

SEPTEMBER 25, 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)*

# FAITHFULNESS: KEEP THE FAITH

## INTRODUCTION: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

1. Quite possibly last words Paul ever wrote—seasoned soldier of the cross had kept the faith and encourages the young recruit to do the same.
2. A mistake to limit these final words to preachers; v. 8 implies universal message.

### **I. A SOLEMN CHARGE (1-2).**

#### A. When Should We Preach?

1. In season/out of season (2). Always on duty and at your post
2. When it's convenient/when it's not; when they want to hear/ or not

#### B. What Should We Preach?

1. Preach the word! to herald, to proclaim, announce w/ conviction
2. To preach the word means to:
  - a. Reprove (convince-kjv)— expose, convict, show the fault (Mt. 18:15).
  - b. Rebuke- to warn by instruction (Lk. 23:39-40; 1 Tim. 5:20).
  - c. Exhort - summon, invite, beg, comfort, encourage, console (Titus 2:15; Heb. 10:25).

#### C. How Should We Preach?

1. With all longsuffering/patience, lit. “complete patience”. Patience and suffering of the prophets (Jas. 5:10).
2. With all doctrine/instruction- the thing taught. Not just the pleasing parts, but all of it. The whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

### **II. A SERIOUS THREAT (3-5).**

#### A. Steps To Apostasy (3-4).

1. They will not appreciate sound (healthy) doctrine/teaching (3).
2. They will find soft preachers who tickle their ears and mollify their weak consciences (cf. Isa. 30:9-10).
3. They will turn from truth to error (1 Tim. 1:4; 1 Tim. 4:7; Titus 1:14).

#### B. Solution to Apostasy (5): Christians must . . .

1. Be alert/watchful (1 Thes. 5:6).
2. Be able to take affliction (2 Tim. 2:3).
3. Feel a burden for the lost (Rom. 10:1).
4. Be service minded (Mk. 10:45).

### **III. A STIRRING PROMISE (6-8).**

#### A. Paul kept the Faith, thus, filled with Confidence.

1. Paul considered the present (6; cf. Phlp. 2:17).
2. Paul considered the past (7; cf. (1 Tim. 6:12).
  - a. Fought *the* good fight—lit. struggled the good struggle.
  - b. Finished *the* race—completed the course; distance race
  - c. Kept *the* faith—guarded, watched over the faith
3. Paul considered the future (8a; cf. 1 Pet. 5:4).

#### B. If We Keep the Faith, We Can Be Filled with Confidence (8b; cf. Heb. 6:10; 1 Jn. 5:13).

## CONCLUSION:

1. Will you love the appearing of the Lord Jesus? Will it be excitement or terror?
2. Are you ready for the appearing of the Righteous Judge?

## HOW DO WE KNOW GOD'S WILL FOR US?

Critics of Christianity generally, and churches of Christ particularly often level the unfounded charge that we “pick and choose” which parts of the Bible we follow or choose not to follow. There is a sense in which that is valid. Not every command in the Bible applies to me personally, nor to the church universally. I have never been commanded by God to make an ark of gopher wood (cf. Gen. 6:14). The Old Covenant (Testament) applied to those whom God led out of Egypt; the covenant under which you and I live is a new covenant; a different covenant than the Ten Commandment Law (Jer. 31:31-34; cf. Heb. 8:7ff). Obviously then, there are parts of Scripture we are not required to obey, and parts we are. How do we know the difference?

God reveals His will through His inspired word, the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Herein He confirms His authority to us in three ways: 1) command, 2) approved example, and 3) implication (sometimes called “necessary inference”).

**Commands** are the simplest to recognize. “Do such and such”. Don’t do such and such”. “Repent and be baptized” (Acts 2:38).

**Approved examples** are sometime less lucid but are no less authoritative. We have examples of what the church is supposed to do: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42); “Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread” (Acts 20:7). Sometimes the examples are positive; “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Pet. 2:21), and sometimes they are negative: “and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly” (2 Pet. 2:6).

**Implication** seems to cause much of the division we see among religious bodies, but it shouldn't. It is a valid form of communication, and we use implication many times a day in ordinary affairs of life, but when it comes to God's word, it seems that our reasoning abilities just fly out of the window.

When one *implies* something, he is suggesting a relationship without saying it directly. To understand an implication, we must *infer* the meaning; that is, we use reason or logic to ascertain the intention of the speaker (or writer). For example, in Matthew 3:16, the Bible says (explicitly) that “Jesus came up immediately from the water.” Nowhere does it state that Jesus went down into the water, but we can *draw the logical conclusion* (infer) that He had.

There are other examples of this in Scripture and God willing, we will look at some more of these examples in later articles—~~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:** Philippians 3:1f  
**AM Sermon:** Keep the Faith (2 Timothy 4:1-8).  
**PM Sermon:** Three Love Stories (Ruth 1:16-18).  
**Wednesday Bible Study:** Revelation

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Nellie Bichard** is in ICU at *Southeastern*, room #243. She is not doing well.
- **Ardith Winland** was in, and out of the hospital this past week with congestive heart failure.
- **Randy Yost** will be undergoing further testing to see where why he is passing blood.
- **Helen Gregg** is under HOSPICE care at *Astoria* (She is 106 years young).
- There are several *Gospel Meetings* in the area. Check the foyer board for details.

**REMINDERS:**

- ❖ 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)
31	50	35	30	\$2320 (\$2,420)

<p><b><u>IN OUR PRAYERS:</u></b> Diann Bachmann, Nellie Bichard, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike &amp; Karen Grove, Cathy Jackson, Bruce &amp; Kim Johnson, Gary Jones, Tina Keith, Rick Lambert, Carol Mitchell, Linda Steele, Helena Tewksbury, and Jean Whitley.</p>	<p><b><u>SHUT-INS:</u></b> Debbie Jones, Nancy Love, Randy Yost</p>
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**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), **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**.