

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Lannie Key

On the Table: Head - Eddy Dickinson
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Billy Box
Josh Berryhill

Closing Prayer: Gary Addison

Preparing the Lord's Supper Michelle Lowery

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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God Is Trying To Tell Us Something



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Solution to Mankind's Problem

By Andy Diestelkamp

Just as surely as mankind’s problem of sin is identified from the beginning, so is the hope of overcoming the problem. If life were without purpose and hope, there would be no purpose in identifying sin as a problem. Problems are identified and presented not so as to frustrate and cause despair and hopelessness but in order to identify and present solutions. Scripture is not needed to identify sin and its fate if there is nothing to be done about it. Thus, by its very existence, Scripture’s purpose is not only to identify sin and heap guilt and shame upon mankind but also to reveal a solution to the problem.

From the beginning, God has offered this hope despite our sin. While the end result of sin is death, a solution to overcoming sin and death is implied by the fact that we are made acutely aware of the problem by both revelation and experience.

God is not the creator of problems; He is the creator of solutions to problems. Having been created in His image, we, too, are capable of solving problems of both the physical and the metaphysical. Indeed, there is within human nature a capacity for contemplating nature and that which is beyond the realm of the natural. While some might attribute this to ignorance, it is more reasonable to suggest that such attributes as faith, hope, and love are not illusions of the over-active imaginations of ignorant, accidentally-evolved, higher animals but spring from realities which transcend nature and which mankind has been purposefully given the ability to comprehend to some degree.

When Adam and Eve first sinned, they immediately became aware that there was a problem and set about to solve the problem; “they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings” (Gen. 3:7). That the problem of nakedness and its shame was not easily solved by some natural means is made evident by the fact that Adam and Eve still sought to hide themselves from God (vs. 8). That only God, by His grace, could solve the problem of Adam and Eve’s own making is made evident when He clothed them with that which adequately covered the shame of their nakedness.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Faye Cotton: she will be starting new treatments soon, please continue to pray that she continues her fight against cancer and she will win

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: her surgery went well to remove cancer from her womb, please be praying that she will make a quick recovery and no more will be found cancer

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

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

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

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

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

Laraine Foss: please be praying that she has good days and good nights and keep Arlen in your prayers also while they are undergoing this very difficult trial

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

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

Vertie Mae York: knee replacement surgery went well, please pray that she can make a quick and full recovery

Alice Foster: was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and having problems with her lungs, please keep her in your prayers

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

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

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

The problem of sin is evident. We see that evil is real even though it is not subject to testing by the scientific method. We have a problem that cannot be solved by natural means. Yet, even in the midst of the curses that accompanied the first sin, we find the first promise of the hope of overcoming. Life would go on, and, in time, the Seed of woman would bruise the head of the serpent (vss. 14, 15).

It is not by chance that Scripture virtually begins and ends by addressing the problem of sin unto death while providing the solution of salvation unto life. Like bookends in the library of Scripture, compiled over 1500 years, are the announcements of the defeat of our common enemy. These texts, and all in between them, provide the hope needed to endure the trials of this life while seeking the salvation solution that God graciously offers to the problem of sin. In Genesis 3:15, a glimmer of hope is dimly seen as “the serpent” is told that the Seed of woman would eventually bruise his head. In the Revelation of Jesus Christ, this promise is finally fulfilled as “that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan...who accused [brethren] before our God day and night, has been cast down” (Rev. 12:9,10).

As the apostle Paul wrote, “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under [the curse of] the law” (Gal. 4:4,5; cf. 3:13). Quoting from Deuteronomy (27:26), Paul had reminded, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them” (Gal. 3:10). This is equivalent to, “in the day that you eat of it you will surely die” (Gen. 2:17).

So, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). A virgin woman conceived a Son by the Holy Spirit and He was named “Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:18-23). “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:8). In so doing, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’) (Gal. 3:13). He became accursed for us “that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles...that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (vs. 14; cf. Gen. 12:3). This is “the gospel which [Paul] preached...which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved...that Christ died for our sins...was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

The end (result) of the problem of sin is death, but the end (demise) of the problem of sin is found in Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross and His own subsequent conquest of death in His resurrection from the dead. The beginning of the solution is found in God’s loving and gracious promise. Jesus is the solution to the problem of sin. The end (result) of the solution is the salvation of all who entrust and commit their souls to their Creator through Jesus Christ.

Obtained at: www.thinkonthesethings.com

Speaking Truth 'With Grace, Seasoned With Salt'

By Al Diestelkamp

Most of us can testify that there are certain foods that are not very palatable without adding some salt. Even the scriptures quote Job’s rhetorical questions, “Can flavorless food be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?” (Job 6:6).

The Holy Spirit guided the apostle Paul to use our knowledge of this to illustrate the need to use wisdom, gentleness, and tact in our conversations: “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (Col. 4:5-6).

While Paul’s primary focus in this text is on our conversations with “those who are outside,” I doubt that anything less would be expected when speaking with brethren. In fact, he makes this clear in another epistle, urging Christians to “keep the unity in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3) by “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15). The wisdom of Solomon testifies that “The words of a wise man’s mouth are gracious” (Eccl. 10:12), and “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Prov. 15:1).

There are some foods that I hate, and no amount of salt is going to change my mind about it. Similarly, most of the world does not love truth. Jesus declared Himself to be “the truth” (Jn. 14:6) and, as such, “the light of the world” (Jn. 9:5). But He warned that men “loved darkness rather than light” (Jn. 3:19). Our task is to try to change people’s “taste” from “darkness” to “light.” In doing this our speech must “always be with grace, seasoned with salt,” all the while realizing that gentleness and tact will not make truth palatable to those who love darkness.

Unfortunately, even some whom we may call “brethren” don’t care much for truth. Paul wrote of an approaching apostasy causing people to “perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (2 Thess. 2:10). They who did not receive the love of the truth had actually refused the truth in exchange for a lie so they could have “pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thess. 2:12).

To love the truth is to regard it, which does not always equate with liking it. Truth is not always likeable. Truth sometimes hurts. It sometimes saddens. It may disappoint or discourage. But even so, it is still to be loved.

Along with truth comes responsibility, and love of the truth demands change. If while trying to reach a destination, I find that I have been misguided as to the route I must take, or I have mistakenly taken a wrong turn, learning the truth may be unpleasant; but it benefits me if I regard it. In spiritual terms, this is called repentance. There’s no virtue in being unyielding.

Dieticians often warn about the dangers of the overuse of salt. Regardless of the health risks, we know that too much salt defeats the purpose of making food palatable. In our pluralistic society which has taken political correctness to the extreme, there is the danger of our speech becoming so gentle and tactful that the power of truth is missed altogether. We do people no favor by altering truth in an effort to avoid hurt feelings and also risk causing genuine truth-seekers to gag at our lack of conviction. We can “contend earnestly for the faith” (Jude 3) without being contentious, by speaking the truth in love and using speech with grace, seasoned with salt.

Obtained at: www.thinkonthesethings.com

Upcoming Events

Today	Fellowship Meal	
Tonight	Singing & Prayer Night	5:00 pm