

JANUARY 9, 2022

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)

CHAIN OF AUTHORITY

INTRODUCTION: Deut. 11:26-28

1. The subject of biblical reliability is not a matter to be questioned, especially since the discovery of the *Dead Sea Scrolls* in 1947.
2. This is important because it establishes a basis for the *authority* of Holy Scripture (Rom. 15:4).
3. As in most organizations, there exists a chain of authority when it comes to God's interaction with man.

I. AUTHORITY INHERENT IN THE FATHER.

- A. This is the case because God is the Creator of the world. (Gen. 1:1f; Jn. 1:1-3).
- B. It is God who, by virtue of the fact that he is the creator, stipulates conditions with which sinners must comply in order to be saved and to remain saved (Dt. 11:26-28).

II. AUTHORITY GIVEN TO THE SON.

- A. This truth is made clear (Mt. 28:18-20).
- B. It is he, Jesus Christ, whom men are to hear (Dt. 18:15; Mt. 17:5; Acts 3:22-23).

III. AUTHORITY DELEGATED TO THE APOSTLES.

- A. In turn, Christ has delegated authority to his apostles as they were guided by the Holy Spirit.
- B. This was in accordance with Christ's Promise to his apostles. (John 14:26; Jn. 16:13; Mt. 18:18; Acts 1:5-8).
- C. These apostles, along with prophets have revealed the will of God to man (Eph. 3:5; 2 Pet. 1:19-21).

IV. SCRIPTURE IS AUTHORITATIVE BECAUSE IT IS GOD'S WORD.

- A. The words of the Bible are just as if God spoke to us audibly.
- B. A careful study of the following passages will make it clear that inspiration applies to the actual words of the Bible: (Jer. 1:9; Jn. 17:8; 2 Pet. 1:21; Exo. 20:1; Isa. 1:10; Ezk. 2:7; Exo. 4:12, 15; Dt. 18:18-20).
- C. Inspiration of the NT, as well as the old was accomplished by means of the gift of prophecy (1 Cor. 12-14; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Eph. 3:5).
- D. This gift was accomplished by the laying on of the hands of an apostle.
 1. No one living today has the gift of prophecy.
 2. Every word of the original manuscripts came as a result of the miraculous.
 3. Of course, both the OT and NT are inspired. But men today live under a specific law enforce the new covenant (Heb. 9:15-17; Gal. 4:21-31; Heb. 10:9).

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible claims to be the true objective standard containing the conditions with which sinners must comply in order to be saved (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jn. 12:48).
2. No one can be saved who does not comply with the conditions set forth therein (2 Thes. 1:6-9; Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:15-16).
3. All who practice what is not authorized by the Bible sin in doing so (Lev. 10:1-2; 1 Chr. 15:2, 14-15; 2 Jn. 9-11).

SOWING AND REAPING.

In Second Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, Paul is writing to the church regarding the collection for the poor saints in Judea. He reminds them of the generosity of the saints in Macedonia as a way of encouraging them (8:1-6). This he follows with the example of the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrificial living—yes, living, not merely giving. This is evidenced by Paul writing, *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich”* (2 Cor. 8:9). This Paul writes in an effort to prod the Corinthians to finish what they had started—namely, a generous offering to the afflicted saints (10-11).

Moving to chapter 9, and after some preparatory remarks in verses 1-5, Paul reminds them of the principle of *sowing and reaping*: *“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully”* (2 Cor. 9:6). This ancient maxim has been known to the Jews for centuries.

“The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward” (Pro. 11:18). And again, *“There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself. The people will curse him who withholds grain, But blessing will be on the head of him who sells it”* (Pro. 11:24-26).

The lesson is obvious and yet too many Christians view it as some “cute story we tell our children”, or perhaps they view this biblical principal as trite, unimportant, or untrue. Granted it is safe to assume that neither our pain nor our prosperity is to be solely based upon our relationship with God, but Paul, by inspiration, held that generous sowing of honorable deeds would result in bountiful reaping. Paul warned, *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap”* (Gal. 6:7).

One can only pour out of a bucket what he has put into it, and one will only get out of a worship service what he puts into it. Same goes for our singing, our Bible study, and every aspect of our service to God. If I do not try to glorify God with my service to Him, how can I expect to be encouraged? —JK.

Wzlcomez! 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 or leave it on the seat. Allow us to answer any questions you may have.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Randy Yost** suffered a stroke last Lord’s Day. Through surgery they were able to remove about 70% of a large clot in his brain. He is currently at *Selby Hospital* in Marietta where he is undergoing physical therapy.
- Prayers are requested for **Jim Duty Sr.** who is in critical condition due to COVID, and for **Trudy Kerby** who is recovering from throat surgery. Both are friends of John and Tina Keith.
- **BUSINESS MEETING** at 5 pm this evening for the men of the congregation.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ Remember to take advantage of our library in the basement.
- ❖ Please let John know if there are any changes to the prayer list, or to the directory.

TODAY’S LESSONS

AM: The Chain of Authority (Deut. 11:26-28).

PM: The Temptation of Christ (Matt. 4:1-11).

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

SHUT-INS:
Debbie Jones
Nancy Love

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Debra Bates-Phillabaum, Weston Boulet (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Colleen Kiestler (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**.

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution (Budget)
35	61	30	27	\$2046 (\$2420)