

DECEMBER 12, 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.....6:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....6:00 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)*

# BECAUSE HE LIVES!

## INTRODUCTION: John 14:19-21

1. The whole of Christianity lives or dies with the resurrection of Christ.
2. But we know that the tomb was empty, and because He lives we have many blessings.

## **I. BECAUSE HE LIVES, I HAVE HOPE “I can face tomorrow”.**

- A. “Hope” Defined: A desire for something with realistic belief it is attainable.
- B. There is but one hope (Eph. 4:4), and that hope is Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 1:1); manifests itself in three stages:
  1. Potential Hope for the unsaved (Jn. 1:12; Titus 2:11; Rom. 15:4).
  2. Provisional Hope for the Christian (1 Jn. 2:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:19).
  3. Perfected Hope in Heaven (Acts 23:6; cf. Jn. 5:28-29; Col. 1:5; Tit. 1:1-2).

## **II. BECAUSE HE LIVES, I HAVE PEACE “All fear is gone”**

- A. “Peace” Defined: to weave together, at one, quietness, rest.
- B. Man begins at peace w/ God; man sins (Rom. 6:23), thus, peace is gone (Isa. 59:1-2).
- C. The “God of peace” has provided a means of reconciliation (Eph. 2:13-14; Col. 1:20).
- D. The saving message is revealed in the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15).
- E. “Peace” or, “harmony” is resumed with God when one’s obedience of faith is consummated at the point of baptism (Gal. 3:26-27).

## **III. BECAUSE HE LIVES, I HAVE CONFIDENCE “I know who holds the future”.**

- A. Christ Lives (1 Cor. 15:3-4, 16-26).
- B. Because He Lives, We Can Know (1 Jn. 5:13).
  1. “Know”; “full and present assurance.
  2. “You that Believe ...” implies obed. incl. baptism (Jn. 14:15; Mk. 16:16).
  3. John reinforces the shared eternal life, redemption, salvation. Earnest Christians need not live in fear of the world to come.

## **IV. BECAUSE HE LIVES, I HAVE PURPOSE “Life is worth the living”.**

- A. My Purpose Involves Recognizing The Reign Of God (Mt 6:33; cf. 6:10; Jn 4:34; 6:38).
- B. My Purpose Involves The Duty Of Discipleship.
  1. It is God's will that we listen to His Son (Mt 17:5; 28:18).
  2. Jesus has all authority; desires that become His disciples (Mt 28:18-20).
  3. Whereby we learn from Him and find rest for our souls (Mt 11:28-30).
- C. My Purpose Involves The Role Of The Church.
  1. Jesus came to establish His church (Mt 16:18).
  2. The church is that community of disciples who obey Him (Acts 2:41, 47).
  3. Such obedience involves fellowship, assembling together (Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:24-25).

## CONCLUSION:

1. “Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone. Because I know who holds the future. And life is worth the living, just because he lives”.
2. Are you living in him today?

## THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is unquestionably the citadel event of history. As wonderful as it is to contemplate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem; as agonizingly profound as it is to consider His crucifixion on Mount Calvary; the consequence of these two staple events would have been unremarkable were they not followed by Christ's resurrection.

However, because of Christ's resurrection we have the hope of entering that eternal rest with Him when this life is over—*“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep”* (1 Cor. 15:20). John wrote, *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation”* (John 5:28-29). When we synthesize these inspired words of Paul with what the Apostle John wrote, we find the resurrection of Christ to be indispensable in God's great plan of human redemption.

Jesus taught during His ministry what the prophets had taught in antiquity, namely that God's Anointed one would be killed, but that He would not be left in the grave only to come to nothing. David wrote in the long ago, *“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption”* (Psa. 16:10). Christ echoed this to His disciples during His public ministry: *“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day”* (Matt. 16:21). The Apostle Paul confirmed the resurrection by citing that it did occur and that there were over five-hundred witnesses that could verify it (cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-8).

But perhaps most relevant to us is that fact that Christ's resurrection satisfied a necessary component for our eternal redemption. His resurrection was necessary for our resurrection: *“But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty”* (1 Cor. 15:13-14). Our faith would be empty because we would still be carrying the guilt of our sins: *“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins”* (1 Cor. 15:17). You and I could never be declared, “justified!” by the Almighty without the resurrection: *“[Jesus] was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification”* (Rom. 4:25).

Finally, consider this: *“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection”* (Rom. 6:5). So important was the resurrection, that by Heaven's command, we re-enact it as a part of our “obedience to the faith” (Rom. 1:5) when we comply with our Lord's instruction to be baptized.

Two resurrections anticipate our arrival: one of life, the other of condemnation (cf. John 5:28-29). My earnest plea is that you disappoint condemnation, and thus, choose life—*JK*.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Diann Bachmann, 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), Colleen Kiester (Mo Smith's sister), Linda Potts (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), Addy Reed, Wilma Roe, 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:

- **Rick Lambert's** recent scans were all good!!!
- **Bella Pyles** has tested positive for COVID; **Ashley** and **Mason** are in quarantine.
- It's time to renew (or start) your subscription to *West Virginia Christian*. See **Randy Cunningham**.
- **BUSINESS MEETING** this evening at 5:00 for the men of the congregation.

### REMINDERS:

- ❖ **Veteren's Holiday Baskets:** Items to be in by this Wednesday (15<sup>th</sup>).
- ❖ **Holiday Baskets** See the notice on the foyer bulletin board for a list of suggested items and guidelines. These also to be in by Wednesday (15<sup>th</sup>).

### TODAY'S LESSONS

**AM:** Because He Lives (John. 14:19-21).

**PM:** The Prophecy of Obadiah (Obadiah 1-4).

Bible Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wednesday	Contribution
35	55	32	27	\$2807

*For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring (Acts 17:28).*