

AUGUST 16, 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

(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).

CHRISTIANITY'S SUPERIOR VIEW OF DEATH

1 Cor. 15:50-55

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is scarcely a more dismal subject to contemplate than that of human death, and yet the Bible has very much to say about it (Gen. 3:19; Psa. 90:10; Heb. 9:27).
2. Death entered the world when man sinned (Rom. 5:12; cf. Gen. 3).
3. Peculiar Ideas in Response to death.
4. Christianity's view of death is superior to all other philosophies and religions (1 Cor. 15:50-55).
5. So, what is death for the Christian?

DISCUSSION:

I. REST.

- A. Labors are Over: (Rev. 14:13).
- B. The Day of Life is Ended in Sleep (Jn 11:11; Acts 7:59-60; 1 Thes. 4:14).
- C. Three things are suggested: Rest, Retention and Resurrection.

II. RELEASE.

- A. Jesus Spoke of His *Release* (Lk. 9:31).
 1. His release from the confines of time, i.e. His death, or "decease".
 2. "Decease" – "departure", from which we get "exit".
 - a. Points out the death is not an end; Israel's "exodos" from Egypt did not result in extinction (Heb. 11:13-16).
 - b. Peter (2 Pet. 1:15).
- B. Timothy's Departure (2 Tim. 4-6) spoke of moving on; not ceasing to exist.

III. REUNION.

- A. David Anticipated a Reunion with His Son (2 Sam. 12:15-23).
- B. Jesus Prophesied a Reunion with the Patriarchs (Mt. 8:1-12).
- C. Jesus Confirmed a Reunion of the Righteous (Mt. 22:30; Mk. 12:25; Lk. 20:35).

IV. RETURN.

- A. Physical Death Means "Absent from the body" (2 Cor. 5:8; Jas. 2:26)—the spirit of a man is still living and animated, though the body dies.
- B. Physical Death Means (for the righteous) that we are then "at home with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8b).

V. REWARD.

- A. Jesus to the Thief –Today (Lk. 23:43).
- B. Paul's Response to Life and Death (Phlp. 1:21).
 1. To live is Christ; His body was not his own; his future was not his own; his reputation was not his own.
 2. To die is gain; Heaven will truly be worth it all

GIVE ME THE BIBLE

“The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple” (Psa. 19:7); “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psa. 119:104-105).

Notice carefully what is here deemed “perfect converting the soul”, “sure”, that which enables understanding, a “light” and a “lamp”; it is nothing but the word of God (“law”, “testimony of the Lord”, “precepts”).

The word of God is perfect, complete, nothing lacking, all sufficient, pertaining to all things concerning life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). God’s word is truth (Jn. 17:17) and is liberating (Jn. 8:32) in that it is “the power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16).

As with anything that is good and profitable for man, it must be accessed, attained, and applied properly. If a man does not know he is lost how will he know to seek the salvation described in God’s word? While it is true that we are born with a sense that some things *ought* to be done and other things *ought* to be avoided, we need guidance in seeking the right direction; the Bible is that which will guide us.

Those who have been blessed to come to a knowledge of the truth have the responsibility to bless others with the same saving truth. Everyone in the fellowship of Christ should be a missionary of sorts, but some men are devoted to the furtherance of the Gospel, hence, we have “the preacher” –the herald of God’s word. Paul Revere was a herald as he blazed a trail with the message, “The British are coming! The British are coming!” The message of the preacher, however, comes from the authority of God and the consequences of ignoring the true message are far greater.

It seems to me a shame that today in answer to the question, “How shall they hear without a preacher?”, many have decided that simply preaching the old Jerusalem Gospel is “old hat”, tired, boring, and simply an ineffective means of reaching folks with the saving message. Instead of sound Gospel preaching, we are giving in to an entertainment-minded society and so instead of acquiring heralds of the Word, we are employing harbinger’s of the world; stand-up comedians, actors, dramatists (as if there is not enough drama already). Paul said, “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Gal. 1:10).

I’ll admit that there are some humorous narratives in Scripture (remember Samson and the three-hundred foxes in Judges 15?), but when we read the sermons preached (heralded) by Jesus, Peter, Paul, etc., we don’t even get a hint that there was anything in mind but saving the souls of men’s with the pure and undiluted Gospel preached with the gravity and integrity it so rightly deserves.

I do not say that “humor is never appropriate in the pulpit”, but when it is superimposed as the drawing power of God—we have a problem!

Jesus stated emphatically; “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). Christ draws us through the Gospel, therefore, “Give me the Bible”! 

REMINDER: “All individuals in Ohio must wear facial coverings in public at all times when ... at an indoor location that is not a residence”. The order only requires those 10 years old or older to wear a mask” (<https://ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/site/media-center/news-and-events/covid19-update-07222020>). Additional exclusions are posted on the foyer bulletin board.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jerry & Erma Endly, Cathy Jackson, Bruce Johnson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Rick Lambert, and Flavil Miller.	SHUT-INS: Audrey Burns, Jack Mitchell, and Shirley Patterson.
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FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Nellie Richard, Weston Boulet, (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Carter Campbell (John and Marys Smith’s grandson), Bob & Donna Henthorn (Laura Jamiel’s parents), Collene Keister, (Mo Smith’s sister), Linda Potts (Joyce Starrett’s sister-in-law), 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:

- **Norm Behrendt** is in *Southeastern Med* with A-FIB. If medication adjustments do not work, then he will have a cardioversion on Monday.
- **Rick Lambert** will be undergoing cancer surgery on the 18th.
- Please submit any questions you have ASAP for the August 30th evening lesson, “Questions You Have Asked”—*JK*.

REMINDERS:

- ✓ Don’t forget about our library.
- ✓ If there are any changes needed to our **Family & Friends** prayer list, please let John know. Thank you.

TODAY’S LESSONS

AM: The Christian’s Superior View of Death (1 Cor. 15:50-55).

PM: The Grace of God (Titus 2:11-15).

Sun. Am Class	Sun. Worship	Sun. PM	Wed. Class	Collection
28	55	37	28	\$1803

“Being a lukewarm Christian is dangerous; you blend in with everybody and make an impact on nobody”- Unknown