, we portray the priest and the Levite as heartless and cold. But when we examine the story a bit closer, we discover that they aren't too different from us. You see, this particular road (between Jerusalem and Jericho) was a real road, and a very dangerous road at that. It was as if this windy route—full of blind spots and surrounded by caves—was custom-made for criminal activity. History reveals one particularly deadly section was known as “the pass of blood,” where an inordinate number of people had been murdered. Maybe this unsuspecting traveler was ambushed at this very spot.

When the priest and the Levite saw this helpless man on the side of the road, why didn't they stop? Because they were smart! If you see someone beaten and left for dead by thugs—but not dead yet—what does that mean? His attackers are probably nearby! In fact, this could be a trap!

You see, the priest and the Levite—part of whose job description involved helping the needy—are not so different from you and I. There are several reasons why they shouldn't have stopped. They did what the religious scholar was attempting to do with Jesus: they justified themselves—and their reasoning was indeed that—justifiable.

Similarly, this religious scholar was also trying to “justify himself.” The question he asked Jesus was, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus didn't like this question.

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

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Hunter Coal Corkren: treating his kidney problem with medicine, please be praying that this problem clears up with this treatment

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

David Warren: his surgery went well, please be praying that his cancer will be defeated

Bobby Sanderson: continues to improve, please pray he has no further problems

Gunner Pendley: recovering from severe brain injury and is in Shepherd's in Atlanta, please keep him and family in your prayers

Randy Pickard, Sr.: dealing with some health problems, please pray that the doctors will be able to help him

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Wyatt Spann: found new spot on his brain and lower spine, please pray that he will win this fight and defeat this cancer

Frank Farris: is recovering from a stroke, please keep him in your prayers

Kye Jackson: (Lindsey’s son) has some health problems, please pray that the doctors will be able to help him

Jeff Upton (Donna Martian’s Co-worker): weakness in his legs, please pray that this will improve

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please pray that she will improve

Ren Garrison (Donna Martian’s Nephew): will have an operation dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that surgery will be successful in dealing with this problem.

Tyler Upton: is at Shepherd’s in Atlanta dealing with from injuries received in an automobile accident, please keep him and his family in your prayers

W. H. Box: recovering from recent bypass surgery, please pray that he will have a successful recovery

Kloie Moore (infant) : she is in Children’s diagnosed with RSV, pneumonia and bronchitis, please pray that with medical help she will be able to regain her health without any side effects

Continue to pray for the Blanchard family as they mourn over the passing of their daughter Aniah.

How do we know? Because Jesus didn’t directly answer the question, He reframed it.

This religious scholar talking to Jesus (if he was like any self-respecting Jew) must have despised the Samaritans—those Israelite half-breeds. Their forefathers were not only guilty of rebellion toward God (prompting God to wipe them off the map), but they intermarried with the Assyrians who colonized their land (cf. 2 Kings 17:24). This created a new “race” of people, the Samaritans. Because they disobeyed God and intermarried with outsiders, they adopted elements of Assyrian paganism and rejected much of God’s law. The Samaritans practiced heresy (cf. John 4:22), and the Jews hated them for this.

No one was more distant from this religious scholar than a Samaritan. So, Jesus picked a Samaritan to be the unlikely protagonist. Of all people who could have rescued this helpless, half-dead man, it was a Samaritan! And this Samaritan didn’t just sacrifice his time and money to help this man—he risked his life. He gave him friendship, advocacy, and medical attention.

“And who is my neighbor?” The answer to that question is not the main point of the parable of the Good Samaritan. We know the answer to the question: everyone. And yes, we need to be benevolent toward all men. Yes, we need to do a better job helping the poor, the homeless, the destitute. This story often makes us feel guilty for not doing what we know we should.

Who is my neighbor? Everyone. But remember, Jesus doesn’t like this question. So He reframes it.

His answer to the question isn’t “Everyone—even dirty Samaritans.” His answer is “Who proved to be a neighbor?”

The key to the parable is this: Where do you find yourself in this story?

I am the one who was left for dead. And my only hope was a man I had despised and rejected. He didn’t just risk His life—He sacrificed His life. For me.

Until I find my place in this story, I will only be helping people out of guilt. But Jesus doesn't want us to help others out of guilt; He wants us to help out of gratitude. In fact, this parable isn't primarily about helping needy people per se. It's about how I view:

- * New Christians who are still working out their understanding of Christian doctrine, but don't have everything figured out yet.
- * Confused co-workers who are well-intentioned but support evil political platforms.
- * Members of the church who are struggling to overcome a particular sin.
- * Homosexuals, drug-addicts, sluggards, drunkards, adulterers, etc.
- * Weak Christians who can't differentiate between doctrine and tradition.
- * Erring children of God who may be showing just the faintest spark of faith.
- * People who are vastly different from me in terms of age, culture, personality, or intelligence.

You will forever be asking the question "who is my neighbor" until you look at these people and realize, "I was no different." You will only be a good neighbor when you realize Jesus is the ultimate Good Samaritan. And then you won't help out of guilt—you'll be a neighbor out of gratefulness.

Obtained at: www.plainsimplefaith.com

Upcoming Events

Today	Country Place	2:00 pm
December 8	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
December 15 th	Holiday Fellowship (Following Evening Service)	

Self-Control

By Thomas Baxley

Christians are people of self-control (Galatians 5:23). Christianity is about disciplining oneself, and being in control of one's thoughts, words and actions. This means that we have to fight against our own minds by taking every thought into captivity (2 Corinthians 10:5), bridling our tongues (James 3:1-12) and knowing that we are not free to do what we want and when we want (Galatians 5:19-21). Being a Christian means not only denying self (Luke 9:23) but dying to self (Galatians 2:20). Being serious about one's relationship with Jesus and bearing good fruit means we strive to live our lives by the higher standards to which He has called us, the life of true and real discipleship where we strive to be like Him.

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

How to Focus Your Thoughts During the Lord's Supper

IN ORDER TO HELP YOU MEDITATE DURING THE LORD'S SUPPER, THINK ABOUT THESE NUMBERS:

5 -The Number of Times the Lord's Body was Pierced.

- Four nails pierced his hands and feet to pin Him to the cross.
- The sword pierced His side. John 19:34

4 -The Number of Parts into which His Clothes were Divided.

- The division of His clothes and the casting of lots for His robe were prophesied. (Psalm 22:16-18) Fulfilled in John 19:23-24.
- All that happened to Him was planned from the beginning.

3 -The Number of Crosses.

- One man dying for sins—One man dying to sin . . . Another man dying in sin.
- Today we are like one of the "other two."

2 -The Number of Eternal Destinies.

- Heaven and Hell. John 5:28-29.
- The Lord's Supper helps us to remember that He will return for us.

1 -The Number of the Uniqueness of the Gift the Father Gave..

- His only Begotten Son. John 3:16; 1 John 4:10; Romans 8:32
- God gave us that which was precious to Him.

DO YOU MEDITATE ON THE RIGHT THINGS DURING THE LORD'S SUPPER?