

SEPTEMBER 19, 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)

FOUR THINGS EVERYBODY SHOULD KNOW.

John 3:16 is one of the most beautiful passages in the bible. “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*”. Sadly, it is also one most misused and least understood. Man says, “All we have to do to go to Heaven is just believe in Jesus Christ.” If that is all that was required, John 3:16 is the only verse we would need. The bible is a book of hope and assurance. It tells us the history of the world; man’s fall and God’s plan to redeem him. BUT there are some sobering facts we must come to accept.

NOT EVERYONE WILL BE SAVED. Jesus said, *Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven*” (Matt. 7:21). There it is! Not only are sinners not going to be saved, but even some religious folk. False teachers are clearly religious persons, crying, “Lord, Lord.” Their failure is not that of inactivity but indulgence in the wrong activity. They not only deceive but are themselves deceived. Their gross error is in doing their own will instead of Christ’s.

MORE WILL BE LOST THAN SAVED. Matthew records the words of Jesus saying, “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it (7:13-14)*”. The comparative number of the saved to the lost is plain from this. The relative number of redeemed souls in any generation is not the scale by which God’s success may be measured. God will keep on saving men until the “fullness” of his purpose is achieved (Rom. 11:25).

MANY WHO BELIEVE THEY ARE SAVED WILL BE LOST. Some will be pronounced “lost” and may object saying, “*Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity* (Matt. 7:22-23). The proverbs writer reminds us that, “*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death* (14:12).

NO SALVATION CAN BE FOUND AFTER DEATH. If our righteous judge proclaims that He never knew us, it is because we never made the effort to know Him (Matt. 7:23). Once we pass from this life, hope is gone: “*And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence*” (Luke 16:26). The time of our passing and the day of the Lord are nearing with each tick of the clock and depending upon your soul’s condition that is either good news, or it is terrifying.

Are you a faithful Christian? If not, why not? The Lord is ready to accept you; will you accept Him today in faith, repentance and by being baptized (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16)? —*R*.

A GOUGE IN THE PEW

Matthew W. Bassford

A couple of weeks ago, I attended a friend's funeral in an unfamiliar church building. I took a seat by an aisle and shortly noticed a gouge in the back of the pew support in front of me. The gouge was at knee height. To the left/exterior, it was narrow and shallow; to the right/interior, it broadened and deepened to about a quarter inch. Another, fainter horizontal scrape appeared two or three inches above it. None of the other pews around me bore similar markings.

I will never know for sure, but I would guess that the scrapes came from a walker or similar piece of assistive equipment. An older Christian once sat (has sat?) there for years because that was Their Pew. They shuffled into the auditorium on their walker, gingerly lowered themselves to the seat where I sat, folded up their walker, and dragged it into the same row.

As they were doing so, their lack of stability forced them to brace the walker against the pew in front of them. Every time, something (a walker brace? screw heads?) raked across the pew support. Service by service, year by year, those feeble hands wore away the gouge that I saw. That Christian may well be dead now, but the gouge still bears witness. They assembled.

Sometimes, it is the faith we display in our weaknesses that makes the deepest mark. Lots of strong, healthy Christians strode into that auditorium, worshiped, and departed without leaving a trace. However, the pew support remembers the Christian who probably couldn't drive to church anymore, who couldn't walk unassisted, whose pace was slow and even doddering. They certainly inspired pity, perhaps contempt, perhaps frustration from the custodial crew, but they came. No one would have faulted them for not coming. They came anyway, and the pew support testifies to their faithful obedience.

So too with the marks we make, and not only on pews. Some of the Christians whose singing I remember most are those who couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. They knew it and sang anyway. Loudly. They were humbled, but God was exalted.

How about the introvert who, with white knuckles and sweaty palms, welcomes a visitor to the assembly? Or the octogenarian who shows up to help a relocated brother unload the moving truck? Or the song leader who can't read a note of music but listens to a new hymn over and over on YouTube until he feels comfortable introducing it to the congregation?

How about the apostle Paul, who struggled with covetousness but learned from Christ the secret of remaining faithful through poverty and prosperity alike? We often seek to glorify God through our strengths. This is our wheelhouse. This is the thing we are good at. Look at this wonderful thing we are doing (for God)! Perhaps, though, He is best glorified through our weaknesses. This is not our wheelhouse. We are terrified. We are a hopeless disaster. We would not be doing this for anybody but God, but He told us to do it, and we are.

The ungodly might be laughing at us, but God isn't laughing. He is pleased. He loves not only the sacrifices that arise from effortless self-confidence but also those offered in weakness, fear, and trembling. Against all worldly wisdom, we surrender our two mites, knowing it can't possibly matter but trusting that it will be enough. In Him, it always will be.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Diann Bachmann, Nellie Richard, 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.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ The suggestion has been submitted that we consider changing evening service times to 6 pm for Sunday and Wednesday evening services. The men thought the congregation should decide. Be thinking about this and we will survey the folks most affected by this proposal.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Please let John know if and when there are any changes needed (additions / subtraction) to our prayer list.
- ❖ Don't forget about our library in the basement.

TODAY'S LESSONS

Today we welcome **Charles Pugh** who will be teaching our morning class and bringing our morning and evening lessons.

My thanks to brother Pugh for speaking in my absence while I am in Tennessee—*JK*.

| Bible Study | AM Worship | PM Worship | Wednesday | Contribution |
|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 36 | 61 | 44 | ~ | \$2216 |

A FRIEND OF SINNERS

Using "guilt by association," the Jewish religious leaders called Jesus "a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners (Luke 7:34). [There] accusations were of course, false but no truer words were ever spoken than, "Jesus Christ is a friend of sinners." Thank God He is, or He would never had died for us, and we would still all be sinners—Cecil May Jr.