

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Josh Berryhill

Opening Prayer: Eddy Dickinson

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Billy Box
Charles Berryhill

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
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Visit Our Website

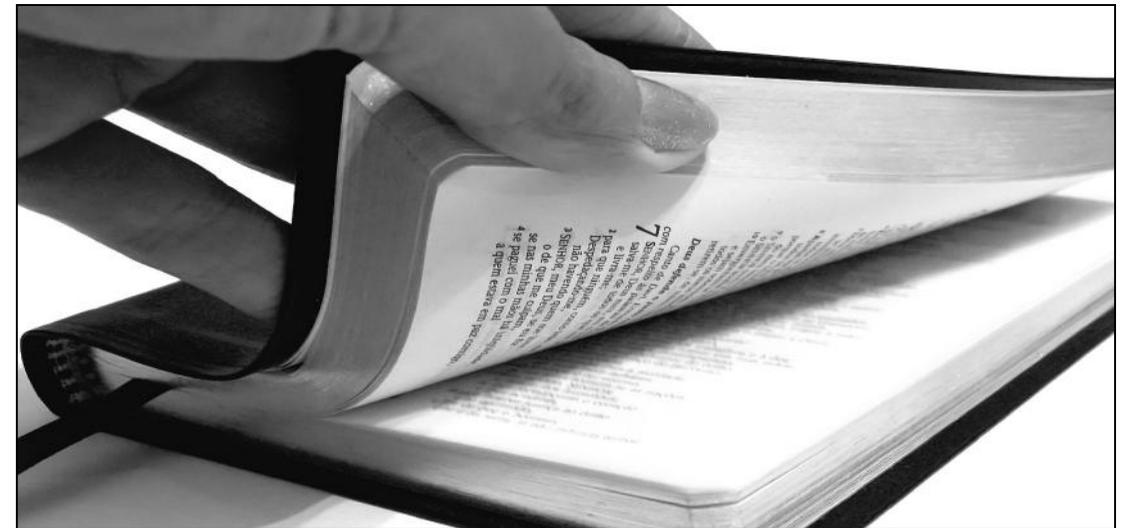
www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

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

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Living By Every Word



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Bible Meets Man’s Needs

By Max Leach

One of the greatest needs of man is to love, and to be loved. These are really parts of one emotion, rather than two separate emotions, for it is impossible to love truly when it is only one sided. One cannot really love a dummy, or a car, or a television set. One may have strong emotional feelings about such objects, but loving them in the sense that one can love another person made in the image of God, and be loved in return by this person, is an impossibility.

And Christianity is a life, a faith, and a religion of loving and being loved.

God set the pattern for us of today when He sent His only Son to give his life for us-sinners. Christ himself said in His ministry that a man could not have a greater love than that of laying down his life for his friend. But Christ even loved his enemies enough to die for them as well.

Is there a greater example in the world than this love of Christ for mortal and sinful man? If inspiration and example can help us-and they do, all the time-cannot we as knowledgeable adults see the wonder in such love, and be impelled to be this way?

Man has to love and be loved, or he dies. Infants die from being unloved; this is a medical fact. Children grow up to be delinquents because of being unloved; this is a legal and psychological fact. Life is empty as we grow older if there is not love in our lives. God made us this way-and Christ supplied the answer. To abound in love. To love to the point where it casts out fear-and fear is the most destructive emotion of mankind. To see that God is love, that God is in us if we love; that we follow Christ, not because we fear Him but because we love Him. To love beyond the bounds of other men; other men can love those that love them. The Christian can love His enemies, and learns to do so if he is Christian. And remember, Love works no ill to others-it brings only peace.

God made us with minds and hands.

To use both constructively is a part of the pleasure of man, and it is not only a pleasure of the Christian but is an inextricable part of his life. The work that we do in the world is sometimes a thing of pain for some people, but not for the Christian.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Faye Cotton: please continue to pray that she continues her fight against cancer and that 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

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

Barbara Wilkinson: is having problem with a hernia, please pray that the doctors will quickly fix this problem

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

Hayden Lackey: his medicine is controlling his seizures, please pray that this continues to take place

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

Carolyn Weatherly: is at home recovering from recent stroke, please keep her and Gary in your prayers

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

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

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

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

Chad Henderson: this young man is battling cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that will help him in his fight with this terrible disease

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments that this cancer can be defeated

Connie Autrey: diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that she can receive treatments that will help defeat this cancer

Upcoming Events

January 7 th	Country Place	2:00 pm
January 14 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
January 21 st	Fellowship Meal	

Being intelligent, the Christian will cast around, if need be, until he finds work that is suitable to him, his family, and is constructive in a Christian way. And as he works, he is conscious that he works not only to himself, not only to others, but to God as well. Slavery under the Roman government in the time of Christ was bearable, but only for Christian slaves, for they served their masters as a way of serving God, even though the master may have been harsh and cruel. But how else could such a master know that Christianity was something that he didn't have, but his slave did-and something that did for his slave what all his possessions and money and power could not do? It would be interesting to know how many pagan masters were converted to being Christians, in those times, by the example and manner of life of their Christian slaves! Nothing in this could be interpreted as suggesting that Christianity says slavery is all right; for it isn't. But even in the work of slaves Christianity could be promoted.

Today, we that are Christian should thank God for the work we have to do, for it is a part of the blessing that He bestows on us. And let us thank God that we all do not have the same work-and let us thank Him for the fact that He tells us He sees all our efforts alike, if we do what we can.

And man cannot be happy without working, for he is made to work just in the same way as he is made to breathe, and to walk, and to see.

One of the greatest needs of mankind today is to have some inner peace, a sense of tranquility and contentment throughout most of their contacts with life. But most of mankind does not have this; and there is only one way that guarantees this, and then it is not guaranteed automatically.

This way is the Way-a life in Christ. (Philippians 4:4-7).

In this way, the followers of Christ are promised that if they seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first, that the necessities of life will be theirs as they do what they can with their hands and minds in their partnership with God. (Matthew 6: 33-34).

This is the only way that gives man relief from the fear of death; and the nature of man is to know that eventually he will die. The fear of death is removed for the Christian, for he knows that Christ has said that where he goes, there we may come also.

This is the only way that says we do not need to fear what man may do unto us, for God is our helper and he will never leave nor forsake us.

This is the only way that makes us conquerors-that not death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers-that not things present nor things to come, nor height, nor depth nor any other creature can be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37-39).

Only in this Way can we be conquerors.

Only in this Way can we have peace of mind.

The Spiritual Sword, “The Inspiration of the Bible”, vol. 1, no. 2, January 1970, p. 21-22.

If We Would Be Strong In The Lord

By Winfred Clark

There is no doubt in the mind of the child of God about his being strong. Time and time again, the Christian is commanded to be strong (Eph. 6:10; 2 Tim. 2:1; 1 Cor. 16:13). This is not an optional thing. It is something required.

But why is it so important to be strong? Are there sufficient reasons given? Let Paul tell us. Listen as he says, “that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11). Again, “that ye may be able to stand in the evil day” (Eph. 6:13). If there were no such enemy as the Devil, nor the days of evil did not abound, we would not have to be strong.

But does he tell us how to be strong? Are provisions made to help us? As you read the writings of Paul, you will find a number of things to help us be strong.

With The Truth We Are Guided

That is what is meant when he speaks of “having the loins girt about with truth”. That means a person’s life will be guided in every department by the truth. Such a person will live a life of righteousness (Titus 2:11-12). That person will do what is right in every circumstance of life. Wasn’t this true of Daniel in far off Babylon (Dan. 1:7)? His loins were enclosed with the truth.

There Will Be The Protection Of Faith

One will be protected from the darts of the Devil by the shield of faith. This was surely the case with the early disciples. They faced the storms and struggles of persecution. Take a look at the situation in Acts 4. They had been threatened and told not to speak or teach any more in the name of Jesus. Such darts are calculated to discourage and defeat the people of God. But what did they do? Did they give in or were they strong? You will remember they would meet together and pray. They kept their faith (Acts 4:32).

There Will Be Confidence In The Word Of God

As one goes to battle, he will have in his hand and heart the Word of God. But if a man does not have the confidence he should in the Word, he is apt to seek a substitute. That will weaken such a person, and Paul knew that. He would not say take “the sword of the Spirit” if he did not have total and complete confidence therein. If we are going to be strong as we should this is an absolute must.

There is no reason for us to lose the battles. We can be strong.

Expositions Of “The Expositor”, vol. 1, p. 520-521.