

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Ralph Burleson

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill
Servers - Eddy Dickinson
Greg Lowery
Billy Box

Closing Prayer: Leonard Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Mary Eddy

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: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

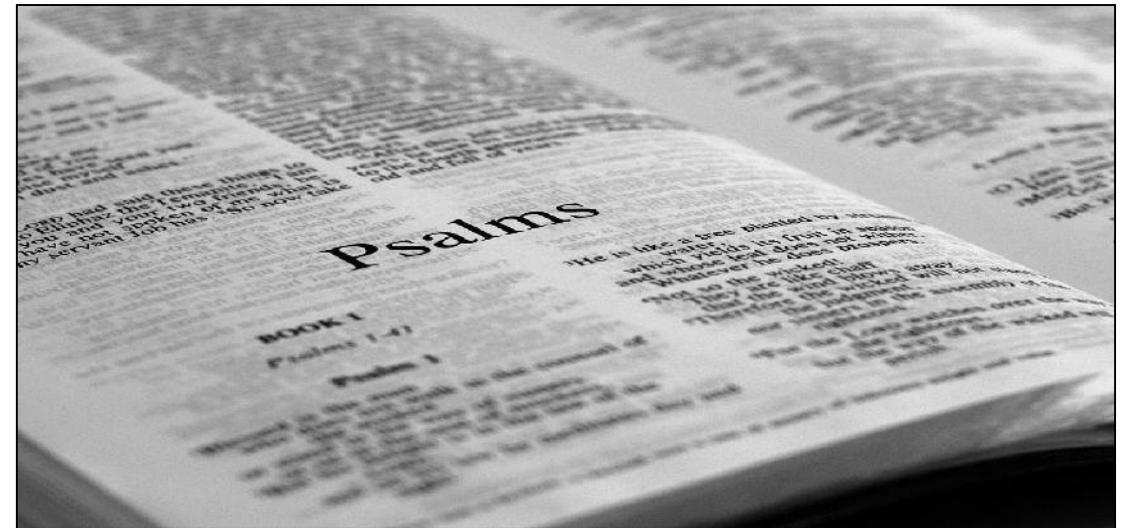
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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When A Poor Man Cries



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Importance of Humility

By Jon Mitchell

The Psalmist tells us that God distances himself from the proud (Ps. 138:6). In fact, a proud look not only separates one from God, it causes one to incur his wrath! This is undoubtedly why James wrote, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). But what is humility, really? What does humility demand, require, express, and acknowledge?

James went on to say, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Humility demands full submission to God. It’s difficult to teach those who think they are so wise that they already know enough. Because he gives grace to the humble, God’s people must put off their own desires and accept his law and love. This requires resisting Satan and his temptations to follow our own desires. That is what fully submitting to God means. Let us have the Bible and eternity in our minds and entirely adhere to sound Scripture in submission to God!

Then James said, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands...purify your hearts...” (James 4:8). Humility requires seeking God’s favor and mercy. One who seeks his favor and a close relationship with him must be willing to come to him, for he does not force himself upon men. This is a decision based upon an individual’s faith and obedience. However, the key is WORK. It is not easy to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts, but that is what must be done.

Furthermore, James tells us we must “lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom” (James 4:9). Humility must express appropriate sorrow for sin. The sin that used to be fun and brighten our day must now ruin our days. It must make us feel absolutely terrible. That cannot happen unless we realize that sin will condemn us to hell, and therefore is a serious matter. Only then will we be like the tax collector, a man so sorrowful for his sins that he wouldn’t even look up to heaven but instead wailed, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” (Luke 18:13)

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: 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} 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

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister}: is in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray that her health continues to improve

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

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 this cancer can be defeated

Timmy Weeks: is recovering from recent knee surgery, please continue to keep him in your prayers

Brandy Weeks: having back problems, please pray that this problem can easily be treated

Bobby Sanderson: continues to make improvements, please pray that this continues

Don Lawrence: met with doctors concerning blockage with kidneys and are going to wait until February before taking further steps, please continue to keep him your prayers

Upcoming Events

Today	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
December 16 th	Holiday Fellowship	(after evening service)

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Angie Ganey Gardner: has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Amy Weeks {Donna’s Niece}: has asked for prayers to help overcome addictions, please pray that she will turn to God for help and strength

Jeff Upton {Co-Worker of Donna} severe back problems scheduled to have surgery in February, please keep him in your prayers

Paul Glen Davis: experienced severe burns and is in serious condition at UAB, please pray for him and his family

Finally, James concludes by saying, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up” (James 4:10). Humility must acknowledge the sight of the Lord. The Psalmist and the prodigal son recognized that they had sinned against God and heaven (Ps. 51:4; Luke 15:18). God is the primarily the One against whom our sins are committed, and God is the only One who can pardon our sins. When we recognize that, it helps bring about humility.

God gives grace to the humble. While men repeatedly sin against him, God joyfully accepts those who take action and come to him in repentance (Luke 15:22-24). The way to heaven is to realize our sins and shortcomings, and humbly depend upon the will of an all-powerful God for our eternal salvation.

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

Does God Keep Score?

By Kevin Cauley

Several years ago, I was having a conversation with someone about getting credit for ideas. I mentioned to them that it doesn’t matter to me if I get credit for an idea or not, because God knows who did what and I was content to let God handle such things. This person then wondered whether or not God really credited man with such things. In essence, the question can be framed, Does God keep score?

First, we need to understand that God does not keep score in the sense that if we could only get enough points, then we would win salvation. The Bible teaches us that salvation isn’t something that we earn. Jesus said in Luke 17:10, So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do. When we do everything that God tells us, we still haven’t earned our salvation. We are still dependent upon Him for eternal life. Salvation is a gift that God gives upon the condition of faith and obedience (see Hebrews 11:6 and Hebrews 5:9). Neither our faith nor our obedience earns our salvation; but God promises to give us salvation when we trust and obey Him. It is the promise of God in which we trust, not in our own faith or obedience. In that regard, God doesn’t keep score because no matter how high a score we get, we’ll never be high enough to earn our salvation.

Second, neither does God keep score as to how long we have been a faithful Christian as if that would make a difference in our salvation. Jesus told the parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard in Matthew 20:1-16. In the parable, the vineyard owner agrees with laborers for the same wage though they begin working at different times in the day. At the end of the day, they all get the same pay. The ones who started early complain, saying that they worked longer than the others. The owner asks them whether or not they agreed to that pay. They did, so that is what they got. The lesson from the parable is that salvation is available for all and it doesn't matter when you started working for God, everyone, whether young or old gets the same pay eternal life and for that we ought to be very thankful. No, God does not keep score in regard to one's longevity of service in His kingdom.

Third, there is a sense, however, in which God does keep score. In Hebrews 6:10 we read, For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. We learn from this passage that God takes note of those who do good things and He remembers those things. Moreover, Jesus said, But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal (Matthew 6:20). What are these treasures that we are to be laying up in heaven? He explains in Luke 12:33, Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. When we do good things for others, we lay up treasures in heaven. Are they for earning our salvation? No. What then are these treasures for? There is only one explanation. It is because God wants us to appreciate the results of the good things that we did once we are in heaven. That will be our treasure!

Does God keep score? He doesn't keep score when it comes to good works meriting salvation. Regardless of how high the score, it would never be enough to earn salvation. However, He does keep score when it comes to having treasure in heaven over which we can appreciate the results of our good efforts. And so John can write, Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward (2 John 1:8). God doesn't keep score to determine who earned what, but to determine who IS what!

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

The Choice to be Happy - Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

By Denny Petrillo

Each of us makes choices, and we make them every day! It is a decision to choose happiness or a decision to choose unhappiness. It really does depend upon us (despite our belief that others make us happy or unhappy). Solomon suggested five areas where one should find “happiness” and a “cheerful heart.”

First, one should be happy with his food and drink (v. 7). There are so many in the world who are dying of thirst and starvation. For those of us who have our “daily bread,” there should be an attitude of gratitude.

Second, one should be happy with his clothes (v. 8a). If one can pick clothes that are comfortable (“white”), he should be happy with that. Again, there are many in the world who lack the kind of clothing needed for changes in the weather. If one has adequate clothing, there should be a sense of joy.

Third, one should be happy if he has medicine (v. 8b). Solomon mentioned the benefits of “oil.” Frequently, oil was used for medicinal purposes, as well as an ointment to aid dry skin. Not everyone has either the availability of oil or the resources to purchase it.

Fourth, one should be happy with his mate (v. 9). When one finds a wife, he has found “a good thing” (Proverbs 18:22). There are so many who are in unhappy marriages. Why are they unhappy? Usually, they are unhappy because one or both have failed to invest in the marriage, trying to make it the best marriage possible. Also, there are those who have failed to develop contentment with one's mate. If the husband is always thinking of other women, or the wife is thinking of other men, a lack of contentment will exist and will grow as a cancer in that marriage.

Fifth, one should be happy with his job (v. 10). There are so many who continually gripe and complain about their jobs. Yet, there are others who have the same job and are happy with that job. So, what is the difference? The happy ones have a determination to maintain a positive attitude about that job. Frequently, people become discontent and either are miserable in their jobs or are frequently ‘job hopping.’ The grass isn't always greener on the other side, as so many foolishly find out—but too late. Happiness is in your grasp. Choose to seize it!