

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddy Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Josh Berryhill

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery  
Servers - Arlen Foss  
Gary Addison  
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: Lannie Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Deborah Box

**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

# The Rewards Of Living A Righteous Life



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst - (Matt. 5:6)**

By E. Claude Gardner

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6).

Hunger and thirst are considered some of the strongest appetites or drives of man. One can live but a few days without water. Intense hunger has led to cannibalism. Recently survivors of an airplane crash in the Andes Mountains in South America lived on their dead comrades. The gnawing pains of hunger led them to an act that is repulsive to civilized society. Jesus used an idea familiar to all men to teach the power of a strong desire to do right.

**We Determine**

Since Jesus pronounced a “blessing” for those who hunger and thirst, it is obvious that we can determine the extent of our spiritual interests. If we are weak spiritually, we are responsible. God so made us to have a longing for heaven and to seek God. Solomon said, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Eccl. 12:13). Paul proclaimed that God made man “to seek the Lord” (Acts 17:27). Again he says that Jehovah created us with the desire for immortality for he wrote, “now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God....” (2 Cor. 5:5).

One may curb his physical appetite, or he may direct his hunger to foods that are less nourishing, or he may eat excessively of certain foods to the exclusion of a balanced diet. Man may starve his soul by poor choice of foods. We have the power to choose between the good and the bad-the spiritual and temporal. Like Mary we need to choose “that good part which shall not be taken away from” us. (Luke 10:42). It is in this realm we have our most serious problem for so many of us have our values inverted. So often we fail to keep before us what really is important-obeying and serving God. We should be admonished by Paul who said, “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2).

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

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

Danny Berryhill: having trouble with his lungs, 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

Doug Roberts: recently had another stroke, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Patsy Busbee: her surgery went well to remove a tumor from her thyroid, please pray that nothing serious will be found and that she will have no further problems

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Bobby Sanderson: is showing signs of improvement from knee surgery, please pray that this improvement will continue

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. Barbara’s Brother) he has throat cancer and doctors not giving much hope, please pray for him and his family

**Upcoming Events**

|  |                 |         |
|--|-----------------|---------|
| Today                                    | Country Place   | 2:00 pm |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup>                    | Nursing Home    | 2:00 pm |
| June 17 <sup>th</sup>                    | Fellowship Meal |         |
| June 17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> | Gospel Meeting  |         |

Rather than satisfying our spiritual longings there are those who are dwarfed by insatiable thirst for power, hunger for fame, craving for honors, and an inordinate love of wealth. Every move and plan is a calculation to move them higher on the popularity rung, or the political or social ladder. This is emptiness and leads to vexation of spirit as Solomon bemoaned. (Eccl. 2:3-11) The wise man “hungered”-but for the wrong things.

We can become so absorbed with the “care of this world,” (Matt. 13:22) both legitimate and illegitimate, that we lose our appetite for the spiritual. Consequently we no longer read the Bible daily, we neglect prayer, we do not enjoy preaching and Bible classes as much, we do not like to discuss church activities, and likely we become critical of “those hypocrites” and “traditionalism”. Absenteeism and lukewarmness are caused not just by a “poor habit,” but because of a deteriorating spiritual condition.

**Soul Food**

Our Creator designed food and drink for the body, but He also arranged for nourishment for the inward man. Righteousness and holiness are food for the soul. Jesus is the “bread of life” (John 6:38). He declared, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” (John 6:51).

When one becomes a child of God through the new birth (John 3:5) and receives life as a new creature (John 1:4; 2 Cor. 5:17), he then partakes of the milk of the word. Peter states, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that he may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). As we grow we are to hunger for the meat of the word. “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:1). He also will be challenged by selections of Scriptures that are “hard to be understood” as Peter suggests (2 Peter 3:16). The Word of God is sweeter than honey to him. “More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb” (Psalm 19:10).

If one has a strong desire for forgiveness with the view to living the Christian life, then God will provide this need. After the wayward son was brought to the realization of his condition he said, “And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!” (Luke 15:17). Showing God’s attitude the father forgave and made it easy to come back home. “But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry” (Luke 15:22-24).

All sincere seekers of truth and righteousness will learn what God requires of them. Jesus promised, “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself” (John 7:17). He also gave this pledge to us, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).

The classic example of the “sincere seeker of truth” is the eunuch of Ethiopia. As he diligently searched the Scriptures God arranged for him to learn the way. When he was taught, he then anxiously obeyed it because he hungered and thirsted for righteousness (cf. Acts 8:26-39).

### **Reaping and Sowing**

In the Beatitudes is the principle of “reaping and sowing”. What will result when we “mourn”? We will be comforted. When we hunger and thirst, we will be “filled”. All of our spiritual needs for salvation and happiness will be met. We have the blessed assurance we will be satisfied. Those who thirst are invited: “Come ye to the waters.” Isaiah records the invitation, “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness” (Isaiah 55:1-2).

God has always been willing to forgive any who will obey Him. All lost sinners and erring children of God are encouraged to turn to Him. Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). To be saved our Savior said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16).

*The Spiritual Sword*, “Beatitudes, vol. 4, no. 3, (April 1973), p. 9-11.

---

### ***For Your Notes***