

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Billy Box

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery  
Servers - Eddy Dickinson  
Ralph Burleson  
Gary Addison

Closing Prayer: David 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

**Visit Our Website**

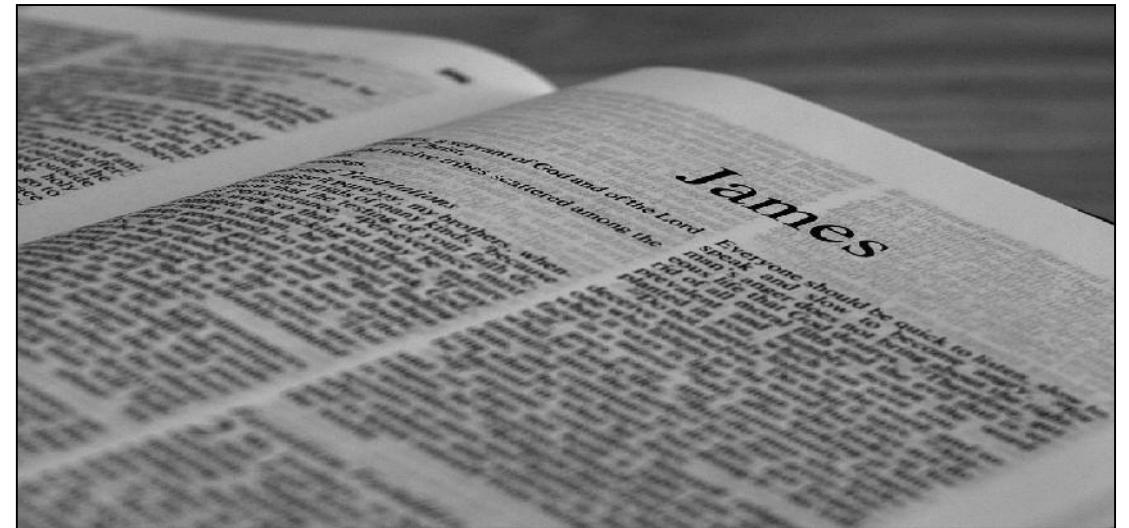
[www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

Elders: Deacon: Al Corkren  
Leonard Key / David Key  
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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Phone: (205) 465-9142

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

# The Worldly-Minded



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**God Will Provide**

By Roby Ellis

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. Genesis 22:6–8

Consider this scene from the perspectives of the different people who made this journey to Moriah. At some point during the three days of traveling, Abraham’s servants may have wondered, “What is so special about this place?” As Abraham and his son parted company with the servants and finished their journey alone, one can easily imagine an uneasy tension. They had the wood which Abraham had cut, the fire he had kindled, and the knife for slaying the offering. Only one element seemed to be missing, and Isaac was old enough to notice its conspicuous absence. At last Isaac broke the silence with the question Abraham had surely anticipated for three days—“Where is the lamb?” Whether inspired, rehearsed, or otherwise, his response was brief, yet marked with profound wisdom—“God will provide.” There are times when we wonder how we will ever be able to do what God has required of us. Rest assured that God will never demand anything without giving us the tools to get the job done! This is a point we would do well to remember in every aspect of life.

Remember that God will provide every material need we have. He has since the beginning. In the garden He provided Adam and Eve with abundant food and water (Genesis 2:9–10). They needed no shelter from the elements since there was no rain (vv 5–6). He even provided clothing when sin made it a necessity (3:21). Just as God provided Abraham with everything that he needed for keeping God’s word (including the courage to do it), He will do the same for each of us. When we are powerless to take care of ourselves, God provides (Matthew 6:25–34).

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Faye Cotton: recent scans showed little to no growth, please be praying that some new treatment can be found that will help her

Denise Kimbrell: has completed her treatments; please be praying that cancer will not return

Kay Dodd: received good report from recent scans, will continue treatments just as a precaution, please continue to pray that this cancer will stay in remission

Katie Berryhill: diagnosed with gestational diabetes, please pray that this will be controlled and that she will have a successful delivery

Barbara Wilkinson: still having problem with infection on her feet, please pray that the medicine she is taking will cure this infection

Danny Harbin: recently diagnosed with prostate cancer, please keep him in your prayers

Mable Weeks: has several ongoing health problems, please continue to keep her in your prayers

Cory Davis Holmes: born May 4<sup>th</sup> with neuroblastoma which has spread to his liver, he is undergoing treatments, please pray for this young child and his family

Sandy McCaleb: has started cancer treatments, please be praying that this cancer can be treated and defeated

Charles Gay: last scan showed shrinkage with his brain tumor, attends the Cleveland congregation, please pray for him and his family

Adam Stidham; (co-worker of Al) has been diagnosed with leukemia, please pray that this will be treatable

Brandon Adams: {BHS Band Director} diagnosed with stage four liver cancer, please pray that he can receive treatment to defeat this cancer

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Barbra Fields: recently had surgery to remove a tumor from her colon, please pray that cancer will not be found.

Kristy Ingram: was diagnosed with cancer and is presently undergoing treatments, please pray that these treatments will work

Sonya Campbell: {Jacob & Whitney Cotton's Mother} has some respiratory problems, she is home and is showing signs of improvement, please continue to keep her in your prayers

Larry Metcalf: has been diagnosed with lung cancer; please pray that he can receive treatments that will defeat this cancer

Danny Berryhill: the doctor was pleased with the surgery, please be praying that he will make a full recovery and that the pain will be subsided.

Wayne Burleson: had an implant placed into his brain to help control tremors that he is having, please pray that this treatment will be successful

Dewayne Wilkinson: having some heart problems, please pray that he can receive help with this

David Key: his surgery went well; please pray that he will make a full and quick recovery

Alice Foster: diagnosed with congestive heart failure and having problems with her lungs she is currently in the nursing home undergoing rehab, please keep her in your prayers

Kristy Fletcher: will have surgery September 20<sup>th</sup> to remove a place in her mouth, please be praying that the surgery will be successful.

Greg Stidham {Adam Stidham's father}: suffered severe injuries in a recent auto accident, please pray that he can recover from these injuries.

Remember that God will provide a way of escape for every temptation. He gave Noah a way out of the wickedness among which he lived (2 Peter 2:5; cf. Genesis 6:5). He likewise provided Lot with an opportunity to escape the overthrow of Sodom (2 Peter 2:6–8). He provided Joseph with a way of escape (Genesis 39:12), but that way led through prison before it reached the throne next to Pharaoh's. Paul assures us that God always provides a way of escape for every temptation and that, because of this, there is no temptation that is truly impossible to bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). That way may require years of hard work (as it did with Noah). It may require that we leave some people behind (as Lot did). It may require patient waiting and suffering, but God will provide.

Remember that God will provide judgment against those who wrong us. When we see people living in sin and prospering from it, we needn't fear that justice will never be served. We don't need to concern ourselves with punishing evil, for God says that He Himself will repay it in His own way and time (Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30).

Remember that God will provide joy for every struggle. When God took Israel into captivity for their sins, He promised to provide "beauty for ashes" (Isaiah 61:1–3). There would be good that came from their suffering (cf. Luke 4:21). God will also provide a reward, both for the faithful (Matthew 5:11–12; 16:27) and the unfaithful (2 Peter 2:13). God also provides for His exiled children peace and joy even in a world filled with uncertainty and anxiety (Philippians 4:4).

We have so much for which to be thankful, for we serve a God who always provides.

Obtained at: [www.elizabethtoncoc.org](http://www.elizabethtoncoc.org)

### The Dangers of Materialism

By Richard Mansel

Materialism is defined as an “interest in and desire for money, possessions, etc, rather than spiritual or ethical values.”/1 More distinctly, “A tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values.”/2

This philosophy of life is destructive and insatiable. It blinds us to what we have around us. It calls us to long for what is over the next hill. When we reach it, another hill rises in the distance and we just have to keep running.

Bertolt Brecht said, “What a miserable thing life is: you’re living in clover, only the clover isn’t good enough”.

We seek happiness but we cannot find it because it is obscured by a lust for something new. Fulfillment becomes an unobtainable dream. We hunger for what we cannot have because our worldview is tainted.

Materialism reigns in our lives and we cannot see the unhappiness that absorbs us. “Unhappiness and materialism are mutually reinforcing mechanisms.”/4 We run after that which we cannot catch. Accordingly, depression becomes a natural consequence.

Today’s parents exist in a whirlwind of activity and their children largely raise themselves. In order to keep their offspring’s anger and resentment at bay, parents try to fill the void with things. Hoping to appease their children, they keep buying in a relentless pursuit of absolution.

Yet, it cannot be done. It is another of Satan’s lies (John 8:44).

“Not surprisingly, kids who are overindulged materially tend to have the worst relationships with their parents. Money can’t buy love, but it sure seems to finance some serious familial discord”.

“In Born to Buy, one of the most comprehensive analyses of consumerism in kids, professor Juliet Schor explains that the more kids buy into the commercial culture, the more likely they are to suffer from depression, anxiety, headaches, stomach aches and boredom. Adolescents with more materialistic values are more likely to engage in risky

behavior, such as smoking, drinking and illegal drug use. They are more likely to suffer personality disorders like narcissism, separation anxiety, paranoia and attention deficit disorder”.

The only answer is to renounce the Western obsession with materialism and seek a better way. God calls us to simplicity and a spiritual mindset that rises above this world and its trappings.

Money is not the answer to fulfillment because it takes our eyes off of God (Luke 12:16-21; Exodus 20:3).

We need to learn to discern between wants and needs and we must seek fulfillment in healthier venues.

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content” (1 Timothy 6:6-8, NKJV).

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus tells us that he will take care of us. The conflict comes when we are not satisfied with what he gives us. To resolve this conflict, we must learn to develop a spiritual mindset on wealth, as found in God’s Word (1 Timothy 6:10).

Like everything in our lives, money is to bring glory to God, not ourselves (Ephesians 3:20-21). From this perspective, everything else is easier to understand.

Obtained at: [www.forthright.net](http://www.forthright.net)

### Upcoming Events

Today	Tri-County Singing {Tidwell Chapel}	2:00 pm
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Country Place {Devotional}	2:00 pm