

February 23, 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).

CONSIDER YOUR WAYS

Haggai 1:3-10

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Book of Haggai contains 4 oracles, or messages to the people in 520 B.C. to encourage them in rebuilding the temple.
2. The prophet directs them to consider their procrastination and thoughtlessness.
3. Often there is a tendency to ignore what needs done and be slack in our Christian duties.

I. CONSIDER THE CAUSE OF GOD.

- A. Their excuse-- "The time is not come" (2).
- B. Their existence-- They "dwelt in ceiled houses" (4).

II. CONSIDER THE RESULT OF YOUR LABORS.

- A. They were sowing much and reaping little (6a).
 1. The Gospel is proclaimed widely in our land, yet the results seem narrow—Is it the sower, or the seed?
 2. God gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:7); perhaps He is displeased with our ways-- Consider your ways.
- B. They were eating but did not have enough (6b): What did Jesus say? John. 6:27. Consider your ways.
- C. They were clothed but none was warm (6c).
 1. Wrapped themselves in the flimsy garments of their own righteousness then complained of the cold.
 2. They manifested themselves like the Laodiceans (Rev. 3:17; cf. Eph. 4:22-24) Consider your ways.
- D. They were putting their earnings in a bag with holes (6d; cf. Mt. 7:21-23).

III. CONSIDER THE WORK TO BE DONE.

- A. The work: Build the house (8a).
 1. The Jerusalem Temple, the seat of worship for the Jew.
 2. God promised if they would be diligent in performing the work, He would take pleasure in it.
 3. Christians make up the spiritual House of God today (1 Pet. 2:5).
 4. There is always work being done (2 Cor. 6:1).
- B. The Material: Bring the wood (8b).
 1. Many times on a job of this magnitude, when all is said and done, more has been said than done.
 2. The building material to be used in the construction of the church are lively stones (Eph. 2:19-22).

CONCLUSION:

1. There is a sense in which the House of God, the Church, is self-perpetuating.
2. We are saved to save.
3. The foundation (the results of the person and work of Jesus) will always be in place, but we must keep renewing lively stones to rest firmly upon that Foundation.
4. Examine yourself daily and consider your ways and make certain you are a faithful child of God.

HERMAN WHO (8): The Allegory

The literary device known as “allegory” is found in all languages and is recognized as “the discussion of a real subject or situation through the use of figurative language”¹. The main subject, however, is kept in the background by use of symbolism, allowing the one receiving the message to draw his own conclusions from the imagery.

An allegory can be defined as an extended metaphor since it takes the subject being described to a wider variety of facts, usually making a complete and connected story².

An Allegory, a Metaphor, and Simile have some commonalities in that each contain two subjects: a primary and a secondary, having certain points of likeness. A Simile is found when “as” or “like” is employed. For example, “Israel is *like* a vine brought forth from Egypt” amounts to a simile, whereas, “Israel *is* a vine brought forth from Egypt” constitutes a Metaphor. An Allegory is when the comparison and the principle subject is dropped: “God brought forth a vine out of Egypt”³.

Jesus used an Allegory in response to the disciples of John when they came to His disciples asking why they did not fast. Jesus answered them with an Allegory:

No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved (Matt. 9:16-17).

Jesus took advantage of the custom that fasting was a symbol of grief, and to carry out a fast when Christ was yet with them would constitute a lie. It would be no more appropriate for them to fast while Jesus was with them than it would be to sew new cloth on old garments or to put new grape juice into old skins.

Paul’s discussion of the defensive armor—putting on “the whole armor of God” (Eph. 6:11-17)—is another example of the Allegory. The enemies are clearly identified, and their tactics are well understood. But, when we have made the necessary preparation, as Paul instructs, we have no real need to fear since we are properly equipped.

It takes a little experience and a little practice but identifying these common figures of speech will yield great benefits in your study of the Holy Scriptures.

1 Jackson, Wayne. *Biblical Figure of Speech*. Stockton: Courier, 2005

2 Dungan, D.R. *Hermeneutics*. Delight: Gospel Light, N.d.

3 *ibid*

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| IN OUR PRAYERS: Jerry & Erma Endly, Cathy Jackson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Tina Keith, 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.

REMINDERS:

- ✓ ~~WORDWATCHER~~ will meet tomorrow.
- ✓ Any monies received in excess of our weekly budget will be earmarked for the "Handicap Accessible Entrance".
- ✓ 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: Consider Your Ways (Hag. 1:3-10)
 Questions You Have Asked (Isa. 65:17-19)

| <i>Bible Class</i> | <i>Sun. AM</i> | <i>Sun. PM</i> | <i>Collection</i> | <i>Wed.</i> |
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Years ago, a preacher told of a situation where, in a rural setting, on the top of one hill was a denominational building, and across the ravine and atop the next hill was a building where a church of Christ met. It was in the days before air conditioning and so, the windows were open in the summer and the singing from each place could be heard across the ravine. The denomination closed their services by singing, "Amazing Grace". The church of Christ closed their services by singing, "Trust and Obey". As far as I'm concerned, we should sing both hymns with equal fervor (adapted from Cecil May).