

December 1, 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
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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 SO WRONG WITH SAYING WE ARE A DENOMINATION?

There are certain areas where a reasonable amount of inaccuracy is excepted and usually just accepted. For example, someone may introduce me and say that I am a Country musician; my initial response is to say, “No; I play Bluegrass”, but usually I just let it go.

There are other areas wherein I try to be as accurate as I can be and so, when someone asks me about which “denomination” I “pastor”, I take that as a learning moment for the other person. In no way do I wish to misrepresent our Lord’s church or any aspect of my involvement with her. I hear my brethren saying things like, “Just because someone is of a different tribe, we shouldn’t judge them”. Or, “Just because I go to a Church of Christ church and my friends go to a Baptist church, doesn’t mean I can’t go to church with them sometimes”.

In the first place, why would a member of the Lord’s church purposely attend where sinful, vain worship was going to be practiced? Second, what is a “Church of Christ church” anyway? It is either the Lord’s church—the church of Christ—or it is not. Third, who had the bright idea to start calling the Lord’s church a “tribe”? Scripture please. Such divisive and sectarian language is evidence of the growing ignorance in today’s church. The lines between the church of Christ and denominations are being increasingly blurred, and it seems nobody cares; in fact, the denominations love it and many of our members are just as blissful.

Let me state with certainty and simplicity: the church of Christ is not a denomination; never has been; and never can be, for when she becomes a denomination, she is no longer the church of our Lord! How do we know when this happens? It happens when we no longer view the Bible as the first and final authority (cf. John 12:48). When this happens, we are then not servants of the Lord, but of ourselves, and as such, we become the church of me, us, and we, and not of Christ.

Jesus said that He would build His church on the foundation of Peter’s confession, namely, that Jesus was “the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt. 16:18). Jesus stated further He had all power, i.e. authority (Matt. 28:18). If Jesus had wanted to build a denomination, He would have done it, but He didn’t; He built the church— His church—the church of Christ. Do not be guilty of equating Heaven’s design for the church with a denomination conjured up by man; your very soul is at stake! —JK

LIVE AS LIGHTS

Col. 4:5-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Among the fears many people possess is the fear of darkness, and I think it only natural because of the element of the unknown.
2. Christians know that Christ is light (Jn. 8:12) and in Him there is no darkness, and therefore, there needn't be any of that negative fear.
3. You and I are to live in this as lights reflecting the light of Christ into this dark and sin-filled world in hopes of bringing many souls to the light that is Christ Jesus our Lord; how do we do this?

I. ACT WISELY TOWARDS THE LOST (5a).

- A. Lights in a World of Darkness (Phlp. 2:14-16).
 1. No intellectual rebellion against God (14).
 2. Striving to become...blameless, harmless and without fault(15).
 3. Securely holding forth the word of life so others may see and do likewise (16).
- B. The Lost Can Learn by Our Influence (**Mt. 5:13-16**).
 1. The lost can observe our conduct and learn what Christianity is.
 2. The lost can observe our conduct and learn the traits of the Master; fairness, graciousness; purity in speech/conduct, helpful to the needy, forgiveness, etc.

II. MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY (5b).

- A. Exposition
 1. Redeeming-to buy up, to rescue; (Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5).
 2. Time- opportunity, season, time; (Eph. 5:16)
- B. Careful not to overlook opportunities to influence others.
- C. Careful to seek ways to gain the lost (Rom. 1:13-15; 1 Cor. 9:19-23; 10:33).
- D. Courageously, Paul always sought opportunity (Acts 21:31, 36, 39).

III. SPEAK GRACIOUSLY IN RESPONSE TO OTHERS (6).

- A. A Man's mouth often betrays his heart (Mt. 12:34; 15:18-19).
- B. To speak proper words, Christians must think on noble things (Phlp. 4:8).
- C. We ought to be known for wise words; words in good taste.
- D. Our speech will be attractive to hearers because our words come from hearts of love.
 1. Our words to the lost should resonate the love of Christ (Eph. 4:15).
 2. Our words to the lost should resonate urgency (Heb. 3:15; Acts 22:16).

CONCLUSION:

1. We need to act wisely towards the lost; as lights in a sin-darkened world, illuminating Christ and His way to salvation.
2. Make the most of each opportunity; carefully and wisely taking advantage of opportunities to speak the words of the Gospel.
3. Learn to speak graciously in response to others; lovingly and urgently.

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

<p>IN OUR PRAYERS: Jerry & Erma Endly, Cathy Jackson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Kathy Mayo, and Flavil Miller.</p>	<p>SHUT-INS: Pat Behrendt, Audrey Burns, Jack Mitchell, Shirley Patterson and Marge Rothwell</p>
<p>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.</p>	

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none submitted

REMINDERS:

- ✓ ~~WORDWATCHER~~ will meet tomorrow.
- ✓ **Don't forget about our library;** Brendyn Herald has assembled many good volumes for us to be able to check out. They are in the basement in the last room on the right.

TODAY'S LESSONS

AM: Live as Lights (Col. 4:5-6).

PM: Overcoming Fear (Gen. 3:6-10).

<i>Bible Class</i>	<i>Sun. AM</i>	<i>Sun. PM</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Wed.</i>
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An unbeliever died and left his farm to the devil. The court decided the best way to honor his wishes and give his farm to the devil was to do nothing. The farm grew weeds, the soil eroded, the house and barn rotted to the ground. We can give our lives to the devil in the same way, all we have to do is do nothing. Adapted from Mike King, The Informer