

DECEMBER 26, 2021

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.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....6:00 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)

JESUS OUR SAVIOR IS NEAR

INTRODUCTION: Rev. 3:20-21

1. Laodicea named by its founder Antiochus II (261-246 B.C.) after his wife Laodice.
2. The church of Christ at Laodicea became infected with wealth and (17).
3. Christ rebukes them (17-19), then invites them to return (20).

I. A PRESENT SAVIOR- “AT THE DOOR”.

- A. Jesus Is a Present Reality.
 1. Four different authors give an account of His earthly life.
 2. Over 500 attested to His resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15:6).
- B. Jesus was always where He needed to be to accomplish God’s will (Mt. 8:6-7, 26; 9:35).

II. A PATIENT SAVIOR – “BEHOLD I STAND”.

- A. Jesus was patient throughout eternity.
 1. He is eternal (Jn. 1:1-2) and He is the Creator (Eph. 3:9).
 2. He came to earth when the time was right (Gal. 4:4).
- B. Jesus was patient throughout His ministry.
 1. Most of the encounters Jesus had, the people came to Him.
 2. Jesus didn’t try to rush things (Mt. 8:4; cf. 16:20; Mk. 9:9; Lk. 8:56).
 3. Matt. 22, a.k.a., “the day of questions”, Jesus patiently but firmly answered the Jewish leader’s diabolical questions.
 4. He had patiently waited for the moment He would be glorified (Jn. 13:31).
- C. Jesus patiently waits now (2 Pet. 3:9).

III. A PURSUING SAVIOR – “AND KNOCK”.

- A. While Jesus is patient, He lets man know of His desire to save. He waits at the door rather than bursting through forcing His will upon fallen man.
- B. Jesus offers pardon (Jn. 1:10-12; 4:10; Mt. 20:29; Mk. 3:7-8; 4:1; Mt. 11:28).

IV. A PLEADING SAVIOR – “IF ANYONE HEARS...AND OPEN THE DOOR”.

- A. One cannot be saved w/o hearing the Gospel (Jn. 6:44-45).
- B. Jesus Pled for People to Hear (Mt. 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; etc.).
- C. Hearing Him and opening the door is parallel to taking up one’s cross and following Him (Mt. 16:24-27).
- D. Jesus Pled For Jerusalem (Mt. 23:37).

V. A PROMISING SAVIOR – “I WILL COME IN”.

- A. Jesus Promised Disaster the ones who keep Christ out (Mt. 11:20-24), and The Unrighteous (Mt. 25:46).
- B. Christ will dwell within us (Jn. 14:23; Eph. 3:14-19; Col. 1:27; 1 Jn. 3:24).

VI. A PROVIDING SAVIOR – “AND WILL DINE WITH HIM”.

- A. Parable of the Wedding Feast (Mt. 22:1-14): God/Christ have done everything necessary for fallen man to be able to partake of Heaven’s mercy and grace.
- B. Jesus is ready and willing to provide for us, and to fellowship with us (Mt. 8:2-3; 11:3-5).

BURY THE OLD MAN

One of my favorite tv shows is *The Andy Griffith Show*. In one particular episode, Tom Silby, a heavy drinker, returns to Mayberry after leaving his wife abruptly. Andy is shocked to see him, since his wife Annabelle Silby said he had died and even went so far as to have a funeral for him. As you might imagine this provide for some classic situation-comedy. Near the end of the episode after the Silby's make amends, Mr. Silby tells Sherriff Taylor that he and his wife had just come from the cemetery where he was "buried". He explains that that is where the *old* Tom Silby was buried; the one that was hen-pecked and drank. He was a *new man* now. This illustrates a point that that is made repeatedly in Scripture.

The apostle Paul made repeated references contrasting the "old man of sin" with the "new man". He encourages the church at Ephesus to "***put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness***" (Eph. 4:22-24 emp. added). To the Colossians he writes, "***Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him***." (Col. 3:9-10 emp. added).

Putting off the old man and putting on the new man describes what happens when we repent and are converted (cf. Act 3:19). Paul illustrated the process this way: "***Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin***" (Rom. 6:3-7 emp. added).

One cannot be truly converted to Christ and continue in the same sinful ways as before. He must be willing—in a spiritual sense—to put to death the person that was, burying him in the watery grave of baptism. Next, he must put on the new person (cf. Gal. 3:27). The new person is the one that is dedicated to holiness and righteousness which is found only in Christ—*✠*.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Diann Bachmann, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Angela Herald, Cathy Jackson, Bruce Johnson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Rick Lambert, and Carol Mitchell.

SHUT-INS:
Debbie Jones
Nancy Love

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Debra Bates-Phillabaum, Weston Boulet (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Colleen Kiester (Mo Smith's sister), Linda Potts (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), Addy Reed, Wilma Roe, Bob & Marge Watson, and remember to pray for one another.

Welcome! To our visitors, we are thankful for your presences. Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the collection plates or leave it on the seat. Allow us to answer any questions you may have.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

➤ **Wilma Roe** is in Southeastern Med with breathing problems.

REMINDERS:

❖ It's time to renew (or start) your subscription to *West Virginia Christian*. See **Randy Cunningham**.

TODAY'S LESSONS

AM: Christ Our Savior Is Near (Rev. 3:20-21).

PM: The Power of Influence (1 Tim. 4:9-12).

Bible Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wednesday	Contribution
39	57	31	37	\$1861

A family should be working together for the good of each member, helping each other to prepare for worship services. Are you carrying your share of responsibilities so that all may attend worship with the proper spirit and attitude? Let's make the most of our time together on Sunday. Preparation will help us to be better organized with improved attitudes and in the proper frame of mind to worship our Father in heaven — Author unknown