

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Josh Berryhill

Opening Prayer: David Key

On the Table: Head - Billy Box
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Greg Lowery
Eddy Dickinson

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

Preparing the Lord's Supper Katie Berryhill

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

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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One Day At A Well



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



We Preach By What We Do As Well As By What We Say

By David P. Brown

To preach one thing and practice something else is hypocrisy. This, therefore, is also a lesson on how not to become a hypocrite. Remember hypocrisy has always been condemned by God (Luke 12:1, 1 Tim. 4:2; 1Pet. 2:1; Matt. 23:13; 24:51). While engaging in self-examination, every person should take note of the consequences of the hypocritical lives of Ananias and Sapphira (2 Cor. 13:5; Acts 5:1-11).

Self-discipline is the hallmark of the Christian life. No one has been faithful to God without denying himself (Matt.16:24). The standard of discipline that the faithful subject themselves to is the word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25). Every effort of the child of God is concentrated and centered on "...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,..." (2 Cor. 10:5).

As space allows, I now want to study some specific subjects involved in preaching Christ by example or pattern of life.

Pornography has no place in the Christian's life. Anything that is "...filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, coveteousness, maliciousness (Rom. 1:29), plus "...filthiness...foolish talking...jesting" (Eph. 5:4), and so on is pornographic! When Biblical characters involved themselves in such things, they were condemned.

All around every child of God is the promotion of the "...lust of the flesh..." (1 John 2:16). The Christian will turn to reading and viewing material that will exalt things honorable, just, pure, lovely and of good report for his meditation (Phil. 4:8-9). When such is diligently pursued, "...the works of the flesh are..." destroyed and the singular "...fruit of the Spirit..." is manifested.

Immodesty is a constant problem in the church. But the godly person still believes and obeys 1st Timothy 2:9. "Modest apparel" continues to "adorn" the Christian. It does so because modesty is a godly character trait. Clothing and how it is worn de-emphasizes the sexual aspects of the body. Such derives from the modest attitude.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: 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} 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 in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray that her health continues to improve

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 this cancer can be defeated

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Billy Wayne Burleson: recovering from recent surgery, please continue to keep him in your prayers

Don Lawrence: dealing with some health issues, please continue to keep him your prayers

Winfred York: home continuing to rehab from hip surgery, please keep him and Vertie Mae in your prayers

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

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Today | Country Place | 2:00 pm |
| March 10 th | Nursing Home | 2:00 pm |
| March 17 th | Fellowship Meal | |

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Angie Ganey Gardner: 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

Wyatt Spann: is currently fighting a brain tumor, please pray that with medical help he can win this fight

Connie Autrey: has a brain aneurysm and is also taking treatments for cancer, please be praying that doctors can help her with these serious problems

Bobby Sanderson: keep him in your prayers that his health continues to improve

Al Corkren: broken tibia from recent fall at work, please pray that this break will help completely with no further problems

Jeff Self: recovering from recent surgery for cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

“Lasciviousness” is a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:19). Such conduct designedly produces lust. Hence, men as well as women may so dress as to provoke lustful thoughts in others. Fornicators and homosexuals are on every hand today. Christians will obey God’s word and not give anyone grounds to lust after them.

The Christian does not use alcoholic beverages or other drugs. There are different degrees of drunkenness. One drink makes one-“one drink drunk”. Anything that causes one to lose control of his mental and spiritual restraints is sin (Isa. 2:6-7; 1 Cor. 6:9-12; Gal. 5:23). Such, of course, would apply to any mind-altering drug.

Cited above is Galatians 5:23, Paul is discussing “the fruit of the Spirit”. The King James Version translates “kratos” as “temperance”. The A.S.V. renders “kratos” as “self-control”. W.E. Vine in his An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words gives the following comment regarding “self-control”.

...the various powers bestowed by God upon man are capable of abuse; the right use demands the controlling power of the will under the operation of the Spirit of God; in Acts 24:25 the word follows “righteousness,” which represents God’s claims, self-control being man’s response thereto;... (p. 114).

There is no way that one can partake of anything that alters the mental state which is the seat of man’s self-control and not sin! Self-control not only involves rejecting “...the works of the flesh...,” hut also adding to one’s life the principles that produce “...the fruit of the Spirit...” (Gal. 5:29-26).

One is not preaching the gospel by what he does if he professes the importance of Bible study, prayer, giving of one’s means, attendance to all assemblies, benevolence, a kind disposition, patience, obedience to the elders, restoring the unfaithful, etc. when these matters are not practiced in his life. The judgment parables condemn men for leaving undone good deeds (Matt. 25:41-46).

Influence is the power for good or evil our lives have over others. One’s influence may change from bad to good or vice-versa, but he will never lose his influence (Rev. 14:13). Assuredly this must be remembered by all parents and grandparents (1 Tim. 1:5; 2 Tim.3:15)! James wrote: “...shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will

shew thee my faith by my works” (James 2:18). He also penned:

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this,
To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to
keep himself unspotted from the world (James 1:27).

Paul knew that it would take more than preaching God’s truth with his mouth in order for him to be acceptable to God. He fully understood that he must preach God’s truth through the actions of his body (1 Cor. 9:27). In fact of all the false doctrines troubling the Lord’s church today, let us not lose sight of not only teaching the truth by mouth and pen, but most of all by our actions. Let us be able to say with Paul:

Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and
unblameably we behaved ourselves among you...
(1 Thess. 2:10; Acts 20:18, 19,33-35).

Let us remember that we build the right image by what we do as well as by what we say.
{*The Spiritual Sword*, vol. 19, no. 2, January 1988, p. 45-46.}

Let Go of Self and Let God Control

By Robert Johnson

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). In one congregation where I served, there was one individual who had convinced herself that what she wanted was what should be no matter what, and that everyone should make sure it happened for her. An example of this regarded her attitude toward an older member, who had Raynaud’s Phenomenon, which affects blood flow to the arms and legs in reaction to cold. Even in summer months, she had her coat and gloves with her, and many times had to sit in the entry way to the building, that the sun might shine on her to help her be warmer. This younger member, who layered the clothes she wore beyond what was either fashionable or reasonable, demanded the thermostat be set to 60 degrees for her comfort. When it was pointed out everyone else would basically freeze, and that this older member would be unable to worship with us under such conditions, her response was, “I don’t care about anyone else! This is what I want!”

Even though most everyone knew her selfish disposition, it was giving verbal expression to it that was shocking. A lack of love and concern for a fellow Christian, simply to accommodate oneself, and one’s sense of fashion, seemed outrageous. However, it shouldn’t be surprising what happens when one allows such attitudes to take control of the heart. The Hebrew writer warned, “But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin’s deception” (Hebrews 3:13). The writer understood the principle expressed by Stephen Covey. “Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny.” Sin settles in the mind and in the heart, becomes a lifestyle, then defines one’s character and determines a person’s eternal destiny. Yet all the while, its deception keeps one from realizing what it has done to one’s life.

Paul understood both the danger and the consequences sin brings to life. He encouraged the church at Corinth to test themselves to make sure they were still in the faith, to examine themselves (2 Corinthians 13:5). More than a suggestion, it’s a command, something we should constantly do, because our soul’s salvation depends on it! Just because one wants something doesn’t mean it’s the right thing to do. It’s amazing how King Saul of Israel could deliberately rebel against the command of God, yet argue he had done God’s will, when instead, it was his own heart’s desire (1 Samuel 15). That was not an isolated incident of the past, but it is a problem that can exist at any time when temptation captivates a person’s heart and sin bears its fruit. We, too, must constantly be willing to examine our motives, but not by themselves, as they will always be deemed pure and noble. Everything we say and do must reflect the will of God at work in us. Do our motives, and the actions that spring from them, conform to God’s Word? “But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22).

How does one do this? Spend time in God’s Word, not just in a mechanical manner where it goes in one ear and out the other, but really listening, setting it in one’s heart, seeking to find the application and then fitting it in to one’s daily life. Seek out others who can honestly, lovingly, help one see both strengths and weaknesses to overcome. Pray each day for God to keep one’s heart and mind open and tender, that His will can be the direction one takes for life. “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:3-5).