

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Josh Berryhill

Opening Prayer: Billy Box

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
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Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

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

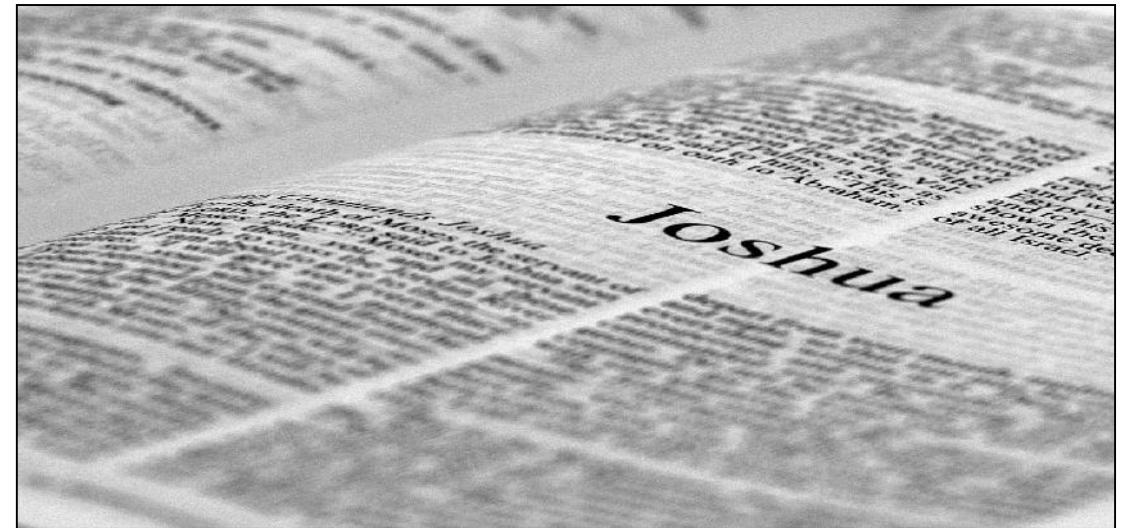
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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The Traits Of A Godly Leader



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Sheep Without a Shepherd

By Dan Jenkins

By and large, Americans know so little about sheep, yet the Bible is filled with references to shepherds and their flocks. My nearly ten years of living in New Zealand allowed me to be around them. When I went to New Zealand, there were three million people living in that beautiful land and there were eighty million sheep!

I remember driving to conduct a Bible study at a residence on one of the large sheep farms (in New Zealand they were called sheep stations), and found the road blocked by a vast flock of sheep. Some of the stations in New Zealand had flocks that had over 15,000 sheep on them. There were not this many on the one where we were headed to teach the gospel, but it did not take us long to discover how “dumb” sheep are. There was no leader among them as we attempted to drive through them, so they aimlessly meandered around but never moved off the road to give us a path. Sheep will follow a shepherd and his dogs, but they are hopeless without a leader.

In Mark chapter six, Jesus saw a similar disarray, but it was not with sheep. “And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things” (Mark 6:34). Neither sheep nor people do well without a shepherd. They are hopelessly lost without someone to guide them.

There were shepherds in the Old Testament who needed to care for God’s flock (Israel). The problem was that they received the honor of being shepherds, but they never actually did the work of a shepherd. “You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with wool, you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought when was lost, but with force and cruelty you have ruled them, so they were scattered because there was no shepherd” (Ezek. 34:2-4). God looked down and saw exactly what Jesus saw in Mark six. His sheep, His people were scattered because there were no shepherds.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Faye Cotton: please continue to keep her and her family in your prayers

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

Jack Frazier: (Lellie’s Brother-In-Law) has been diagnosed with bone cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Patsy Busbee: will have surgery May 25th to remove a tumor from her thyroid, please pray that this surgery will go well and that nothing serious will be found

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

Bobby Burleson: (Mrs. Barbra’s Brother) he has throat cancer and doctors not giving much hope, please pray for him and his family

Upcoming Events

Today	Fellowship Meal	
Today	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
May 27 th	Tri-County Singing {Here}	2:00 pm

What better illustration could there be about the importance of the work of elders in the church today? What a joy it is to see shepherds in our day who truly care for the sheep. They not only care for the ninety-nine sheep who are doing well, but they especially focus their attention on that one sheep who has wandered away. Without shepherds, Christians struggle, for we need godly men to lead us. Thank God for those men who have hearts of compassion for those of us who are part of His flock!

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

Ten Precepts to Teach Your Kids

By Ronald D. Reeves

One of our greatest gifts from the Lord and one of our greatest responsibilities that we bear involve our children and our nurturing care of them. An unidentified author, respectful of the burdens of parenthood, suggested the following things to teach our children: (1) love God as the Lord of your life with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30). (2) Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). (3) Love God’s Book above all other books, and hunger and thirst for its message (Matthew 5:6). (4) Honor your father and mother, and obey them in the Lord (Ephesians 6:1-2). (5) Love and respect your fellow men, even as you do yourselves (Matthew 22:39). (6) Earn your bread in the sweat of your face (Genesis 3:19). (7) Live a life of integrity, truthfulness and honor (Job 26:5). (8) Help the weak, the poor and the unfortunate around you (Romans 15:1). (9) Be good citizens and accept your social and civic responsibilities (1 Peter 2:13). (10) Be loyal soldiers of Jesus (2 Timothy 2:3-4). Though not an exhaustive listing of personal duties in this realm of activity, this brief listing will surely provide a wonderful beginning to the task of parenting. May all parents be blessed!

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

Characteristics of Effective Leaders

By Alan Highers

1. Commitment –

Elders should be men who love the Lord, love the church, and love the word of God. Their reputation for spirituality should take precedence over their success in business, their ability to make money, or their prominence in the community.

2. Teachers/Students –

An elder should be “apt to teach” (1 Tim. 3:2). G. K. Wallace used to say humorously that some elders are apt to teach almost anything! The idea here, however, is that he must hold fast the faithful word “that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” (Titus 1:9). If more elders had exercised themselves as teachers and correctors of those in error, the church would not be facing many of the problems it confronts today. In order to be effective in this respect, however, elders must not only be teachers but also students, i.e., they must be informed. An effective elder will surround himself with good books, journals, and study materials, so that he both knows the scriptures and recognizes departures from the faith.

3. Examples –

Elders are to be examples to the flock (1 Pet. 5:1-4). To be an example one must lead the way for others to follow. In his work as an apostle, Paul said, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). Elders need to be active in all phases of the work of the church that others may see and follow.

4. Watchmen –

Elders watch for the souls of those who are under their care (Heb. 13:17). How many members fall away and are lost without anyone noticing? More time ought to be spent in elders’ meetings talking about the souls of members than about expenditures of funds. Every congregation ought to have a way of knowing when a member ceases to attend, and there should be a plan for contacting that person and endeavoring to restore him or her. The larger the congregation, the greater the need is for such a program of work. In a small congregation, most everyone will notice if one individual or one family ceases to be faithful. But in a large congregation, unless there is a plan, members will sometimes disappear without notice, and no one watches for their souls.

5. Courageous –

Paul spoke of “unruly and vain talkers and deceivers” whose “mouths must be stopped,” and he therefore admonished: “Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith” (Titus 1:9-10, 13). An elder must have backbone. He must be able to withstand the wiles of the devil and the forces of error. He must be willing to take a stand upon matters of principle even when it becomes unpopular. His ultimate appeal must be to the word of God as the standard, authority, and guide to which all else must give way.

Conclusion

When we find men who strive to be faithful as elders, we must support them, uphold them, encourage them, honor them, and respect them. “Remember them that had the rule over you, men that spake unto you the word of God; and considering the issue of their life, imitate their faith” (Heb. 13:7).

The Spiritual Sword, July 1996, vol. 27, no. 4, p. 2-3.

For Your Notes