

OCTOBER 23, 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)

THE CHRISTIAN RACE

INTRODUCTION: Heb. 12:1-2

1. Bible makes many comparisons:
 - A. Righteous man to a tree by a river (Psa. 1:3).
 - B. Tongue to a sharp razor (Psa. 52:2).
 - C. Unfaithful man to a broken tooth (Pro. 25:19).
 - D. God's Word to a fire (Jer. 23:29).
2. Jesus makes many comparisons re: the Kingdom.
3. The Hebrews writer compares the Christian life to a race.

I. THE COURSE (Heb. 12:2).

- A. Earthly Races.
 1. A designated way (route) from "start" to "finish"; no deviation allowed.
 2. Sometimes the way we desire to go is not available (Mt. 2:12).
 3. Must not confuse earthly journeys with our journey to Heaven; Many trying to get to Heaven another way; only 1 Way!
- B. Jesus is The Way (Heb. 12:2a; Jn. 14:1-6).
 1. To Christ and no other (for the things of salvation).
 - a. "Author"—One to whom anything owes its origin
 - b. "Finisher" the one who accomplishes
 2. Jesus came to "fulfill" the Law and the prophets (Mt. 5:17; Jn. 19:30).
 3. Christ's Way, THE Way (Acts 9:2, 9; 18:25-26; Heb. 10:20; 2 Pet. 2:15, 21).

II. THE CLOUD- (Heb. 12:1a; 11:1-40).

- A. "Cloud of witnesses", those who ran before us (2 Tim. 2:5).
- B. Their faithful response to the Lord's commands encompasses us with direction as to how we ought to run.

III. THE CHARGE (Heb. 12:1c).

- A. Run w/ endurance = "one who is unswerved from his deliberate purpose".
- B. Samuel's charge to Israel (1 Sam. 12:20-21).
- C. Some Who Ran With Endurance: Hezekiah (2 Ki. 18:5-6); Josiah (2 Ki. 22:2); the Thessalonians (1 Thes. 1:3; 2 Thes. 3:5).
- D. The Reward For Endurance (Rom. 2:7).

IV. THE CONDITION (Heb. 12:1b).

- A. While running a race, we want no extra weight holding us back (Heb. 12:1-2).
- B. We've seen what the weight of a volume of water can do.
- C. The Command to "Lay aside every weight" = repenting of sin (Heb. 12:1b).
 1. The laying aside of sin—getting out of a sinful lifestyle.
 2. Refers to acts of commission (Eph. 4:22-23, and to acts of omission.

CONCLUSION:

1. Humans are incapable of charting their own path to Heaven. Jesus is The Way.
2. I would have to see what others had done—good and bad—and learn.
3. I must persevere, keep going, and that within the rules/laws, and throw off anything that would hinder my advancement to the finish line.
4. I must look to Jesus, for He is The Way.

NOT EVERYBODY SAYING “GOD” IS REFERRING TO THE FATHER.

How do you feel when someone uses the name of God or one of the other terms such as Lord, Christ, Jesus, as an exclamation, expletive or by-word? I hope it breaks your heart. It just simply astounds and terrifies me how frivolously the holy name of God is used and how accustomed we have become to using and hearing these sacred appellations in profane contexts.

“OMG” has become an acceptable reactionary phrase to anything eliciting a response; from the major and dramatic, to the minor and mundane. Small children use it, and I’ve even seen Christians use it—shameful indeed! Before long, kids will be using it not even knowing what it means. Tell me; is there any vainer use of God’s name than to use it without knowing Who God even is? IS that not the very definition of “vain”? God told gave Moses and Israel a command which said, “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain” (Exo. 20:7).

The bottom line is this: unless you are praying to, or talking specifically about the God of Heaven, you have no business using His name—none whatever. This includes the commonly accepted “replacement” words such as “gosh”, “golly”, “gee-whiz”, “lordy”, and a host of others. We need to revere the name of God not only in how we act, but in what we say. How can we extoll the grace of God in one breath and then use His glorious name as a by-word the next, and expect to be taken seriously by our peers, much less, God Himself?

Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh (James 3:10-12).

Because these terms, and other like them, are so common in society today, it’s not too difficult for us to be lulled into using them. Let’s be sure that when we use His name, we are talking to Him; or telling somebody about Him. “Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever” (Psalm 145:2). —*RK*.

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 Sermon: The Christian Race (Hebrews 12:1-2).

PM Sermon: Somebody Turned the Water Off (1 Kings 17:1-7).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Linda Steele** is to be released from *Genesis* today. Her sodium got very low, and her blood became too thin.
- **Ardith Winland** is still recovering from her recent illness and wants to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, and cards.
- There are new change cans in the back for *POTTER Children's Home*.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ ~~Check the foyer board for area events.~~
- ❖ Please inform **John** of any changes to the prayer list, or directory.
- ❖ Remember to take advantage of our library.

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution (Budget)
39	67	38	28	\$2,800 (\$2,420)

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

SHUT-INS:
Debbie Jones,
Nancy Love,
Randy Yost

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Debra Bates-Phillabaum, Weston Boulet (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Rachell Cook** (Angela Herald's friend), **Tiffany Endly** (Jerri Mackie's niece), **Helen Gregg**, **Bob Henthorn** (Laura Jamiel's dad), **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**, **Bob & Marge Watson**, the **U.S.A.**, **Ukraine** and remember to pray for **one another**.