

June 21, 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).

PARABLE OF THE FORGIVING FATHER

Luke 15:18-24

I. THE FATHER'S FAMILY (11-12).

- A. A certain man (God) had two sons (11).
 - 1. The sons.
 - a. Some have supposed that they sons re: = Jews and Gentiles.
 - b. More likely, sinful humanity in general, the younger re: those openly rebelling against God.
 - c. In the church today we have representatives of the prodigal and the older son
 - 2. The younger son demanded his inheritance (12a).
 - a. Disrespect; as though the father was dead (Exo. 21:17).
 - b. a desire to be independent of God's rule and become a god to himself.
 - c. Son could be legally disowned (Dt. 15:18-21).
- B. The Father Complies (12b): why not? He was already gone in his heart.

II. THE FATHER'S FAREWELL (13-20a).

- A. The Son's Parting (13a): The far country = separation from God (Isa. 59:1-2)
- B. The Son's Partying (13b).
 - 1. Freedom, no one to be lord over him; now his own master.
 - 2. "Prodigal" = extravagantly wasteful, imp, loose living, immorality.
- C. The Son's Predicament (14-16).
 - 1. His possessions are gone; hunger in the land.
 - 2. Moral bankruptcy has led to physical bankruptcy (Jer. 2:13).
 - 3. He attached himself to a master in the land (15).
- D. The Son's Perception (17-20a).
 - 1. "But when he came to himself" (17): when one leaves God, he is not thinking clearly.
 - 2. "I will return (18), repent (18), and relent (19)".
 - 3. He came to his father (20a). he took action

III. THE FATHER'S FORGIVENESS (20b-32).

- A. Toward Son #1 (20a-24).
 - 1. The father was looking for him; father still loved him.
 - 2. The father embraced him and kissed him; pledge of reconciliation Gen. 33:4; David and Absalom (2 Sam. 14:33).
 - 3. The son confessed and pleaded (21).
 - 4. The father forgave and rejoiced (22-24).
- B. Toward Son # 2 (25-32).
 - 1. The Resentment (25-30).
 - 2. The Reminder (31-32).

CONCLUSION:

- 1. God always seeks the sinner's return.
- 2. The father just might have easily resented his wayward son, as did the brother, but the father forgave and welcomed him back.
- 3. We cannot allow the beauty of forgiveness to go unstudied and unpracticed.
- 4. Our soul salvation depends upon, not only God's willingness to forgive us, but also upon our willingness to forgive others (Mt. 6:14-15).

“MAKE US . . . LIKE ALL THE NATIONS”

1 Samuel 8:5

Abilene Christian University in west Texas had its inception in 1903 from a discussion between A.B. Barret and Charles Roberson. With meager beginnings it flourished into one of the best colleges in America among our brotherhood of churches of Christ. In 1976 ACC became *Abilene Christian University* and has continued to educate thousands. Personally, I have known several good and faithful ministers of the Gospel who have their roots at ACC.

Somewhere along the line things began to change in the area of academics, and more and more, professors and staff at ACU began to dilute the clear teaching of Scripture and to adopt more liberal approaches to interpretation, fellowship, mechanical instruments of music, baptism, etc. And so, when I heard the latest news out of Abilene, I can say that I was not really surprised. Disappointed- but not surprised.

Abilene Christian University (ACU) is creating a Baptist Studies Center for its Graduate School of Theology. The goal of this program is to help place Baptist preachers since the closing of *The Logsdon School of Theology*, a Baptist seminary.

One of the frustrating things about this is that already there are so many of our members who think the church of Christ is just another denomination among many and this radical and unbiblical alliance by ACU is going to further such confusion.

It seems that the powers that be in Abilene are not worried about false, denominational doctrine (redundant, I know) emanating from her halls. The concern seems to lie more with a desire to be inclusive and popular—to be like everyone else.

I am reminded of when the elders of Israel came to aged Samuel and said, “Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations” (1 Sam. 8:5). This thing grieved Samuel terribly and he approached Jehovah who responded to Samuel saying, “They have not rejected you [Samuel] they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them” (1 Sam 8:7). ACU has rejected the one, true church of Christ by putting a man-made denomination on par with the blood-bought body of Christ (Acts 28:20; Eph. 4:4).

This is a pattern we are seeing in the church all over the country and souls are being lost because of man-made ideas and innovation.

Please pray that the administrators of this once faithful, brotherhood university will see their grievous error, repent, and return to the Lord who bought them—*JK*.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jerry & Erma Endly, Cathy Jackson, Bruce Johnson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Tina Keith, Rick Lambert, Kathy Mayo, Flavil Miller, and Russ Singleton.

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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: **Nellie Bichard, Weston Boulet**, (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Carter Campbell** (John and Marys Smith's grandson), **Dan Doudna** (Wilma Roe's relative), **Bob & Patty Eddy, Connie Harrel** (Betsy Cook's daughter-in-law), **Bob & Donna Henthorn** (Laura Jamiel's parents), **Collene Keister**, (Mo Smith's sister), **Bob Main, 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**.

Welcome!

To our visitors, please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the collection boxes at the rear of the auditorium.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Cathy Mayo** has been diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.
- **Russ Singleton** is having severe pain in his back and will be seeing a specialist in Columbus.
- **Mo Smith** was able to have his second successful cataract surgery and has seen a cardiologist.

REMINDERS:

- ✓ 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: Parable of the Forgiving Father (Luke 15:17-24).

PM: The Destruction of Nineveh Described (Nahum 2:13).

<i>Bible Class</i>	<i>Sun. Am</i>	<i>Sun. Pm</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Wed.</i>
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