

AUGUST 29, 2021

CHURCH OF CHRIST



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(740) 432-7486*

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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)

THE FALSE DOCTRINE OF FAITH ONLY

INTRODUCTION: Reading— James 2:21-26

1. Faith Defined: Heb. 11:1
 - A. Believing something as the result of testimony, or evidence
 - B. “The volitional commitment of an informed intellect” (Sztanyo).
2. Faith Described.
 - A. The assurance, foundation, or support upon which our hope lies.
 - B. Have never seen London or Paris, but I know they exist.
 - C. Neither have seen Christ, but the evidence is overwhelming

I. ACQUISITION OF FAITH.

- A. Faith is NOT acquired by a miraculous operation of Holy Spirit.
 1. If so, all would believe— God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34).
 2. Since God shows no partiality, and since not everyone believes, then, either:
 - a. The Holy Spirit failed with some people, or, He does not operate in that fashion.
 - b. If faith “falls from Heaven” how is it that it *hits* some, and *misses* others?
- B. Faith comes to rational people through rational means.
 1. Words of Christ (Jn. 20:30-31; 17:20).
 2. Words of the Apostles (Rom. 10:17; 15:7; Acts 18:8; Acts 11:14; Lk 8:12).

II. OBLIGATION OF FAITH.

- A. To “walk with God” requires our faith (2 Cor. 5:7; 2 Cor. 4:18).
- B. With the obligation come blessings:
 1. Faith is the purifying agent of the heart (Acts 15:9).
 2. Faith is an agent in justification of man (Rom. 5:1).
 3. Faith leads to life: The just shall live by his faith (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:7; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38).

III. DESEGREGATION OF FAITH.

- A. “Faith Alone”: Martin Luther smuggled “alone” into Rom. 3:38.
- B. “Faith alone” 1 time in Scripture— (Jas. 2:24).
- C. If “faith alone” saved, then...
 1. Demons would be saved (Jas. 2:19).
 2. Many rulers of the Pharisees would be saved (Jn. 12:42-43)

IV. REALIZATION OF FAITH.

- A. Faith without works is dead—not realized (Jas. 2:17).
- B. Disobedience=unbelief (Dt. 9:23; Jn. 3:36- ASV)
- C. Man is saved by faith WHEN faith obeys (Heb. 11:7, 30; Acts 2:40-41)

CONCLUSION: Faith is vital, but it is not exclusive.

THE EXCLUSIVENESS OF CHRISTIANITY

Frank Higginbotham (1933—2013)

Christianity was in the mind of God in eternity. In planning for the redemption of lost mankind, God planned the church. “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph 3:10,11). The church and Christianity were not an afterthought of God but they were the beautiful way that God planned to offer salvation to the human family. He did not offer many ways that greatly differed but he offered one exclusive way of redemption. We see the exclusiveness when we make some comparisons.

The superiority of God’s new way was pointed out by Jesus when He preached the Sermon on the Mount. In the comparisons, He made it clear that Christianity ranks much higher than any system ever advanced. Both laws were from God and served their purpose. However, God had a higher way He wanted men to follow. Jesus would say “ye have heard it said’ and then follow with His higher instruction. In this way He showed the uniqueness of Christianity. The instruction of the Law permitted “an eye for an eye” but Jesus made it clear that good must be returned for evil. (Rom.12:18-22). Several like comparisons were made in this sermon. Jesus showed us that Christianity is exclusive and far above all works of men. Any one is aware of the fact that many religious ways claim to be of divine origination. Many churches have sprung up claiming that they are a part of God’s eternal plan. “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain” (Ps. 127:1). The church is of divine origin. The Bible claims that the Lord has only one church. (Eph.1:22,23; Eph.4:4). Human churches have human heads but the Lord’s church has a divine head. (Col.1:18). Human churches are governed by human creeds but the Lord’s church is governed by the Bible. (1 Pet.4:11). Human churches use human titles but the Lord’s church rejects all titles. (Mt.23:9). Clearly the Lord’s way is far above any way of man.

Christianity is the way that gives God’s offer of salvation to men. He is the way, the truth and the life. (Jno.14:6). All men are open to enter the way that leads to life. Christianity gives instruction that makes our worship acceptable and fulfilling. It is governed by what we are permitted to do and does not become uncontrolled emotionalism. The best way of life is advanced in Christianity. Morals are taught and practiced. (Titus 2:11,12).

We are so thankful that we have been permitted to be a part of the exclusive way of Christianity. “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful” (Col 3:15).

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

SHUT-INS:
Nancy Love

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: **Debra Bates-Phillabaum, Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Carter Campbell** (John and Mary Smith's grandson), **Donna Henthorn** (Laura Jamiel's mother), **Colleen Kiester** (Mo Smith's sister), **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 plates or leave it on the seat. Allow us to answer any questions you may have.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- [Nothing submitted]

REMINDERS:

- ❖ If anyone has family members or friends who are serving, or have served in the military, let **Brenda Warne** know so we can send some cards & encouragement to them—Thanks.

TODAY'S LESSONS

AM: The False Doctrine of "Faith Only" (Jas. 2:21-26).

PM: Backsliding (Jer. 3:6-8).

| Bible Study | AM Worship | PM Worship | Wednesday | Contribution |
|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 37 | 65 | 33 | 32 | \$1874 |

Racism is a terrible sin. The KJV calls it "respect of persons." Every translation calls it "sin" (James 2:9). We are not to distinguish by race or nationality (Acts 10:24) or by dress or wealth (James 2:1-9) or by social or economic status (Ephesians 6:9).

Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed of a time when associations would be determined, not by the color of a person's skin but by the content of their character. The Bible says, "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). We, too, are told, "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgement" (John 9:24)—Cecil May Jr.