

November 17, 2019

CHURCH *of* CHRIST



1002 Clairmont Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725
(740) 432-7486

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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).

KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST: POWER TO DISCERN

Phlp. 1:8-11

INTRODUCTION:

1. Discernment is perhaps one of the first things we intuitively learn; at a very early age we begin to distinguish between what we like/dislike; who we trust/distrust, etc.
2. “Discern” / “discernment”
 - A. As a transitive verb: “to recognize or identify as separate and distinct, discriminate.
 - B. As an intransitive verb: “to see or understand the difference.
3. You may be thinking, “This sounds a bit like judging”; its exactly what it is. We must learn to make righteous judgements (Jn. 4:24); scriptural, prayerful, and careful, distinctions.

DISCUSSION:

I. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT GOD’S PEOPLE BE ABLE TO DISCRIMINATE.

- A. Right and wrong:
 1. It’s right to remain sober (1 Thes. 5:6),
 2. It is wrong to be getting drunk (Eph. 5:18).
- B. Truth and error: **1 Jn. 4:3-6.**
- C. Things advisable and permissible:
 1. Paul said it was *advisable* for Christians under persecution in Corinth to remain unmarried;
 2. But, it was permissible if they could not contain themselves (1 Cor. 7:1-2, 7-8).
- D. Faith and opinion:
 1. It is a matter of faith that one must be baptized to be saved (Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21);
 2. It is a matter of opinion regarding the location; baptistry, creek, pond, pool, etc.
- E. The Law and the Gospel.
 1. The Law said, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy ...” (Exo. 20:8-10).
 2. No such command exists in the Gospel for the Lord’s people after the birth of the church in Acts 2. In fact, the only special day for Christians is the first day of the week and it is a day of worship; not rest (Acts 20:7).

II. GOD’S PEOPLE MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THINGS THAT DIFFER (9-10).

- A. Knowledge Needs to Grow (2 Pet. 3:18).
- B. As Knowledge Grows, So Does Discernment.

1. How can we make right decisions on grave matters of life unless we have a knowledgeable background?
 2. The Hebrews had not trained their senses to discern (**Heb. 5:12-14**).
- C. Christian Discernment is Individual.
1. Not that individuals get to decide *what* is right or wrong for himself, rather...
 2. Each one must study for himself and not expect another to make his decisions for him.
 3. Often the preacher is asked about a certain practice (recreation, etc.).
 - a. I have no problem with helping people; I don't know a preacher who will not help the flock.
 - b. But many times, the questioner wants a simple answer where one is not available or warranted.
 - c. Others don't want to do the book work themselves.
 - d. Still others will go from preacher to preacher until they get the answer they wanted all along.

III. PROPER DISCERNMENT ALLOWS US TO DOCTRINALLY REFUTE ERROR.

- A. Christians Must Use their Knowledge of Christ to Be Militant.
 1. Such pulls down strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4).
 2. Profitable for reproof and correct (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
 3. Marks the divisive (Rom. 16:17).
- B. Christians Are to Contend for the Faith (Jude 3).
 1. Not tossed about by every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14).
 2. Try the spirits...are thy from God (1 Jn. 4:1) —from Heaven or men (Mt. 21:25)?
 3. Abide in the doctrine of God (2 Jn. 9).
 4. Continue in the (1 Tim. 4:16).

CONCLUSION:

1. We spend a lifetime making decisions; what will be advantageous to my career? Which dress will he like me in better?
2. And yet, we are told that we should not make judgements about what other people do.
 - A. We learn to do things from what we see other people do; our parents, siblings, peers;
 - B. Frankly, we had better be making some judgements; and we'd better know which standard of judging to use: only the Bible is fit for such a task (Jn. 12:48).
- C. The same Word that teaches us what decisions to make will judge us BY the decisions we make and thus, the life we live.

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

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| IN OUR PRAYERS: Jerry & Erma Endly, Cathy Jackson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Hazel Leap, Kathy Mayo, Flavil Miller, and Ardith Winland | SHUT-INS: 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), Dan Doudna (Wilma Roe's relative), Bob & Patty Eddy, Tom Eddy (Betsy Cook's brother), Carmie Green (Flavil Miller's sister), 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:

- **Pat Behrendt** is in S/E Med. For pain management. She will be having further testing on Monday
- **Shirley Patterson** is now at *Cambridge Healthcare*.

REMINDERS:

- ✓ **WORDWATCHER** will meet tomorrow.
- ✓ We still need a teacher to take over **Brendyn Herald's** class.

TODAY'S LESSONS

AM: Knowledge of Christ: Power to Discern (Phlp. 1:8-11).

PM: Who Wrote the Bible (2 Peter 1:19-21)?

| <i>Bible Class</i> | <i>Sun. AM</i> | <i>Sun. PM</i> | <i>Collection</i> | <i>Wed.</i> |
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IT'S HARD TO GET INTO SHAPE
SPIRITUALLY, IF YOU ONLY
WORK OUT ON
SUNDAY MORNING