

APRIL 10, 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 invite you to all of our services.

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

PRESSING ON REGARDLESS

INTRODUCTION: 2 Cor. 4:8-9

1. 2 Corinthians is a passionate plea *from* a preacher *to* a church.
2. Written during a dark time yet, an element of comfort exists.
3. Despite the suffering he does not grow discouraged!
4. What can we learn from Paul to help us from growing discouraged?

I. BEING PRESSED UPON (4:8-9).

- A. Hard Pressed, But Not Crushed (8a). Squeezed but not immobile.
- B. Perplexed, But Not In Despair (8b). Sometimes we don't know what to do, but we are never w/o options and resources.
- C. Persecuted, But Not Forsaken (9a). Oppressed, but not abandoned.
- D. Struck Down, But Not Destroyed (9b). "knocked down, but not out"

II. BOLDLY PRESSING ON (4:10-13).

- A. Bearing The Body Of Christ (10).
 1. "Carrying about" (Mk. 6:55; Eph. 4:14) in our individual bodies.
 2. "the dying" "the process of dying" (not the state of death).
 - a. His dying w/ regard to His work of redemption.
 - b. That His life—implying the resurrection (Jn. 12:24-25; Gal. 2:20).
- B. Delivered To Death For Christ (11-12).
 1. By our suffering, the life of Jesus is demonstrated. Persecutions often aids in evangelism (Acts 8:3-4).
 2. Paul lived w/ real possibility each day of dying for Christ (1 Cor. 15:31).
 3. Paul's entire being for Christ's glory (Phlp. 1:21).
 4. He was confident that his sufferings would produce life for his converts.
- C. Pressing On Regardless (13; cf. (Psa. 116:10).

III. BLESSINGS PRESSURES BRING (4:14-18).

- A. In the Future: A Resurrected Body (14 cf. Jn. 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:22-23).
- B. In the Present: A Renewed Body (15-18).
 1. Why we do it (15).
 2. Why we never give up (16-17).
 - a. Outward vs. inward (16).
 - b. Light affliction vs. eternal weight (17; cf. Rom. 8:18).
 3. How we do it (18).
 - a. We focus, not on the earthly, but upon the heavenly (Col. 3:1-2).
 - b. Why? In relation to eternity time is but for a moment.

CONCLUSION:

1. Paul has given us much to ponder.
 - A. What may/can happen to us and how we respond (8-9).
 - B. the suffering/death of Jesus so the Life of Christ may be seen (10-13).
 - C. the glory that can be ours if we endure with the proper Christian worldview and attitude (14-18).
2. God views things differently than we do (1 Sam. 16:7; Isa. 55:8-9)—we read and study the Scriptures so that we can develop a Christian worldview.
3. As God's children, we must press on to Heaven regardless of what comes our way.

SAY WHAT?

Judges chapter 12:1-6 is a very interesting narrative. The Ephraimites are incensed against Jephthah, the judge of Israel, because he did not call them to war against the Ammonites, so they threaten his destruction (1). Jephthah vindicates himself by citing Ammon's refusal to assist him against Ephraim (2-3), and therefore, arms his Gileadite army against the men of Ephraim; they fight against them, and kill forty-two thousand Ephraimites at the passages of Jordan (4-6).

Verse six is where an unusual test occurs. Since the soldiers on either side looked relatively the same with regard to clothing, it was difficult to tell who was from where—Gileadite or Ephraimite—so a test was instituted. When one came to pass over Jordan he was asked if were an Ephraimite. If he said, “No” then he was told to say the word “shibboleth”. A Gileadite could properly pronounce it, but an Ephraimite could not form the “sh” sound, and so would say, “sibboleth”—his speech would reveal who he was.

During the episode of Christ's arrest and events preliminary to His trial, Peter, in the courtyard, encountered some who questioned his identity and relationship to Jesus. One said unto Peter, “*Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you*” (Matthew 26:73). Again, one's speech revealed them.

A strikingly similar principle applies to people today, and especially Christians. By speech we can make educated guesses about where one might be from, their level of education, political affiliation, and many other things. Our speech also will either confirm or deny our faithfulness to God.

Our speech should always be above reproach. If our speech is not *truthful* (Colossians 3:9) and motivated *by love* (Ephesians 4:15) for God and man, we would do best by remaining silent. “A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter (Proverbs 11:13); this is mighty difficult for some folks. Just because something is true does not mean it needs to be said.

Our speech must be pure and not tainted with wickedness; “*The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, But the words of the pure are pleasant*” (Proverbs 15:26).

When one speaks of perverse things with gladness in his heart, he reveals his doublemindedness, and such has no part in our service to God Almighty. We reveal our heart by the things we say and do. Words matter. How much? Jesus said, “*But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned*” (Matthew 12:36-37)—*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 or leave it on the seat. Allow us to answer any questions you may have.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Rick Lambert's** recent scan revealed a new tumor in his stomach and one on his liver. He will have surgery on June 3rd and may have some chemo prior to that.
- There will be a pot-luck dinner here on **April 24** following morning services, to kick off our Gospel Meeting with **Andy Robison**. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- Also, if anyone would like to update their picture on the back board, please see **Brenda Warne**.
- **Business Meeting** this evening at 5 p.m. for the men.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ Remember to take advantage of our library in the basement.
- ❖ Please inform John of any changes needed to the prayer list, or directory.

TODAY'S LESSONS
AM: Pressing On Regardless (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).
PM: Paul's Prayer for the Colossians (Colossians 1:9-14).

<p><i>IN OUR PRAYERS:</i> Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cooke, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Angela Herald, Cathy Jackson, Bruce & Kim Johnson, Gary Jones, Tina Keith, and Rick Lambert.</p>	<p><i>SHUT-INS:</i> Debbie Jones, Nancy Love, and Randy Yost</p>
<p><i>FAMILY AND FRIENDS:</i> Debra Bates-Phillabaum, Weston Boulet (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Diane James (Raymond and Fawn Wayble's daughter), Trudy Kerby, Colleen Kiester (Mo Smith's sister), Janet Patterson, Linda Potts (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), Addy Reed, Rodney Reeves (Erica Cunningham's father), John Rockhold, Wilma Roe, Bob & Marge Watson, Ukraine and remember to pray for one another.</p>	

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution (Budget)
38	60	38	30	\$7,354 (\$2,420)