

JANUARY 15, 2023

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
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WELCOME!

We invite you to all of our services.

“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)

THE HEART OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION: Reading- Romans 5:5-8

1. Body of Christ is recognized by Bible students as the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).
2. Valuable lessons can be learned when we look at the physical body of Christ and make spiritual application.

DISCUSSION:

I. COMPASSIONATE HEART

- A. Definition: Bowels, yearn, (figuratively) feel sympathy, to pity someone's difficulty or misfortune (Col. 3:12).
- B. Often, we read of Christ having compassion (Mt. 9:36; 14:14; Mk. 8:2).

II. PURE HEART

- A. Defined: free from ceremonial defilement, holy, sacred
- B. Purity of Christ: (Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 1:19; 2:22; 1 John 3:3-5).
- C. Our Hearts, Therefore, Should Be Pure (Mt. 15:19; Jas. 4:8).

III. MEEK AND LOWLY HEART.

- A. Jesus Claimed This About Himself. (Mt. 11:29).
 1. Meek: mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, meekness. Strength brought under control (cf. Mt. 5:5).
 2. Lowly: lowly in spirit, humble, aware of one's own littleness (Lk. 14:7-11).
- B. Christ Exemplified This (2 Cor. 8:9; Phlp. 2:5-8).

IV. DEDICATED HEART.

- A. Dedicated From Early in Life; "must" do Father's will (Lk. 2:49).
- B. Continued Into His Ministry (John 4:34; 12:27; 17:14).

V. BROKEN HEART

- A. By those who reject (Jn. 6:66f).
- B. On the cross (Mt. 27:46).
- C. Our hearts should be broken by those who choose to refuse and reject the soul-saving teachings of our Lord.

VI. FORGIVING HEART.

- A. Jesus Cultivated Forgiveness (Mt. 6:14-15).
- B. Jesus Practiced Forgiveness (Mt. 9:2; John 8:11; Lk. 23:34).
- C. Jesus Desires Our Forgiveness. How do we know this? By the price paid!
 1. Christ purchased church with His blood (Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Heb. 9:13-14).
 2. How do we acquire forgiveness? (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27).

CONCLUSION:

1. Let us consider the compassionate, pure, humble, dedicated, broken, and forgiving heart of Jesus Christ and strive to increase these important qualities to our lives.
2. Let us humble ourselves, bring our broken body before Him, and dedicate our lives in service to Him.

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

In one of our Lord's parables recorded in Matthew 13:3-23 (Cf. Mark 4:3-25; Luke 8:5-18), Jesus accurately described the hearts and attitudes of those who are confronted by the Gospel. He illustrates this with imagery of a farmer sowing *seed* (the Gospel) into differing *soils* (hearts). Note that the same seed is cast, but the difference is the soils.

“And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them” (4). Jesus later explained that “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside” (19). The devil moves quickly upon new Christians, and we must follow up and encourage them lest they soon be snatched away.

Next, “Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away” (5-6). Unfortunately, “this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles” (13:20-21). This describes the “hot and cold” running Christian who has superficial knowledge, and therefore, superficial faith. They need our prayers and encouragement.

Jesus then describes “some [which] fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them (7). This describes the “Demas Disciple” (2 Tim. 4:10): “he . . . hears the word, [but] the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Mercifully, Jesus describes the ideal soil for us: “But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop” (8). This is “he who received seed on the good ground [and] who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty” (23).

We must be honest with ourselves and the word; what kind of soil do I represent? It is obvious that our Lord desires us to be the kind of soil that produces and bears fruit. Just as obvious is that our *soil* (heart) is judged by the way we receive the seed, “the word of God” (Luke 8:11). If we receive God's word for what it is and do our best to obey it, our soil is fertile, and God can use us. If we find ourselves searching for *loopholes* to ignore or alter it, perhaps we need some cultivation—more study and prayer. It is appropriate for us to conduct frequent *soil-sampling*: “Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified” (2 Cor. 13:5)—*JK*.

Welcome! To our visitors!

We are thankful for your presence. Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the collection plates.

AM Bible Study: Colossians 2:9f.

AM Lesson: The Heart of Christ (Romans 5:6-8).

PM Lesson: A Marvelous Failure (Jeremiah 1:4-10).

Wednesday Bible Study: Revelation 10:9f.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Hayden Douglas** has a detached muscle in his shoulder and is tentatively scheduled for surgery on February 13th.
- **Rick Lambert** has completed his first round of chemotherapy and will return for the second round on January 26.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ There are just a couple change cans left for *POTTER Children's Home*.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Cathy Jackson, Bruce & Kim Johnson, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Jody Main, Carol Mitchell, Bev Singleton, Linda Steele, Helena Tewksbury, Jean Whitley, and Randy Yost.

SHUT-INS:
Debbie Jones,
Nancy Love,

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Weston Boulet (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Tiffany Endly** (Jerri Mackie's niece), **Trudy Kerby**, **Colleen Kiester** (Mo Smith's sister), **Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), **Kellie Price** (Richard Mayo's cousin), **Addy Reed**, **Rodney Reeves** (Erica Cunningham's father), **John Rockhold**, the U.S.A., **Ukraine** and remember to pray for **one another**.

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution
36	53	32	28	\$2,498

In one of the TV commercials for *Medicare Part C*, one speaker says, "I called to get everything I deserve." Speaking in a different context, of course, I do not want to get everything I deserve. I need grace and mercy (Cecil May, Jr.).