

March 15, 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

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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).

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

Job 23:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. Righteous Job suffered greatly at the wicked hand of Satan (Chs. 1-2).
2. Job desired to plead his case before God so that his suffering might end.
3. Approaching God is serious, and we must be with great reverence.

I. DESIRE TO COME BEFORE GOD (Job 23:3).

- A. Job Worshipped God-offered sacrifices when things were good (1:5).
- B. Job Commended by God (1:8; 2:3; 42:7-8).
- C. Job Still Seeking God even when times are bad.
- D. Christians should always desire a close relationship with the Holy Father.
 1. We have a perfect mediator (1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Jn. 2:1).
 2. Jesus encouraged disciple to approach the Father (Jn. 14:13-14; 15:16).

II. SPEAK HONESTLY TO GOD (Job 23:4).

- A. We Can Be Candid with God (Heb. 4:16).
- B. We Can Be Open with God.
 1. We may express to God our inner-most feelings but do so with integrity.
 2. Job made false statements about God; he spoke in ignorance from the depth of great suffering, but later repented (42:6).
 3. The Hebrews writer encourages... (Heb. 12:28-29).

III. BE WILLING TO LISTEN TO GOD (Job 23:5).

- A. Job Desired Wisdom from God.
 1. God's wisdom is infinitely higher than ours (Isa. 55:9; Rom. 11:33).
 2. But we should seek all that we may be given (Job 23:12; Pro. 2:6; cf. Psa. 119:33-37).
- B. Job Desired an Explanation from God.
- C. We, however, have all the information we need; there is no new modern-day revelation (2 Pet. 1:3; cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

IV. BELIEVE THAT GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT US (Job 23:6).

- A. Job had been questioning God's compassion toward him throughout the book (9:17; 12:9; 16:11-14; 19:6).
- B. Here, he expresses confidence that God was concerned about him and would not ultimately be unjust (Dt. 32:4; Rom. 2:2).
- C. God is concerned about His creation.
 1. Has provided every physical thing we need (Gen. 2:16; Psa. 23:5).
 2. Has provided for our spiritual needs (John 3:16; (Rev. 3:21).
 3. None is out of God's reach of love, compassion, or salvation (1 Pet. 5:6-7)!

V. TRUST THAT GOD CAN HELP US (Job 23:7).

- A. Job believed that he would be acquitted of all of his friend's charges
- B. Job finally concluded that, "God is able" (Dan. 3:17; Acts 20:32; Heb. 7:25).
- C. God can and will help us (Heb. 4:16)

CONCLUSION: We can approach the glorious throne of God if we so desire. We must approach Him in honesty and be willing to listen to Him, believing that He is concerned about us, and confident that He is able to help us. John summarizes (1 Jn. 5:14-15).

THE WORLD IN CRISIS

It seems like just a day or two ago we were hearing about some before unknown virus call “Corona” from a place called Wuhan Province in China. Now we are in the midst of a so-called, global pandemic. The news reports regarding Corona Virus (a.k.a., COVID-19) change almost by the hour.

Reactions have varied from mild apathy to mass hysteria as people scramble for answers to what should be done, when it should be, or should have been done. The world is finding itself in crisis mode as shortages of various things cause further angst and panic. Shortages of certain medical supplies including masks and gloves as well as personal hygiene products are causing concern and long lines as people stock up and even hoard these things. Nearly all major public events have been cancelled and for the most part, people just don’t know what to do.

Why is this the case? Why are people reacting with such urgency? I surmise it is because the immediate effects of the virus are clearly seen; people are dying worldwide. They know that Corona Virus is not a myth or some kind of scare tactic—they are seeing the results.

Let’s flashback nearly two-thousand years to the time when Jesus walked upon the earth. Jesus told His disciples that He was going away and that He would some day return (John 14:1-3). Jesus also said that a judgment was coming and all who ever lived would come forth from the grave and the general resurrection would take place: “They that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil to the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:29).

Why then, do people not meet our Lord’s promise with the same urgency that they do Corona Virus? Corona does not infect our souls, only our bodies. I suspect the answer is found in Ecclesiastes 8:13 which says, “***Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil***”.

There is sometimes—most of the time, in fact—a thing called “the delay of divine justice”. Adam and Even did not immediately die when they sinned, but we infer that they began dying at that moment of their sin(Gen. 2:17).

Satan used the delay of divine judgment as a tactic to coerce Eve to sin and folks by the billions are falling for it yet today. A man sins and is not immediately punished so, he goes and commits further sin, and may seem to be rewarded for it. Such reward is merely temporary and will not accompany him to the judgment. His sins, however, will certainly be with him as he stands before the righteous judge of the universe.

The Corona Virus is a serious threat at present, but with common sense methods and the passing of time it will run its course. Brethren and friends, may I suggest we approach God’s word and righteousness with the same sense of urgency as we do this terrible outbreak. Just because we cannot see God; just because we cannot feel the fires of Hell, know that it is real and judgment and punishment for the unrighteous is coming. Heaven awaits those who faithfully and consistently are obedient to God’s word. The world is in crisis, but Corona virus has scarce little to do with it—*JK*.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jerry & Erna Endly, Cathy Jackson, Bruce Johnson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Tina Keith, Kathy Mayo and Flavil Miller.	SHUT-INS: 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 and remember to pray for one another .	

We welcome our visitors! Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in the collection plate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Bruce Johnson** continues to recover from back surgery. A tumor was found on his tongue as they were preparing for surgery but was determined to be benign.
- **Tina Keith** will have her “Teeth Express” surgery this Friday.
- There is a recent letter on the *Missions Board* from **Joe Wilson**, the student we support at *WVSOP*.

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: Approaching God's Throne (Job 23:1-7).

PM: Punishing Evildoers is not Unloving (Gen. 2:15-17).

<i>Bible Class</i>	<i>Sun. AM</i>	<i>Sun. PM</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Wed.</i>
49	65	34	\$2013	27