

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: Josh Berryhill

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

Closing Prayer: Al Corkren

Preparing the Lord's Supper Lellie Dickinson

**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

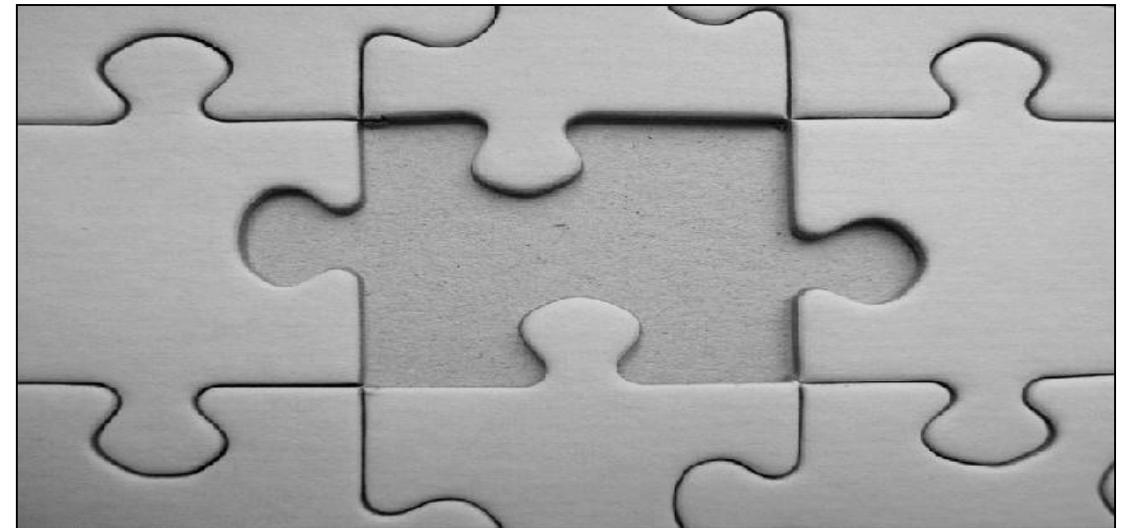
Minister: Greg Lowery

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*Left Undone*



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**A Slippery Slope to Man's Decisions**

By Robert Johnson

In the New Testament, one of the words for sin comes from the Greek word “hamartano.” The word means “to sin, to miss a mark on the way, not to hit the mark” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament). As Creator, God is the standard of truth and reveals His truth through Scripture. “Sanctify them in your truth: Your word is truth” (John 17:17). The Bible is God’s pattern or standard, the mark we are to hit for human conduct. “Your word I have treasured in my heart that I may not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11).

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (Romans 6:16-18)

How well has humanity done in following God’s commandments? Throughout history, not very well. Paul, shortly after teaching the truth of salvation and Christian living to the churches in Galatia, wrote to them, “I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:6-7). It is part of the human experience, once influenced by sin, to want to determine for oneself what is right and best. It also applies to the decisions made by nations, once God’s perfect will is rejected in favor of the ideas and desires of humanity. Sin always leads one on a slippery slope into more sin and the negative consequences that accompany it. Paul reminded the church in Rome of this attribute of sin, one which, in their own lives, they had experienced. “I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification” (Romans 6:19).

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Faye Cotton: did not receive a good report, 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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

Barbra Fields: is undergoing cancer treatments, please pray that with these treatments cancer will be in remission.

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

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: knee replacement surgery went well, please pray that she can make a quick and 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

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 is taking radiation treatments, please pray that these treatments will defeat this cancer

Patty Berryhill: having complications from a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

The phrase “resulting in” comes from a term that refers to motion toward a direction. Here, it means sin only leads to more sin. In reality, it is a death spiral, deeper and further into sin, which leads to death (Romans 6:23). Unless the process is arrested, as was the case by their renouncement of sinful practices and turning to the righteousness of God, it only gets worse, never better. The very nature of sin leads to more sin, to worse sin and to the devastation that follows in its wake.

Sin creates dissatisfaction, and whatever is established in it will just lead to a greater influence of it in life. “They are darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them and because of the hardness of their hearts. They became callous and gave themselves over to promiscuity for the practice of every kind of impurity with a desire for more and more” (Ephesians 4:18-19). Without the influence of God’s divine will, there is no real authority for right or wrong, except in the changing conditions of society, which is no real authority at all. We can experience God’s blessings by living according to His parameters, or we can substitute the whims of the flesh, which constantly change and bring negative consequences to life. Are we willing to take a slippery slope that can ultimately consume us? “Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).

Obtained at: [www.gospelgazette.com](http://www.gospelgazette.com)

**The Search for Happiness**

By Therman Hodge

Certainly, the search for happiness is the aim of every life. However, we may have a difference of opinion on how to achieve it.

There is a difference between pleasure, sensation and happiness. Even the U.S. Constitution gives its citizens the unalienable right to “the pursuit of happiness.”

We can be happy in spite of undesirable circumstances that occur in life. Persecutions may befall one in his or her life, and yet, a person can still be happy. “Blessed [happy] are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:11-12 NKJV).

One may experience some degree of poverty, and yet not despair over one’s situation. “Then Peter said, ‘Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk’” (Acts 3:6).

In addition, some disappointments visit everyone from time to time. If a person cannot be happy despite disappointments, then no one could be happy, for all have some disappointments.

Possessing things is not necessary to obtain happiness. The wealth of the rich often fail to insulate them from being miserable. Wisdom, the possession of an intangible, brings heaviness of mind. Sensual pursuits after which most of the world pursues is unable to bring lasting happiness. Acquiring power over others or even over a nation does not lead to earthly happiness. King Solomon tested all of the earthly diversions and amusements, but in Ecclesiastes, he concluded that “all is vanity.” “‘Vanity of vanities,’ says the Preacher; ‘Vanity of vanities, all is vanity’” (Ecclesiastes 1:2; 12:8).

There are several things that do bring happiness. Trusting in God results in happiness “In God We Trust” is a motto comparable to the following biblical citation. “Blessed [happy] is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:1-2).

Furthermore, contentment leads to happiness. “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need” (Philippians 4:12). Freedom from fear leads to happiness (1 John 4:18). A clean conscience produces happiness (Matthew 5:8). Fruitfulness (John 15:8), work or Christian service (James 2:24) leads to happiness (Proverbs 31:27). On the other hand, idleness brings misery and may be the Devil’s workshop (1 Timothy 5:13). The willingness to share produces happiness (2 Corinthians 8:1-5), whereas selfishness brings misery (1 John 3:17). Some measure of accomplishment results in happiness (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Ultimate happiness involves making preparation for spending an eternity in Heaven with God (Amos 4:12; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Matthew 25:21). Thomas Chalmers, preacher and philosopher of the early 1800’s in Scotland, observed, “Some grand essentials of happiness are something to do, something to love and something to hope for.”

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**Upcoming Events**

Today	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship Meal	
October 15 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Gospel Meeting {Ted Burluson}	Sunday Night Services @ 7:30 pm