

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddy Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Greg Lowery

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill
Servers - Lannie Key
Ralph Burleson
Gary Addison

Closing Prayer: Leonard Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper: Katie Berryhill

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

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

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Fellowship



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Who Needs the Church?

By Jon Mitchell

There are many people who go through life thinking that their relationship with God is just fine while they have little or no relationship with the church. The reasons they give for staying away from the assembly range from hypocrisy, real or imagined, to the idea that they can just as meaningfully worship at the fishing hole, in the garden or on the couch. The line from the Don Williams song rings true for them: “I don’t believe that heaven waits for only those who congregate.” Their view of Jesus may be that he simply wanted to spread a message of love. They may see the church as a non-vital body part like an appendix that they can just as easily do without.

No one can deny that the church is an imperfect thing. By its nature it will always be imperfect because it is made up of imperfect people just like the folks who criticize it for its imperfections. But neither can one deny the church’s rightful place and priority in the life of the Christian...if one believes what the Bible says. The New Testament simply knows nothing of a faithful Christian who is willfully unattached to other Christians through corporate worship and spiritual fellowship. Here are just a few of the truths that the New Testament teaches us about the church.

First, the church is the body of Christ (Col. 1:24). To cut yourself off from the church is to be cut off from the body, to be amputated. The amputated hand is not only cut off from the arm but also from the head, who is Christ (Col. 1:18). Let’s be real clear. The amputated body part dies. So does the amputated Christian.

The church is also the bride of Christ (Heb. 12:22-24; cf. Rev. 21:2). Think about that for a minute. If we are part of the church, we are part of the bride of Christ. So if we leave the church, what are we doing? Aren’t we basically walking out on Christ? Ending our spiritual marriage to him? (Rom. 7:1-4)

The apostle Paul said that the church is the place where God is glorified (Eph. 3:21). If one leaves the place where God is glorified, how does that one going about glorifying God? Isn’t it a sign that this person is more concerned with what they want than what God wants?

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Faye Cotton: goes Sep. 27th for more scans, please be praying that some new treatment can be found that will help her

Denise Kimbrell: still taking treatments and has been diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis; please be praying that with med’s all of this can be controlled

Rosa Melton: will have surgery October 2nd to remove cancer from her womb, please be praying that the surgery will be successful and the cancer has not spread

Kay Dodd: is continuing to take treatments, please continue to pray that this cancer will stay in remission

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 health problems and has been placed under hospice care, please continue to keep her in your prayers

Cory Davis Holmes: was born with neuroblastoma, he is undergoing treatments and is showing improvement, 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} passed away please be praying for his family

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

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

Vertie Mae York; will have knee replacement surgery September 29th in Jasper, please pray that the surgery will be successful and that she can make a full recovery

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

Michael Flippo: has a brain aneurysm, a tumor on his hip and knee, and also has bone cancer, please pray that the doctors can help him

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

Christie Fletcher: surgery went well to remove a place in her mouth, please be praying that she makes a full recovery

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

Mary Box: the new spots are cancerous and she will begin taking radiation treatments, please pray that these treatments will defeat this cancer

Paul also called the church the household, or family, of God (1 Tim. 3:15). To leave the church is to leave God’s family. It is to be the prodigal son or daughter (Luke 15:11-32). And until we, like the prodigal son, “come to our senses,” we’ll be sloppin’ with the pigs.

Peter called the church the possession of God (1 Pet. 2:9). If we decide to no longer be a part of the church, we decide to no longer be part of what God owns. Therefore, we are striking out on our own, being on our own man or woman rather than God’s. That might sound good for a while, this independence, but as far as eternity goes it is the last place we want to be.

Finally, Paul said that Jesus is the Savior of the church (Eph. 5:23). Do you want Christ to be your Savior? Do you want him to save you from an eternity in hell? If you do, then you need to be in his body, the church...because he is the Savior of the church. The church is who he saves. Back in Noah’s day, there was only one place to be if you wanted to avoid drowning...in the ark. Today, there is only one place to be if you want to avoid hell...in the church of Christ.

The church isn’t perfect as it exists on the earth. We’ve already established that fact and that’s news to no one. But it is perfect in its design because God is its Designer. God created it with the realization that it would be populated by imperfect people. A few of those imperfect people may be insincere hypocrites who have no interest in being truly transformed. God knows who they are. But the rest of them are conscientious men and women who are acutely aware of their own sin and shortcomings. They know they are not perfect in and of themselves. But they also know they are perfected by the One who is. So they stay with his church. You would do well to stay with it too.

Otherwise you’ll spend longer than you bargained for with those hypocrites you allowed to keep you from the church.

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

God Desires Fellowship

By Sam Willcut

When we look at the religious world at large, many people are confused about religion and Christianity in general. Nevertheless, when we seek counsel from the inspired, revealed will of God, we actually see the desire of our Creator to have fellowship with the crown of His creation—this is the design of God for true religion.

Beginning with the first created man, God desired fellowship with him (Gen. 1:28-31; 2:9, 18). Everything God did for Adam was for having his best interest at heart. Thus, God and man were in perfect fellowship together. Yet, we see that wonderful fellowship broken in Genesis 3:8 with the entrance of sin. Since sin had broken this bond of fellowship, God cast humanity out of the Garden of Eden and away from the tree of life (Gen. 3:22-24). The presence of sin has affected the wonderful fellowship that once existed. Nevertheless, because of the grace of God and His desire to fellowship man, He made a way for man to have a limited amount of fellowship with Him—divinely prescribed worship, beginning with Genesis 4 and the sacrifice of Abel.

Later, we again see this design of God to fellowship His beloved with the construction of a tabernacle, and later, with the temple. As God was leading His children out of Egypt and towards the Promised Land, He gave instructions for the assembly of a tabernacle to Moses. The entire design and purpose of such was for the people of God to approach His presence in fellowship through priesthood and sacrifices: “Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle” (Exod. 40:34).

Just as we see God fellowshiping with Moses throughout the wilderness journey, we see God fellowshiping with Joshua, his successor: “...as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee...for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest” (Josh. 1:5, 9).

Hundreds of years later, we see God fulfilling His ultimate plan of redemption by coming down to earth in the form of a man (Phil. 2:5-7; John 1:14). Jesus came to become a sin offering for us, but through such, made it possible for man to have that wonderful fellowship with God: “...they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Matt. 1:23). This is fellowship!

Before Jesus departed, He left us His desire for God to have fellowship with His creation:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. (John 14:1-4)

Therefore, the way to have fellowship with God is through Jesus (John 14:6) and through our obedience to Him (Heb. 5:8-9).

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

Upcoming Events

Today	Tri-County Singing {Berea}	2:00 pm
October 1 st	Missionary Report {Stacey Ferguson}	10:00 am
October 1 st	Country Place {Devotional}	2:00 pm