

February 9, 2020

# 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).*

# WHEN DOES MY FAITH GROW? WHEN I STUDY

1 Peter 2:1-5

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Do you ever wonder when your faith grows?
2. Perhaps you are somewhat disappointed because you don't feel your faith growing.
3. Let's turn to the Bible and see what it has to say.

## **I. THE GENESIS OF FAITH (Rom. 10:17).**

- A. "Faith Comes by Hearing" (Rom. 10:17).
  1. "Hearing" (KJV), or "report" (Lard) the thing heard (Isa. 53:1).
  2. The mind of God is transmitted to the minds and tongues of men who spoke and wrote. Words were the means of that transmission (2 Pet. 1:21).
    - a. The Faith/ the Gospel is something communicated and learned (Jn. 6:44-45).
    - b. Cornelius was told words by (Acts 11:14).
- B. "As Newborn Babies" (1 Pet. 2:2).
  1. Jesus said become as "little children" (Mt. 18:3).
  2. Our faith has to begin somewhere.
  3. Any growth process takes time.
    - a. God was patient with Noah (1 Pet. 3:20).
    - b. God is patient desiring all to (2 Pet. 3:9).
- C. Cause and effect: The thing heard originates in the mind of God [with respect to His Son; it is reported by the preachers . . . it is heard" Thus, the *genesis*, or, conception of faith]

## **II. THE GESTATION OF FAITH.**

- A. Peter tells us how to grow our faith (cf. **1 Pet. 2:2**).
  1. The desired result: "That we may grow" (1 Cor. 15:2; 2 Cor. 6:1; Jas. 1:26).
- B. Paul tells us how to grow our faith (**2 Tim. 2:15**).
  1. We must "study", or "give diligence".
    - a. To the written word—now, the Scriptures do not specify "study the word", but, notice the motive: to seek God's approval.
    - b. How else can we know what to do to effect God's *approval*, or *validation* than to study, or give diligence, to His instruction (which is found only in His word)?
    - c. Incidentally, having God's approval will not always garner man's.
  2. Be as a "workman", a field laborer.
  3. Be "Rightly dividing" or "handling aright". The opposite of (2 Cor. 4:2).

## **III. THE GARNERING OF FAITH.**

- A. The ultimate goal of stronger faith is reaping the promised eternal rest.
  1. We became clean (Jn. 15:3).
  2. Christians became purified (1 Pet. 1:22).
  3. Christians are to continue in the word (Jas. 1:22, 25).
- B. Be faithful; Endure to the end (Rev. 2:10; Mt. 10:22).

## HERMAN WHO? (7): Similes and Similitudes

The human mind instinctively wants to make comparisons of unfamiliar object and ideas to things more familiar as a way to understand. Out of this phenomenon, we developed figure of speech using such comparisons. Of the many such comparisons we use on a daily basis is the “simile”, which compares certain similar objects and is made by using such terms as , “like”, “as”, or “so”.

The psalmist wrote that the person is blessed who meditated upon God’s word shall be “like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields fruit in its season; its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers (Psa. 1:2-3). By use of the simile, the author relays to us that he knows that he is not a law unto himself, but that he is subject to the Creator. He recognizes the value of God’s law and that it must be accessed by effort on his part.

A *similitude* is a prolonged or drawn out simile, such as Jesus used when comparing two builders in Matthew 7:24-27. After discussing two eternal destinies; the destruction of life (7:13-14), and the danger of false teaching (7: 15-20), He gives a serious warning about the attention we give, or do not give with regard to His word. Paul employs the use of similitude when he urges Timothy to:

[E]ndure hardship as *a good soldier of Jesus Christ*. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him *as a soldier*. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops (2 Tim. 2:3-6 emp. added).

Similes and similitudes can aid our understanding of Scripture and teach us valuable lessons that we can use each day in our efforts to glorify God and live the right kind of life, but we must recognize figures of speech for what they are. Failure to properly apply simple rules of grammar can lead us away from the intended meaning which God has set forth in inspired Scripture—*JK*.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jerry & Erma Endly, Cathy Jackson, Kim Johnson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Kathy Mayo and Flavil Miller.

**SHUT-INS:** Pat Behrendt, Audrey Burns, Jack Mitchell and Shirley Patterson.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Nellie Bichard, Weston Boulet, (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Dan Doudna (Wilma Roe's relative), Bob & Patty Eddy, 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.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Our sympathy to the family of **Janet Reed**, who was the former owner of *Curves*. There will be a celebration of Life Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at the Woodfield church of Christ from 11am until 1 pm, at which time, Sam Bartrug will speak. A meal will follow at the building.
- **Business Meeting** at 5:30 this evening for the men of the congregation.
- I need your **QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ASKED** by the 14th of February as I plan to answer them Sunday evening, February 23.

**REMINDERS:**

- ✓ **WORDWATCHER** will meet tomorrow.
- ✓ **Don't forget about our library**
- ✓ If there are any changes needed to the **Family and Friends** prayer list, please let John know- thank you.

**TODAY'S LESSONS**

AM: When Does my Faith Grow (1 Pet. 2:2-4)

PM: The Church is the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-20)

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