

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: Josh Berryhill

On the Table: Head - Eddy Dickinson  
Servers - Charles Berryhill  
Greg Lowery  
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: David Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Linda Lawrence

**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](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

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

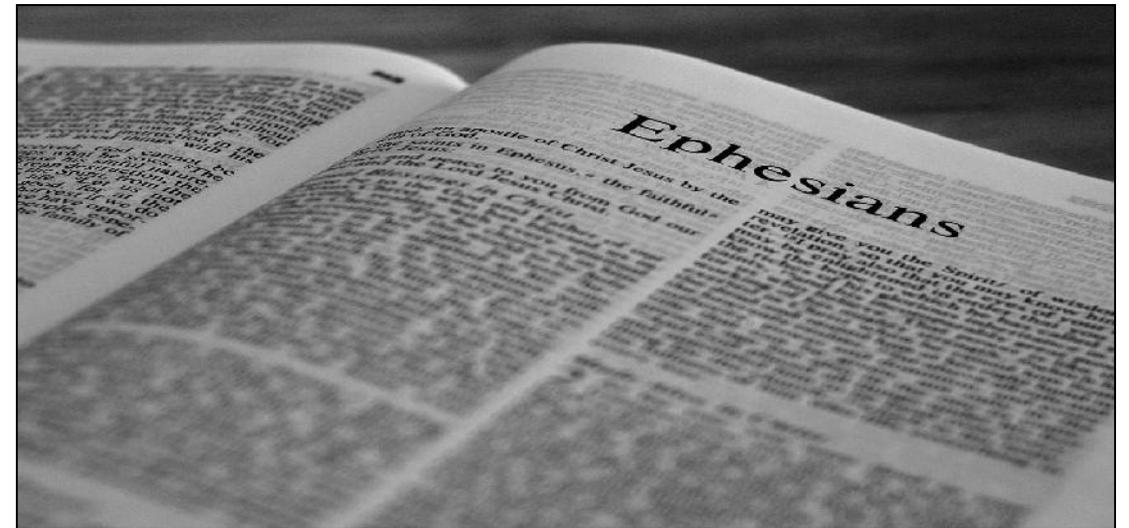
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

Contact Information:  
Phone: (205) 465-9142

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

# There Is One LORD



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**GOD'S "ONE-DERFUL" PLAN**

By Roy Deaver

God’s plan for man is characterized by distinctive exclusiveness. The God of the Bible is not a god among many gods. The Christ of the Bible is not a Christ among many christ. The Holy Spirit of the Bible is not a spirit among many spirits. The Message of the Bible (the Gospel of the Christ) is not a soul-saving message among many soul-saving messages. The Bible is not a book among many books. The Church of our Lord-the Church of the Bible -is not a church among many churches. The Bible talks about THE GOD, THE CHRIST, THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE GOSPEL, THE WORD OF GOD, THE CHURCH.

A term frequently used in the Scriptures to refer to the Lord’s church is the word “body”. The “. . . body is one and hath many members” (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 12:12). “And he is the head of the body, the church...” (Col. 1:18). The fundamental concept in the word “body” is unity. As the members of the human body are designed to function in perfect unity, according to the directions of the one head-so it is with regard to the church. Its members are obligated (and privileged) to function together, in marvelous unity, according to the directions of its one Head- the Christ. As the word “kingdom” emphasizes “government,” and as the word “church” stresses relationship to the world (i.e. the “called out”), just so the term “body” emphasizes the unity which God demands.

We need to consider carefully the religious situation as it was. In Acts 2 we have the divine record of the establishment of the Lord’s church. From that time forward men of God labored under the great commission to bring the message of salvation to all men. They preached the facts of the Lord’s death, burial, and resurrection. They emphasized the salvation offered in the name of the risen Lord. This preaching was designed to bring men to believe upon the Christ, the Son of God. Believers were told to repent of their sins, to confess their faith in the Christ, and to be baptized for the remission of sins. The act of baptism put one into Christ (Rom. 6:3). Those in Christ were “Christians” (Acts 11:26). They were “members of the body” (Eph. 5:30); they were Children of God (Gal. 3:26). They wore the name God said wear. They referred to the church in such fashion as to glorify Him to whom it belonged.

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Please continue to pray for Arlen and his family, Mrs. Laraine left us a great example to follow and she will be deeply missed

Faye Cotton: please continue to pray that she continues her fight against cancer and that she will win

Danny Berryhill: having trouble with blood clots, please pray that he can receive help with this problem

Dewight Kitchens: (Al’s Boss) recovering from recent colon cancer surgery, please praying that they all the cancer was removed

Alice Foster: was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and having problems with her lungs, please keep her in your 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

Chad Henderson: this young man is battling cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that will help him in his fight with this terrible disease

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

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

Jamie Long: good news the doctor has released him and he is now at home, let us thank God for answering our prayers

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Bobby Sanderson: doctor was pleased with his recent knee surgery, please pray that he has a good recovery

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

Angie Ganey Gardner: she has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Deborah Pollard: is currently taking cancer treatments, please pray that these treatments will be successful in defeating her cancer

**Upcoming Events**

Today	Country Place	2:00 pm
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship Meal	
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Tri-County Singing {Here}	2:00 pm

They had no creed but Christ, and no book but the word of God. They worshipped according to a definite standard (Cf. Jn. 4:24) and were organized as God directed. There were no denominations- there was only the body of Christ, the New Testament Church.

We need to consider the religious situation as it became. Even in the days of the apostles there was evidence that men would depart from the divine plan. Frequent warnings were issued (Cf. Acts 20:28-31; 1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 4:1-5; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim. 4:1-4). Departure came. First, there was departure in organization. Then came numerous departures in doctrine and worship. The Roman system developed and became supreme. There was utter disregard for the word of God. In 1517 Martin Luther wrote out his objections to the Roman system and was soon joined by others in the great battle against Romanism. Their work resulted in the “Protestant Reformation”. This “Reformation” gave birth to the denominational bodies of our day. No denomination can trace its history back of the Reformation. These denominational bodies (1) teach different and conflicting doctrines; (2) have different creeds; (3) wear different names; (4) preach different conditions of salvation; (5) worship in different ways; and (6) have different kinds of organizations.

In the latter part of the 1700’s men in Europe and America began to realize the sinfulness of the divided condition among religious people. They studied the Bible’s plea for unity. They determined to do something about the situation. They knew that the solution to the problem was not reformation, but restoration. With amazing force and power they called upon men “to return to the Old Paths”, “to go back to Jerusalem”, “to restore simple New Testament Christianity”.

May we consider the religious situation as it is. The world is lost in sin. Men who claim to believe the Bible are tragically divided into hundreds of different religious bodies. But, in the midst of it all, there are still those who are pleading for “unity In Christ Jesus” upon the terms of the gospel of Christ. The noble plea of the Church of Christ in your community is for a complete return to the Bible. We plead with men to turn away from Romanism, and from Protestantism, and to restore the church of the New Testament.

We call upon men to speak where the Bible speaks and to be silent where the Bible is silent; to do Bible things in Bible ways; to have no creed but Christ, no name but the divine name, and no book but the Bible; to do what the Bible says do, and in the way the Bible says do it; to do nothing in matters religious excepting that for which there is a “thus saith the Lord”. This is God’s plan for unity-God’s One-derful Plan!

The Spiritual Sword, “*The Unity Which Christ Demands*”, vol. 12, no. 4, July 1981, p. 8-9.

### **Our Lord and Our Faith**

By Winfred Clark

If you have time to read the fifth chapter of the book of Luke, you will find something that is very interesting. In that chapter, in verses sixteen to twenty, we are told of a man who was taken with palsy that was brought to the Lord. They were not able to enter because of the crowd, and as a result, they let him down through the roof. It is then said, “and when he saw their faith”. That is, Jesus saw their faith. Others might not be able to see such, but He certainly could. Men might not see faith in the efforts of Noah, but the Hebrew writer was able to do so (Heb. 11:7). Men would fail, in many cases, to see faith in connection with Abraham’s journey, but the Hebrew writer was able to do so (Heb. 11:8).

Aren’t you glad the Lord could see their faith? Isn’t that something more that we can appreciate about our Lord? We can be assured that our Lord can see faith when it is present. He is capable of doing so. One will be able to see a direct relationship between our Lord and our faith. This will be seen in:

#### **I. His Concern About Our Faith**

Some folks might not exercise that much concern about faith on the part of any person. That would not be true with our Lord Jesus Christ. Listen to the words he uttered to Peter, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren (Luke 22:31-32).

It is not hard to see the concern Jesus had for the faith of Peter. He would never pray for him if he was not concerned. There was to the Lord a very pressing concern. There was

not only a pressing concern but also a very personal concern. He wanted Peter and others to know that He was personally concerned.

At the close of a parable on the need for persistence in prayer, you will find the Lord asking this question, “Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth” (Luke 18:8). Doesn’t this show His concern? This shows His loving concern for He knew faith is necessary (Heb. 11:6). Here is not only a matter of loving concern but also a matter of lasting concern. He is concerned whether faith will be present at the end of the age when the Son of God returns. One has no problem seeing the Lord’s concern about our faith in the verses above.

#### **II. He Is Critical Of Little Faith**

If you will read through the first sixteen chapters of the book of Matthew, you will find four instances in which Jesus found fault with what He called, “little faith.” These references are found in Matthew 6:30, 8:26, 14:31 and 16:8. The context of each will explain what our Lord considered to be a “little faith.” In the first instance, he was discussing the matter of anxiety about one’s finances, food and fashions. That means worry about the everyday matter of what one would eat and what one would wear. That anxiety reaches the point that one forgets that God provides for our needs. He would thus say such worry is an expression of little faith. To worry in this way shows a lack of confidence in the care that God exercises for His children. It should be very obvious that if God will care for the fowls of the air and the flowers of the field, surely He will care for His children. If one could reason from the small to the large, He would see this. If one can see the value of the seemingly small, surely He can see the value of the large. In the third instance, the Lord rebuked Peter when he began to doubt His Word and was sinking into the sea (Matt. 14:31). The Lord had told him to come, and he stepped out on that word. When he saw the sea, he doubted. That is little faith.

#### **III. The Lord Compliments Great Faith**

There are two instances in the book of Matthew where He will pay such compliments. The first is in the case of the centurion whose servant was ill. When the Lord would come into his home to heal him, he would say, “I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed” (Matt. 8:8). Here is a man that had no doubt about the power of the Word of the Lord. He knew such could transcend space and did not demand his presence. The second case is found in Matthew 15:21-28. In each case, you will find these willing to abide by all the Lord had to say, and their faith is complemented.