

April 19, 2020

CHURCH of CHRIST

1002 Clairmont Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725

(740) 432-7486

Minister, John Keith

(304) 266-9027

Web Site: www.cambridgechurchofchrist.com

E-Mail: info@cambridgechurchofchrist.com

Public services are temporarily cancelled during the *Corona Virus* restrictions.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jerry & Erma Endly, Cathy Jackson, 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), Linda Potts (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), Erica Rich, Shirley Roe, Mona Stoffer (Flavil Miller's daughter), Mitch Vick, Bob & Marge Watson and remember to pray for **one another**.

- **Helena Tewksbury** was left off of the April birthday list; hers is the 21st. Sorry, Helena.
- As a reminder, God willing, I will be delivering lessons on my *Facebook* page each Sunday evening at 6:30 and Wednesday evening at 7. For those who do not have *Facebook*, **Jared Jamiel** will be uploading the lessons to the church website: <http://cambridgechurchofchrist.com/video-lessons/>

Greetings, brethren, and friends,

Another week has come and gone, and we are another week closer to being past these uncertain times, God willing.

I am certain that most of you have been doing quite a bit of thinking and pondering over this situation, as have I, and I am anxious to know some of your thoughts; lessons you have learned or been reminded of. Perhaps I could share some of your thoughts in this newsletter if you would not care to write me—either on Facebook, text, letter, etc. You certainly may remain anonymous if you wish.

For me, one of the biggest problems has not been being confined and not getting out, but just getting a routine established at home. I want to watch the news to keep up on things locally, but I also know I need to study. The thing I miss the most is the fellowship with you brethren. I miss singing with you all and seeing your smiles. I miss worshipping our God together; I need that!

I am, somewhat, taken a back when I think how our nation was prospering with such a thriving economy and things seemed to be going very well, and then, “BOOM!” everything changed. The last time I recall such a change was “911”.

Please keep our president and his advisors in your prayers. The health professionals and volunteers are also in need of our petitions as they are truly heroes facing unprecedented situations.—JK.

FAITH AND FUNCTION

It is certainly no understatement to say these are troubling times. We are facing something very new to most of us and this has forced us to make drastic changes in how we live. Change can be unsettling to many folks, yours truly included. Many hold that, “variety is the spice of life”, and while I agree with that generally, we all rely upon certain constants in our lives so when things do go a little sideways we have some familiar to which we may fall back. The current crisis has interrupted our pathway back to something comfortable and familiar, and so, we might find ourselves looking for an alternative to our normal “default” mode.

May I suggest by way of reminder that we be, “looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2)? When we have done all that we are capable of in the way of physical precautions and have firm protocols in place, we still have a spiritual (and emotional) need which must be met. Where else can we go for the blessed stability for which we yearn? Jesus asked His disciples, “Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? (John 6:67-68). The context of this verse is quite different from our current situation, but Peter’s rhetorical question and answer in verse 68 are quite valid. “To Whom shall we go”?

Paul wrote to Timothy saying:

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His, And let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel of honor, sanctified and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work” (2 Tim. 2:19-21).

There a couple of things I wish to point out from this bit of Scripture. First, Paul says this foundation “standeth sure” (19). The Greek text reads, “The firm foundation of God stands”. When everything around us seems to be falling apart, jobless numbers rise, economy teetering on the verge of a crash, people becoming fatally ill, etc., we have a firm, standing, constant upon which we can abide: Jesus Christ, the Righteous. No, we cannot see Him, but we can see His influence (and therefore, evidence of His existence) all around us. Look at the folks who are working hard to make sure others have what they need. There are men and women all over the country working and volunteering to help those who cannot help themselves, or at least helping those who would be at even greater risk if they went out. The actions we are witnessing is what the Bible calls, “Love” (*agapē*). Sometimes, this word is translated, “charity” (1 Cor. 13:13 KJV).

Second, since we know that we have such a firm foundation, we can then purge from our minds some of the anxiety which might hinder us in our efforts to cope with the pitfalls we face. We can still be useful to the Master (2 Tim. 2:21) if we place our faith (trust, confidence) upon Him that never changes: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Heb. 13:8). Just because the country has, in effect, shut down, we never stop being Christians, the called of God. We still have responsibilities; we still have work to do and we have to find another way to do it, at least for now. It thrills me to know that so many of our brethren at Cambridge have been engaged and communicating with each other.

Let us keep looking unto Jesus and abiding in His great love and providence as we carry on, as best we can, the work that He would have us do. Be blessed and be safe – JK

Unscramble the letters to make Bible words

lhfitulfa sohent rdtswas dnoigmk sinlesoh genudejtm cerag nigvig pertne