

JUNE 6, 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.....6:30 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)

ARE WE TAKING THE BACKBONE OUT OF THE CHURCH?

About twenty-five or so years ago, a popular evangelist among churches of Christ named Max Lucado championed the notion that all churches (denominations) could be compared to passengers on an ocean liner. They were on different decks and wore different clothes and had different interests but as long as they were sincere then they would all wind up at the same destination—Heaven.

Admittedly, that sounds like a nice scenario and it surely meets the test of political correctness, or should I say, “religious correctness”? It portrays one big happy ecumenical family, who despite their few religious differences are basking in God’s glow and enjoying the trip. There is no petty worrying or discussion of religious differences, after all, we’re here to have fun; to get into any kind of doctrinal debate would just spoil things. Folks can meander about from deck to deck and see how other folks do things and just join right in. Loyalty to some rigorous standard is not important. We simply must focus on love, mercy, and grace; intolerance above all is the only thing not tolerated.

Max Lucado is an educated man and a very gifted writer (many of you probably have some of his books). He is also very wrong when it comes to his assessment of the church. While his “pie-in-the-sky” description of the church is most palatable on the surface, it betrays some deep and damning flaws beneath.

First, the notion that there are Christians in denominations is one that is wholly foreign to Scripture. Who were called Christians first in Antioch? “Disciples” (Acts 11:16)! A disciple is a follower and a learner. It is one who becomes like his teacher. If one did not obey the New Testament pattern for salvation and if they are worshipping in ways not authorized by the New Testament then they cannot be disciples and therefore, are not Christians!

The allegory of the ship is one that preachers and teachers have used for years. When Paul was on his way to Rome and the storm arose, Paul was told by an angel that everyone must abide in the ship if they would be saved (Acts 27:23-31). The church has been called the “ark of safety” comparing it Noah’s ark for all of the inhabitants of the ark were saved (1 Pet. 3:20-21). But where Lucado goes wrong is in assigning liberties to individuals and groups to seek out their own plan of salvation and worship while trying to be members of the church of Christ—the church of the Bible.

The inspired apostle Paul describes for us the proper clothing that Christians are to don in preparation with war against Satan, and it is not sunglasses and recreational garb:

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints (Eph. 6:13-18).

Paul tells us to take up the armor of truth, righteousness, the Gospel, faith, and sword of the Spirit—the word of God. If we do these things then we will not be lulled into some go-with-the-flow, man-made religious body that’s not even marginally like the blood-bought church of Christ. Lucado and his ilk are stripping the Lord’s church of her backbone so that she will not be able to stand erect and different from the hundreds of bodies claiming to be the church.

Brethren beloved, I urge you to be ardent Bible students and fervent in your prayers that we may help the church of Christ to stand—*JK*.

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

SHUT-INS:
Nancy Love, and Jack Mitchell.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: **Nellie Richard, Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Carter Campbell** (John and Marys Smith's grandson), **Colleen Kiester** (Mo Smith's sister), **Neil McConaughy, Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), **Addy Reed, Holly Ross** (Friend of Betsy Cooke), **Mona Stoffer** (Flavil Miller's daughter), **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 boxes or leave it on the seat. Allow us to answer any questions you may have.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Debbie Jones** had a stroke a while back and cannot walk.
- **Bill Craddock**, who preached here from 1958-1960 passed away last week.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ Remember to submit any questions or topics you would like addressed from the pulpit.
- ❖ Let John know of any changes to our *Friends and Family* prayer list.

TODAY'S LESSONS

AM: Reasons We Say, "Church of Christ" (Rom. 16:16).

PM: Are You Sure You're A Christian (Acts 10:1-4)?

Bible Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wednesday	Contribution
36	66	41	27	\$2986