

JANUARY 8, 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)

THREE GREAT TESTS OF GENUINE CHRISTIANITY

INTRODUCTION: 1 John 3:23-24.

1. John is engaged in fellowship with God, and he desperately desires his spiritual children to be so engaged and doing Christianity.
2. How do we know if we are in fellowship with God?
3. John suggests at least 3 tests of genuine Christianity. Let's look at them.

I. THE DOCTRINAL TEST.

- A. Whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh is a liar (1 Jn. 2:22).
 1. How is a denier a liar? The opposite of *truth* is a *lie*. It is true that Jesus the Christ came, so to deny it makes one a liar.
 2. Jesus is Christ the Messiah, the Anointed One.
 - a. None of the Historians from early-church era denied His existence.
 - b. Many witnessed His miracles—which proved His *existence* and *deity*. (Jn. 2:1-11; Mk. 1:23-28; 3:1-6; Jn. 5:3; Mt. 14:15-21; 15:29-38).
 - c. Even His antagonists admitted so (Jn. 11:47; Lk. 23:8).
- B. We know the Spirit of God because he acknowledges Christ (1 Jn. 4:2).
 1. In this instance, the test for proving/disproving one (a spirit) who claimed to be a prophet of God would confess that Christ came in the flesh.
 - a. A response to the *Docetic** movement so prevalent at the time.
*Docetism: Christ, no physical body—His humanity, suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection were illusion.
 - b. Jesus Himself, prophetically displayed His physical nature post-resurrection (cf. Lk. 24:39-43).
- C. Not only does denying Christ makes one a liar, disobeying Him denies one's discipleship (2 Jn. 9).

II. THE MORAL TEST.

- A. Whoever claims fellowship with God while walking in darkness lies (1 Jn. 1:6).
 1. God is light-no darkness (1 Jn. 1:5). Perfect morally (Psa. 36:9; 84:11).
 2. Father of lights (Jas. 1:17).
 3. To walk in darkness=immorality (Ecc. 2:14; Jn. 3:19-20).
- B. We Can Know If We Are Passing or Failing the Test!
 1. Passing (1 Jn. 2:3; 3:24; 5:13).
 2. Failing (1 Jn. 1:6-7, 9; 1 Jn. 3:4; 2 Jn. 9).

III. THE SOCIAL TEST.

- A. Love for God/Christ:(Mt. 22:37; John 14:15; 15:14).
- B. Love For Brethren: Those who say they love God but hates their brother/sister lie (1 Jn. 4:20; Mt. 15:8; cf. Isa. 29:13; 1 Jn. 3:14; cf. 18-19; 4:7-9; Jn. 13:35).
- C. Love For the Lost.
 1. Christians love those who are lost in sin. How do I know that? Jn. 3:16.
 2. Love is the fulfilling of the law (Rom. 13:10).
 3. Paul's desire (Rom. 10:1-3).

CONCLUSION: The final test is summed up with three verbs which characterize God's people (1 Jn. 3:23-24); **Believe** in Christ! **Love** one another! **Obey** His commands!

DO THE “GOSPELS” BELONG IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Paul writes by inspiration that we are to be “rightly dividing”, or “rightly handling” the word of God (2 Tim. 2:15). Part of that right handling / dividing involves recognizing the difference between the old and new covenants, or testaments.

Generally speaking, the Old Covenant was given exclusively to Israel—the Jews—with Moses as the mediator: “For the law was given by Moses . . .” (John 1:17; cf. Gal. 3:19). The New Covenant, of course, was mediated by Christ, our Lord: “And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant . . .” (Heb. 12:24).

Some confusion arises, however, when one recognizes that the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are in the New Testament, but that all of the events recorded in the Gospel narratives occurred under the sphere and authority of the Old Covenant. One example of this being problematic is when Jesus healed a leper and then told him to “show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded” (Matt. 8:4). If the Gospel accounts belong in the New Testament, why did Jesus command the healed leper concerning the Law of Moses? The answer is simple: the ministry of Jesus occurred under the OT law, but it was in anticipation of the NT.

If we look at another incident during Jesus’ ministry, we will notice something interesting. In Matthew 18 in the context of settling matters between brethren, Jesus commanded the following:

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican (Matt. 18:15-17).

Notice, please whom Jesus told them to address if the first and second admonition did not provide satisfactory results. In verse 17, Jesus said, “tell it to the **church**”. What Jesus mean by the word “church” (*ekklesia*)? Does this word apply to the patriarchs? No. Does this word apply to Judaism? No. How about the ministry of John the Baptizer? No, again. All that is left is the Christian age. This is the same word that is used 113 other times in the NT to designate the body of Christ, which He promised to build in Matthew 16:18. It becomes obvious that Jesus intentioned His instructions to be for the church, which He promised to build (Matt. 16:18), and which did establish in Acts chapter 2.

So, to answer our original question, “Do the Gospels belong in the New Testament”, the answer is “Yes”—*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 2:4f.

AM Sermon: Three Tests of Genuine Christianity (1 John 3:23-24).

PM Sermon: Here Am I, Send Me – Seeing God (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Wednesday Bible Study: Revelation 10:1f.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Rick Lambert** was able to begin his chemo on Friday after his insurance finally approved it.
- "I am humbled by the love and generosity shown to me by my church family. Please know every gift is appreciated and will be used gratefully. Thank you, Hazel Leap."
- **Bob Watson** passed yesterday morning. Viewing is Tuesday from 5 to 8, and the funeral is Wednesday at 11 am, at *Black-Epperson* in *Byesville*.
- **BUSINESS MEETING at 5:15 this evening.**
- Please use the **Bible Call** insert in this morning's bulletin for yourself or share with family and friends. Request as many as you can use.

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**, **Wilma Roe**, the U.S.A., **Ukraine** and remember to pray for **one another**.

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution (Budget)	
38	53	38	28	\$2,625	(\$2,420)