

January 26, 2020

CHURCH *of* CHRIST



1002 Clairmont Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725

(740) 432-7486

Web Site: www.cambridgechurchofchrist.com

E-Mail: info@cambridgechurchofchrist.com

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).

STRIVING FOR THE FAITH

Phlp. 1:27-30

INTRODUCTION:

1. For Paul, Christianity was never just a theory; always practical and personal .
2. He had been discussing his possibility of death and at this point says, basically, “I hope to come and see you soon, but whether or not I can do this, this is what I ask of you” (27b).
3. Vv. 27-30 are a single sentence in the Greek.

I. CONSISTENT IN CONDUCT (27a).

A. Exegesis.

1. “Only”: in no other way”; the Christian lives in a *Gospel manner*.
2. “Conduct yourselves” a verb in the Greek text; i.e., “to live as a citizen”.
3. “Worthy” “recognized as fitting; appropriate in relation to “the Gospel”.

B. Application.

1. The one essential thing for the Christian is to live in a manner that is befitting of the Gospel, the life of and the example of Jesus Christ.
2. To conduct themselves as proper citizens of the Kingdom of Christ (cf. Phlp. 3:20) .

II. COOPERATIVE IN SERVICE (27c).

A. Exegesis.

1. “Stand fast in one spirit”- that the human spirit maintain allegiance.
2. “With one mind striving together” - one soul cooperating vigorously (4:3).
3. “For *the faith* of the gospel” (cf. 1 Tim. 3:9; 4:1).

B. Application.

1. Christians encouraged to work together bringing honor to citizenship (27).
2. We do this *together* as soldiers fighting the same enemy, or athletes competing *together* to win the big game.

III. COURAGEOUS IN CONFRONTATION (28).

- A. Paul cautions “do not be “alarmed”; ex.: skittish horse (cf. Lk. 12:4; Heb. 13:6).
- B. Persecution was a sign to the believers that they were doing something right.
- C. The same indicated eventual destruction of the persecutors (unless penitent).

IV. CONFIDENT IN PERSECUTION (29).

- A. Two things have been “graced” to believers:
 1. To believe in Him (Rom. 10:17).
 2. The honor of suffering with Him (1 Pet. 4:15-16).

V. COEXISTENT IN CONFLICT (30).

- A. They were in good company if they suffered for Christ’s sake.
- B. “Conflict”; “agony”; a term used to describe the gladiatorial games.
- C. Since they were enduring some of the same conflicts as Paul, they should come to the same conclusion as Paul: “Whether we live, or die, all can be done to the glory of God”.

“HERMAN WHO ?” (5)

In a previous article we looked at the importance of noticing *how* the original recipients of Scripture understood the message they received. Our example is when Peter told the Jews on The Day of Pentecost to “repent. . . and be baptized” (Acts 2:38), that, that is exactly what about 3,000 of them did. The command to get themselves baptized was understood, not as a metaphor or other figure of speech, but as a literal action they were expected to take. Readers today should understand it the very same way, and expect the very same results.

Another example is when Christ said, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58). How did the Jews interpret what Jesus said? They correctly understood Jesus’ claim of deity, for they immediately picked up stones to execute Him for the crime of blasphemy (59).

But what about when Jesus said, “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you”, or cut off your right hand? Is this literal? His audience understood that He was using *hyperbole*; a dramatic figure whereby the object or situation is greatly exaggerated or magnified beyond reality for effect. Jesus employed this figure of speech to stress the importance of avoiding dangerous spiritual situations at all costs. Later, Jesus clearly taught that sin originates on the mind and not our physical body parts (cf. Mark 7:21-23). Hyperbole is also found in the Old Testament as well.

The psalmist, David, while lamenting his sin with Bathsheba, said that he was, “brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived [him]” (Psa. 51:5). Some denominations cite this verse as a “proof-text” for the false doctrine of inherited sin. But this is an example of hyperbole which stresses the anguish that David felt in his soul that his entire life had been marred by sin. Consider the words of Job when he claimed to have been out caring for the needy from “his mother’s womb” (Job 31:18). Job was not out caring for them literally from the day of his birth—this is hyperbole. In like fashion, to take David’s statement in Psalm 51:5 literally contradicts the clear teaching of Ezekiel 18:20, specifically, that sin is not inherited.

Since it is the case that God was communicating to humans with the expectation of them understanding His message, why should we not expect Him to use human speech and figures of speech in the things which He revealed to us? It just makes sense. What does not make sense is that we take everything we read in the Bible literally—*JK*.

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

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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Nellie Bichard, Weston Boulet, (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Larry Chips (friend of the Starrett's, 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:

- **BAPTISM:** We rejoice with the angels that **Christine Lalley** was baptized into Christ this past Sunday following evening worship. Please welcome our new sister and encourage her as she grows in Christ.
- I need your **QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ASKED** by the 14th of February as I plan to answer them Sunday evening, February 23.
- Please put a checkmark by your family's entry if correct, or, note any corrections on the directory pages on the table at the rear of the auditorium as changes have been made and we are ready to print new ones for the congregation.
- **Norm Behrendt** is resigning his building maintenance duties and we will need (a) volunteer(s) to handle these in the future. There will be a list of duties posted on the bulletin board and individuals may indicate what they are willing to do.

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: Striving for the Faith (Philp. 1:27-30).

PM: Are You Prepared for the Waves (Psa. 88:6-9).

<i>Bible Class</i>	<i>Sun. AM</i>	<i>Sun. PM</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Wed.</i>
38	69	32	\$2080	26