

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: Ralph Burleson

On the Table: Head - Charles Berryhill
Servers - Josh Berryhill
Gary Addison
Greg Lowery

Closing Prayer: Leonard Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Vertie Mae York

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 / Eddie Dickinson

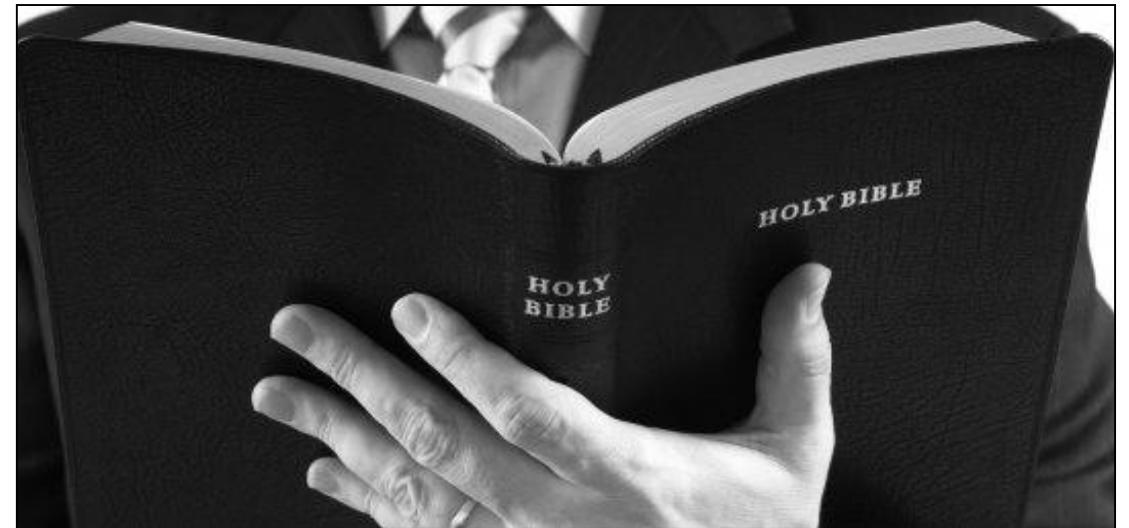
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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Proclaiming The Truth



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Thus Saith the Lord

By Rodney Nulph

Churches of Christ (not a “brand name” but a designation) have long been known for having Bible authority for all we teach and practice. Of course, this concept originated with God, not the church (Colossians 3:16-17). In fact, no true doctrine ever originates with the church, but rather the church becomes and remains the true church as it upholds and supports biblical teaching (1 Timothy 3:15). If we fail to uphold and hold fast to “sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1), then we cease to be the Lord’s church (Hebrews 3:6)! Just claiming to be the Lord’s does not make it so (Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46). Often when we speak of the preceding passages, we refer to those in the denominational world. While it is true that these passages would apply to denominations, it certainly has application to us!

When Jesus spoke these words and the inspired penman recorded them, denominations were not yet in existence. Therefore, to whom originally were these passages directed? They were directed to disciples and followers of Jesus—those who would become the church. Brethren, we need to make personal application here. Just because we claim allegiance to Christ does not make it so. Our teaching and practice must be the same as that of the apostles and of Christ (Acts 2:42). We must make certain we have Bible authority for what we teach and practice. Do we?

What about doctrinally? It is quite heart-breaking to see the doctrinal differences among those claiming to be the New Testament church. From music, the qualifications and work of elders, the work of preachers, head-coverings, women’s role, marriage-divorce-and-remarriage, and on and on we could go. Is the Bible that difficult to understand? Is God the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33)? Or, do we attempt to fit the Bible into our preconceived notions? The restoration plea was “speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent,” but among some brethren that philosophy is outdated. Is it with us as well? However, we must remember that concept did not originate with Thomas Campbell, but rather with God Almighty (Matthew 15:9; 28:18-20; Hebrews 8:5; 1 Peter 4:11; 2 John 9-11; Revelation 22:18-19, et al.). There is but one doctrine that is pleasing to God!

What about financially? Have we left the original pattern for the use of our Lord’s money? All we can ever know about how to spend the Lord’s money is what the Bible has said regarding that subject. Sadly, today, God’s treasury in many places has

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

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

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

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: is in the nursing home in Hamilton recovering from a recent stroke, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Sue Berryhill: is in the nursing home at Guin undergoing rehab, please pray that the rehab will go well

Bobby Sanderson: is in the hospital in Tupelo, because of increasing fluid buildup caused by a faulty heart valve, is scheduled to have a heart catheterization to determine further actions, please pray the doctors can help him with this problem

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

Upcoming Events

Today	Fellowship Meal	
August 19 th	Bible Bowl { Carbon Hill }	2:00 pm
August 26 th	Tri-County Singing { Here }	2:00 pm
September 28 th	{ Feeding Breakfast To The Football Team }	

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

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

Grace Yancy (Vertie's - Great Grand Daughter): 3 month old in Children's Hospital with fluid on the brain, please pray that this problem can be solved and that there will be no further complications

Henry Nipper: is in rehab in Winfield, please pray that his rehab will go well.

Please remember the family of Ed Flippo, his funeral was yesterday.

become used to purchase things for the entertainment of our young people, older people and everyone in between. What saith the Scripture in regard to the Lord's money? Evangelism is one place we must spend God's money (Romans 10:13ff; 1 Corinthians 9:14; Galatians 6:6). We know that Paul was supported on some occasions to travel and preach God's Word (2 Corinthians 11:9; Philippians 4:15). Benevolence is another area wherein we have Bible authority to use God's money (Acts 4:32; 1 Corinthians 16:1ff; 2 Corinthians 8, 9; Galatians 6:10). Notice carefully, this money was used to supply a need, not entertainment or a want! Edification is another Scriptural use for the Lord's money (Ephesians 4:11-16). Now we must be careful here, as "edification" is often the justification for gymnasiums, pizza parties, basketball courts, etc. Scriptural edification is spiritual in nature. Edification means "building up," and it refers to building up spiritually. How do we do that? Bible class materials, tracts, DVD's and other spiritual things contribute to edification. Financially, we cannot spend the Lord's money in any other area and please God, for He has spoken in regard to how He wants His money spent.

What about evangelistically? The apostles and the church were given the task of evangelizing the world. Since there are no longer apostles living on earth, the church is the sole institution for spreading the message of salvation (Matthew 28:18-20). There were no "evangelism centers," "missionary societies" or any other group in the first century to do God's bidding. The church of Christ is solely charged with the propagation of truth. We need nothing larger than the church to do our work! Did Paul belong to a society for missionaries? Was Titus linked with some organization other than the Lord's church? Never! These things were all foreign to the New Testament, and therefore, they did not and do not have scriptural authority!

I understand the things I write are not popular. I know that brethren all over this world are involved in such things. Yet, my plea is "Thus saith the Lord"! I want to please God, not the brotherhood. I want to seek the old paths (Jeremiah 6:16), not the status quo. Several years ago, I remember speaking with a brother in Christ regarding the preceding subject. I was told that my thinking was "too narrow." However, I read in a book one time that "...strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life..." (Matthew 7:14), and spiritual life is all I seek. Brethren, let's make sure we have Bible authority for all we teach and practice. "Thus saith the Lord" as our guide, Heaven will be our eternal home!

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

Unintended Consequences

By Robert Johnson

Unintended consequences are outcomes that are not the ones intended by a purposeful action. While the outcome could be positive in nature, typically it refers to a negative, unexpected disadvantage occurring, in addition to the desired effect. For example, following an intense lobbying effort by big banks to address rising loan defaults, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act was enacted in 2005, which made it costlier for people to declare bankruptcy. Yet, that legislation may have led to more—not fewer—loan defaults, especially defaults on home mortgages.

There can be unintended consequences spiritually as well. An example of this is found in Numbers 13-14. Of the 12 Israelite spies sent into Canaan to bring word of the abundance the land possessed, only 2 encouraged the people to obey the Lord—Joshua and Caleb. The other 10 were fearful of the inhabitants of the land, and their words served to discourage the people from taking possession of it. While they effectively stopped Israel from going at that time, they didn't foresee what that would do to them. The result of Israel's rebellion against God brought 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. "But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it" (Numbers 14:21-23). For those 10 spies, none of them could have imagined what God said regarding them. "As for the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land and who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing out a bad report concerning the land, even those men who brought out the very bad report of the land died by a plague before the LORD" (Numbers 14:36-37).

God offers us His good will to bless us and to provide for us, physically and spiritually. "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow" (James 1:17). Like the Israelites of old, there are those who respond from their own desires instead of submitting to God's Word, believing God will still offer them all His blessings. The consequence of disobeying God, however, will not offer His blessings. The unintended consequence spiritually can be disastrous! Paul asked the Corinthians, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?" (1 Corinthians 6:9).

In reality, there should be no unintended consequences for the Christian, as God has revealed His will clearly and accurately in His Word. We may want to alter God's will to suit our sensibilities, but God clearly reveals what happens when we do so (Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19). When we deliberately chose to reject what God has commanded in His Word, choosing our own desires instead, there will be consequences, as God has clearly revealed. One may have a convoluted yearning to get one's own way, but only submission to the revealed will of God in Scripture leads to eternal life. "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Just as it takes knowing the will of God to obey the Gospel and receive forgiveness of sin, it takes knowing the will of God to live out the Gospel in everyday life. One is deceived to believe an ignorance of God's Word justifies substituting human desires in its place, and that God will provide His blessings anyway. Is there any reason to think that deliberately absencing oneself from the assembly pleases God? Is there any reason to think that not giving to God, but using one's financial resources to spend on oneself, shows God love? When we have all kinds of talents we use for personal benefits, but refuse to do so for the Lord, do we believe God thinks nothing of it? Will judgment really be a shocking revelation or a reminder that such choices never pleased the Father or honored the Son? Jesus said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). We must examine our motives to ensure that the consequences of our ambitions and actions conform to God's Word. Here is where his blessings truly reside.

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