

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: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill
Minister: Greg Lowery

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Forgive & Forget



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



What Time Is It?

By Dan Jenkins

Imagine a situation where you were annually given half a million dollars. You were told to invest it wisely, and the profit from how you invested it each year would all be yours. How much time would you devote, knowing that in the next decade you would be investing over \$52,000,000?

This would never happen—right? Well, there is a parallel that happens every year. We know there are twenty-four hours in a day (with each of them having sixty minutes in it) and 365 days in a year. Every year we make a conscious decision about how we will invest the 525,600 minutes given to us. How are you using these precious minutes? What investment are you making?

Should there be any surprise that God speaks about using our time wisely? Perhaps the clearest statement of this truth is found twice in the Bible. Paul specifically told two churches, “Redeeming the time” (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5). As we think about how this applies to our lives, we should soberly look at the minutes/hours we give to God.

Think about how little time we spend in worship and adoration of God. If the only time we do this is that hour between 10:00 a.m. and 11:19 a.m. each Sunday morning, add it all together and the total time invested in praising God each year would be 4,108 minutes. Each of us has been give 525,600 minutes each week, but we foolishly invest about 4,000 of them in His presence and devote over 520,000 on ourselves. If you change these numbers to dollars instead of minutes, you would readily see that you are not making wise investments. He said, “Redeem the time.”

Now I recognize that many of those other minutes are committed to work, rest and nutrition, but still the numbers are staggering. I also know that you could add to the smaller number those minutes spent in private devotions, reading and meditating on His word, but for far too many Christians, this never happens. Remember that God told us, “Redeeming the time.”

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

Don Lawrence: dealing with some heath 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	Fellowship Meal	
Today	Bible Bowl { Whitehouse }	2:00 pm
March 24 th	Tri-County Singing { Here }	2:00 pm

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

How do we do this more effectively? First, recognize that we have wasted hundreds of thousands of minutes in the past. Those minutes are history. We are writing the future as we think about how wisely we use the fifty million minutes we can receive the next decade. I know we are far too busy. However, we might consider that when we say, “I did not have the time to do this,” we are giving an excuse and not a reason.

Having recognized our misuse of time, we then must make specific changes in our lifestyles. It may be we are overlooking opportunities around us to use our time more wisely.

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

Are We Building Up or Tearing Down?

By Jonathan McAnulty

Though we may not always appreciate it, one of the great values of the wonderful book of Proverbs is that the inspired wisdom frequently hits close to home. We do well to reflect upon the sayings and make personal application to self as warranted.

Consider, if you will, the rather pointed observation of Proverbs 14:1: “Every wise woman builds up her home, but a foolish one tears it down with her own hands.” (CJB)

The proverb is not speaking about the building or destroying of a physical structure, but to the building up of a family. A wise woman makes decisions which make her family stronger, more loving, more united and better than it otherwise would have been. Through her tireless dedication, she nurtures, admonishes, and loves those in her care so that at the end of the task, when she is closing her eyes and preparing to sleep, she knows that the home she has built will weather her absence.

The foolish woman, on the other hand ends up with a broken family – and it is her fault based entirely on the choices she made, the words she used, the behavior she encouraged, and the way she drove those close to her away. That’s a hard lesson because we so often want to blame others when we ourselves are the ones destroying the relationships we hold dear.

As an immediate application, God is reminding us that if you want a strong home: wisdom, drawn from His Word, and applied to the family life, is key; otherwise, sinful, selfish words and actions will only destroy that which we want to preserve. And, as a warning, we do well to realize that years of work can be undone by moments of foolishness. Though a potter may labor for days over a particular vessel, it is the works of mere seconds to shatter the same.

While the proverb is pointed at women in particular, it is equally applied to men. Husbands and fathers who want a strong family must work to build the same up in wisdom, while guarding against those foolish words and actions which will undo all the labor that has gone before.

What is true of the home, is true of the larger world beyond. The proverb's application stretches to encompass many walks of life: our community, our jobs, our friendships, and even the church itself.

In each case, there is a community built upon relationships between people. These relationships are made stronger through the values and wisdom God teaches in His word. Honesty, integrity, selflessness, faithfulness, love, compassion, kindness, goodness, self-control... values such as these can only strengthen the bonds between people. Likewise, gossip, theft, ridicule, scorn, infidelity, violence, drunkenness, selfishness and greed... these sorts of behaviors tear apart the fabrics of societies, breeding distrust and isolation, and making life more difficult for all involved.

Strong homes, strong communities, strong churches and strong friendships: none of these things happen by accidents. They are built up through wisdom and perseverance, with each member of the community in question acting responsible and loving. When we choose to act otherwise, we bear responsibility for the damage that follows.

The world around us is too often torn apart by those who give no thought to the future of their respective communities as they act irresponsible, selfishly and sometimes even violently. We see images on the television of men and women tearing apart their own homes, their own towns and their own families as they lash out, engaging in self-destructive behavior. This behavior can take the form of rioting, drug-abuse, theft, divorce, alcohol, or a myriad of other sinful behaviors.

In each case, the damage done does not just harm those around the perpetrator, but rebounds upon themselves with consequence after consequence.

It may sound cliché, but it's still true – we must choose to be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. We bear responsibility for our own actions and how we are choosing to build up our relationships with those around us. Rather than blaming others for the misfortunes that befall our relationships, we do better to examine our own conduct and whether we are building up or tearing down that which we hold dear.

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