

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Billy Box

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Bradley Box
Josh Berryhill
Blake Eddy

Closing Prayer: Ralph Burleson

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

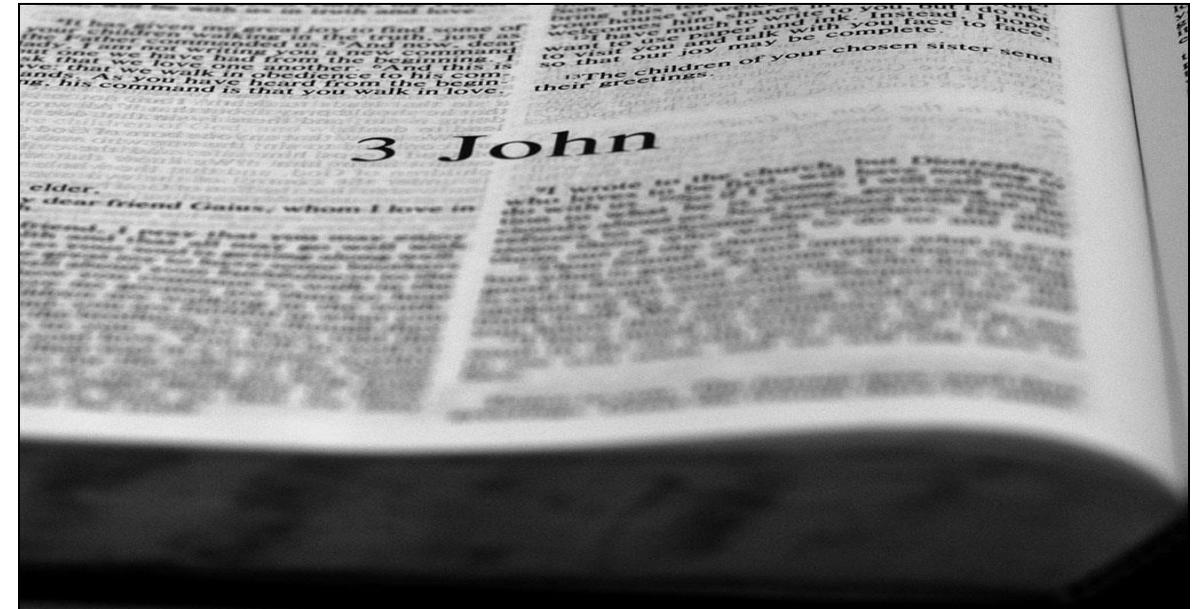
www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill
David Key / Billy Box
Eddie Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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Be Fellow Helpers To The Truth



The Brilliant Beacon



I Love the Lord

By Rodney Nulph

Sometimes in the midst of discipleship, the most fundamental and most important facet is lost, the need to love the Lord. Although it may sound a bit elementary at first, loving the Lord is at the heart of everything we do or do not do as disciples (Matthew 22:37-40). Some view only discipleship as a bunch of “do and do not’s.” Viewing our service to God considering just “rules” makes our Christianity very mechanical and ritualistic. Quite clearly, that attitude takes away the joy of serving God. This was the greatest downfall of the Pharisees. They viewed their following God as a removal of the heart and volition, as they boiled their relationship to God down to simply a bunch of rules (Matthew 23:23).

Why are you a disciple? Why have you made the choice to follow Jesus? The Psalmist summed up an amazing reason for us to consider.

I love the Lord, because He has heard My voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live. The pains of death surrounded me, And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I implore You, deliver my soul!” Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me. (Psalm 116:1-6 NKJV)

Like the Psalmist, I love the Lord because of His care. “I love the Lord, because He has heard My voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me...” (Psalm 116:1-2a). Wonderfully and encouragingly, God’s ears are available to us day and night! God never grows weary or tired of hearing His children or their problems and heartaches. David so wonderfully penned, “Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice” (Psalm 55:17). “The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me – A prayer to the God of my life” (Psalm 42:8). I love the Lord because He really does care!

Like the Psalmist, I love the Lord because of His capability. “The pains of death surrounded me, And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow.

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

Wayne Sherry (Arlen’s old boss): currently fighting cancer; pray that this cancer can be controlled and defeated

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

Hayden Lackey: is currently taking meds to control his seizures, let us be praying that the meds will work

Billy Lee {Carolyn’s Brother} he is in renal failure, is at the nursing home in Guin, please be praying for him and the staff caring for him

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

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

Spence Berryhill: recently had surgery for Melanoma, please be praying that all was removed

Hugh Martin: he is dealing with a broken hip and some other ongoing health problems, please pray that he will get strong enough for surgery

Deborah Pollard: she is dealing with cancer, please be praying that this cancer is treatable and that it can be defeated

Van Roberts: has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer can be defeated

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: ‘O Lord, I implore You, deliver my soul!’” (Psalm 116:3-4). Not only is God willing to hear us and cares for us, but He is the only One Who can fix my sorrows! Life is sometimes filled with distress, trouble and sorrow. Who can really help you when you hear your doctor say, “There is nothing we can do”? Who can really help you when you feel all alone? Who can truly calm your spirit in the midst of anxiety and worry? My God is capable! He is the only truly capable One Who can turn the night into day, the sorrow into celebration and the pain into power. “The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You” (Psalm 9:9-10). Still further, “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). I love the Lord because He is capable!

Like the Psalmist, I love the Lord because of His compassion. “Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me” (Psalm 116:5-6). Compassion is such a wonderful characteristic to behold, especially if you are on the receiving end of it. Compassion comes from a Latin word that means “to suffer with.” The very truth that the Creator cares for the creation is compassion! The Perfect caring for the imperfect is compassion! God, Who needs nothing, extending His mercy and help to us, who need everything, is by far the greatest example of compassion ever seen. God’s compassion and help are evident in the sending of His Son to die for a lost race (John 3:16-17; Romans 5:6-8). God’s love and compassion are motivating reasons to love the Lord (1 John 4:10). Viewing a destroyed city, with tear-filled eyes, Jeremiah focused on God’s compassion. “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Serving God is not only about rules – dos and don’ts. Sadly, some live their entire Christian lives and never really stop to think about why they are His disciples. While Satan wants us to forget, may we always remember God cares, is capable and is compassionate. I love the Lord! How about you?

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

Culture or Christ?

By Robert Johnson

There is no doubt that culture has always had an influence on the body of Christ. An examination of our Lord's letters to the seven churches in Asia (Revelation 2-3) speaks of the problems that happen when congregations reflect the world around them, rather than seeking to be lights to the world to make a difference in the world. For example, the church in Laodicea had the attitude they were "rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing" (NKJV), like the city itself, which had found great wealth by its sale of eye salve and luxurious wool. Jesus, however, pointed out they were ignorant of the spiritual Truth they needed to understand, and were "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17). They needed a spiritual focus that would enable them to be more like their Lord and less like the sin-filled world in which they existed.

The allure of the world around us has a very strong influence on the Lord's church. Recently, a popular preacher apologized for saying in the past that certain sexual activities and gender identifications were sinful. Certainly, God loves everyone (John 3:16), and we are to preach the Truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). That does not negate, however, the need to preach and teach truth (2 Corinthians 4:2). Our society equates feelings with truth; in other words, however you think or feel is your "truth." Such a viewpoint has permeated the church to accommodate those in the world. It seems for many, the worst sin one can commit is to offend someone with the truth of Scripture. By tolerating any and every viewpoint others may have, we commit the greatest sin of all, having the truth that can save souls but remaining silent with the Truth that saves. Paul asked the churches Galatia, "Have I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" (4:16). Many would answer his question in the affirmative today.

The message of the Gospel is relevant in any age and must stay the same. The norms of society constantly change, but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Long ago it was said, "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19). This is why Jesus could say with authority, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Paul also added, "...let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: 'That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged'" (Romans 3:4).

People can decide wrong is right and right is wrong; they can call evil good and good evil. However, neither is such new (Isaiah 5:20), nor does it change what is true, what God's will is for us or how we will be judged in eternity. We don't stand for Truth to be hateful or because we feel we're better than others. We stand for Truth because we love God (John 3:16). We do it because we can't stand the thought of others being lost by believing error and rejecting truth (Romans 9:1-3). We stand for truth because God's grace and mercy can forgive all sin if one believes, repents and obeys His will (Hebrews 5:9). We do it because we want to be united in eternity (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). In reality, to speak the Truth in love is the greatest act of love we can show others. Others may disagree, become angry and reject the Truth, as well as us, because their hearts are hardened by sin. Yet, we love them enough to put ourselves at risk of being rejected by offering them the Truth that can save them.

Until the Lord returns, Satan will be active and seek to harden hearts against the Truth, because he desires everyone to be lost. Until the Lord returns, we should reveal the truth of the Gospel so hearts and lives can be changed. Thereby, others can leave the path of sin, which leads to condemnation, instead following the path of righteousness that leads to life. We perpetrate the greatest injustice against others by not letting them know the Truth, by leaving them in their sins and by going along to get along. Do we reflect culture or Christ?

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