

July 14, 2019

CHURCH *of* CHRIST



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....7 p.m.

Minister, John Keith
(304) 266-9027

WELCOME!

We of the Cambridge church of Christ
invite you to all our services.

"...the churches of Christ salute you" (Romans 16:16).

WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF “DETERMINISM”?

INTRO: “Determinism” is a term used in religious circles with differing shades of meaning depending upon the convictions of those using the expression. Basically, it is freewill.

I. ATHEISTIC DETERMINISM.

- A. General definition of “determinism” : “[A]ll events are to be understood as the necessary result of other events and so may be regarded as instances of laws”
- B. Bertrand Russell elsewhere wrote: “The first dogma which I came to disbelieve was that of free will” (1952,).
- C. Clarence Darrow followed the “no free will” position to its logical consequence...and was... forced to conclude there is no human responsibility for any action.

II. CALVINISTIC DETERMINISM

- A. John Calvin had his own definition on “free will”:
 1. “none but the elect has a will inclined to good.”
 2. So, as one modern Calvinist argues: “Human free will is a myth” .
- B. Problems with Calvin’s View- i.e., the notion that God orchestrates the choices we humans make.
 1. Subverts the goodness of God (Rom. 2:4; Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8; Hab. 1:13).
 2. Conflicts with multiple biblical texts (Mt. 23:37; Lk. 15:18; Jn. 5:39-40; Jn. 7:17; Rev. 22:17).
 3. Numerous texts logically imply both the ability and the urgency of man to exercise his personal will power in submitting to divine authority through obedience (**Heb. 2:1-3**).
 - a. If man cannot exercise his will why should he ever feel a sense of guilt (Gen. 3:7-8; Mt. 27:4, 24; 1 Tim. 1:13)?
 - b. What of the numberless texts that contain either “curses” or “blessings” in response to human activity (**Dt. 27:12-13**)?
- C. The Motive- Why This Doctrine? Denial of “free will” somehow “justifies” an immoral lifestyle.

III. BIBLICAL DETERMINISM

- A. There is a legitimate biblical “determinism,” and it is lightyears apart from the perverted ideas surveyed above.
- B. The term “determinate” translates the Greek word, *horizo* (8x NT), meaning “to set a boundary.” It is used in connection with Christ in the following senses.
 1. In the eternal counsel of God, the death of Jesus as the atonement for sin was a divine “determinate”-
 2. Consider the following verses: Acts 2:23; Lk. 22:22; Rom. 1:4; Acts 17:26; Heb. 4:7 ; Revelation 22:17; Acts 17:31; cf. 10:42).

CONCLUSION: Scripture *never* states nor implies that God has unconditionally “determined” to save some and condemn others.

IS GIVING REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

Throughout history, the wisdom of God instructed man regarding the benevolent welfare of His people. In the days following man's fall in the garden, he was to work to provide for his own necessities (Gen. 3:17-19). When Moses received the Ten Commandment Law at Mt. Sinai, provision was given therein for the care of the needy—widows, orphans, etc.—so that all would be provided for (Lev. 19:9-10).

When the New Testament was inaugurated the expectation of God regarding the benevolence of His children heightened and a new standard was set in place. The first example of this new, higher standard is seen shortly after the birth of the church of Christ; “And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need” (Acts 2:44-45).

Paul sets forth examples and expands upon this duty for members of the body of Christ. He commends the churches of Christ in Macedonia for giving of themselves first proving their sincerity and love that they might be rich through Christ's poverty (2 Cor. 8:5, 9).

Our giving is not an optional matter; it is a command and one that God has placed in our charge regarding how much or how little we give. God knows our motives and our actions, and He will judge us accordingly and fairly. Concerning our giving the bottom line is this; we are to give...

1. Regularly (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
2. As prospered (1 Cor. 16:2)
3. Liberally (2 Cor. 9:6)
4. Cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7)
5. Of ourselves first (2 Cor. 8:5)
6. Knowing that God is able to make our grace abound (2 Cor. 9:1-12).

Yes, giving really is that important; as important as any command God has given us—*JK*.

We encourage our visitors to fill out one of the blue cards and place it in the collection plate.

<i>IN OUR PRAYERS:</i> Jerry & Erma Endly, Cathy Jackson, Tina Keith, Gary & Debbie Jones, Kathy Mayo, and Flavil Miller	<i>SHUT-INS:</i> Audrey Burns, Jack Mitchell, Shirley Patterson and Marge Rothwell
FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Nellie Bichard , Alec Blake (grandson of Wilma Roe), Weston Boulet , (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Larry Chips (friend of the Starrett's, Kenneth Crookshank (son of Dannelle Gilmore), Dan Doudna (Wilma Roe's relative), Bob & Patty Eddy , Tom Eddy (Betsy Cook's brother), Carmie Green (Flavil Miller's sister), Doris Hall , Herb Hamilton (friend of the Starrett's), Bob & Donna Henthorn (Laura Jamiel's parents), Collene Keister , (Mo Smith's sister), Les McCollum (friend of Deb McGath), Erica Rich , Shirley Roe , Mona Stoffer (Flavil Miller's daughter), Mitch Vick , Bob & Marge Watson , Kedra Wyatt and remember to pray for one another .	

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Erma Endly** will have another treatment tomorrow.
- **Business Meeting** at 5:30 this evening for the men of the congregation.
- Our **Summer Series** continues this Wednesday with **Steve Stevens** from the *Hundred, W.Va.* congregation. He will be speaking on Repentance as it Relates to God's Plan of Salvation. Please plan to be here and invite a friend.

REMINDERS:

- ✓ ~~WORD~~ **W**atcher will meet tomorrow.
- ✓ If anyone would like to take a turn creating a bulletin board for the entry, please sign up on the board in the foyer.
- ✓ **Be sure to check the bulletin board for upcoming area events.**
- ✓ We still need a teacher to take over **Brendyn Herald's** class.

TODAY'S LESSONS

AM: Determinism (Duet. 11:26-28).

PM: A Christian is God's Obedient Child (1 Pet. 1:13-16).

<i>Bible Class</i>	<i>Sun. AM</i>	<i>Sun. PM</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Wed.</i>
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