

NOVEMBER 27, 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 GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

## **INTRODUCTION: Romans 11:17-22**

1. Many say, “The God of the OT was a severe God; but the God of the NT loving”.
2. Not 2 different Gods (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8).
3. Here’s the “problem”:
  - A. “God is love” (1 Jn. 4:8)!
  - B. “God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:29)!
  - C. **How** do we reconcile the goodness **and** severity of God?

## **I. THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD: ADAM & EVE.**

- A. Goodness: Created with perfect surroundings—everything they needed (Gen 1:31).
  1. No arduous labor.
  2. A minimum of commands:
    - a. Multiply-fill earth (1:28).
    - b. Tend the garden (2:15).
    - c. Avoid the tree (2:17).
- B. Severity: God took it away—
  1. cursed woman (3:16).
  2. cursed ground (3:17).
  3. drove man from garden (3:24).

## **II. THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD: ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA (Acts 5:1-11).**

- A. Goodness: Prospered them so that they had property to sell.
- B. Severity: struck both dead for lying to Him and the Holy Spirit.

## **III. THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD: YOU & ME.**

- A. Temporal Goodness.
  1. Physical--Mt. 6:33.
  2. Spiritual things pertaining to life (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- B. Severity
  1. God can and has been severe—His justice demands such (Psa. 89:14).
  2. God demands that all persons capable of believing in Jesus as His Son obey the Gospel lest they meet with His severity (1 Pet. 4:17; 2 Ths. 1:6-9).
  3. *[Does NOT have to be this way! (Ezk. 18:20f; 30f).*
- C. Eternal Goodness.
  1. Jesus prayed (Jn. 17:1-3).
  2. Jesus declared (Jn. 5:28-29)<sub>2</sub>
  3. Paul’s declaration of the baptized believers (Rom. 6:22).

## **IV. WARNINGS TO THE GENTILES (Rom. 11:17-24).**

- A. The Jew/Gentile relationship is illustrated from nature (17).
- B. The Gentiles are warned (18-20).
- C. The Reason is Explained (21-24).

**CONCLUSION:** How can anyone possibly read this and not see that salvation is conditioned upon Faithfulness to divine instruction and obligation—for both the non-Christian and the Christian?

## 4 SIGNS OF A SPIRITUALLY SICK CHURCH

Jack Wilkie

As the church, we need to look at our culture and realize that we've been plagued with a sickness. This sickness must be eradicated if each of our congregations are going to grow strong in the Lord. We've created a culture where it's far too easy to slide into a comfortable Christianity . . . [b]ut that's not the kind of discipleship Christ established. How do you know when this disease is affecting your congregation?

### 1. ATTENDANCE ISN'T IMPORTANT

A congregation can't be healthy if it's considered no big deal when its members skip worship. When sports, school, hobbies, or any other activities are considered perfectly normal and acceptable reasons for not being present with the body . . . it's a sign of a church that is a convenience in the lives of its members rather than a priority. It says that we think worship is exactly where we need to be . . . as long as we don't have something better to do. Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18-19 aren't just about singing – they remind us how important it is for Christians to be together and encourage each other. Additionally, what the New Testament teaches us about the Lord's Supper goes beyond just remembering Jesus' death. It's also about the fellowship we all have together in His blood. That's not something a healthy church takes lightly or neglects when it's inconvenient.

### 2. PRAYERS FOCUS ONLY ON THE PHYSICAL

It's important to pray for the sick, the injured, the traveling, and such, but if that's all we focus on in our prayers and our requests, it shows just how earthly-focused we've become. Though Paul often mentioned the physical needs . . . his prayers showed his true priorities. He prayed that his brethren would be filled with the knowledge of God (Eph. 1), that they would know the love of Christ . . . (Eph. 3), and that they would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (Col. 1). While we don't have the gift of Paul's eloquence, we do need to make sure our prayers aren't lacking in focus on our spiritual growth, opportunities to reach the lost, and our relationships with God.

### 3. CONVERSATIONS DON'T INCLUDE SPIRITUAL MATTERS

It's no wonder why evangelism is so difficult sometimes. If we can't bring up Scriptural, spiritual matters of discussion with our Christian family, what makes us think we'll be able to do the same with the lost? Just imagine having a discussion with Paul or Peter that didn't include the work of the church or some point about Jesus. Take note of the kind of conversations that happen before and after worship at your congregation. Are they all focused on the weather, sports, and other current events, or is there continued discussion on the topics brought up by the sermon or Bible class?

### 4. FELLOWSHIP ENDS WHEN THE DOORS CLOSE

If the lights being turned off and the doors being locked on every Sunday night signals the last time members are going to see each other before Wednesday night (or the next Sunday morning), we can hardly claim a commonality with the church of Acts 2. Yes, life is busy and . . . but a church that isn't involved in each other's lives won't ever be able to connect with each other beyond shallow, superficial interests (like the conversation topics mentioned above). It's that genuine love and care for each other that is supposed to distinguish us from the world (John 13:35).

We need to start having congregations where it's awkward and uncomfortable to be inactive and lukewarm. Too many times it's the other way around, where the passionate members are the ones that stand out as being different. Let's all purpose to start changing that culture.

[NOTE: This article was edited for space. To see the full article, go to:

<http://focuspressblog.com/2015/01/06/signs-spiritually-sick-church/> Accessed-January 7, 2015

## 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 4:10f.

**AM Sermon:** Goodness & Severity of God (Romans 11:17-22).

**PM Sermon:** For Such a Time as This (Esther 4:13-17).

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Revelation 8:1f.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Bev Singleton** is at *Southeastern Med* recovering from pneumonia and gall bladder surgery. She hopes to be released on Monday and requests no visitors for the time being.
- **Randy Yost**— preliminary results of a scan last Friday revealed no change in the growth on his kidney. He will have a bladder scope on the 29<sup>th</sup> in Cleveland.
- *Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Helen Gregg** who passed away on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 106 years old. Visitation will be Wednesday (November 30) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the *Stop Nine church of Christ, Byesville, with services at 1pm.**
- We will be making our annual Christmas donations to the veterans, through the *Cambridge Community Development Corp.* Items are due by December 11. There is a list of needed items on the bulletin board for those wishing to participate.

### REMINDERS:

- ❖ If anyone would like to take over replying to the Bible correspondence courses, John has the supplies, and you may also see **Janet Bennett**.
- ❖ There are just a couple change cans left for *POTTER Children's Home*.
- ❖ ~~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.

**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, Jean Whitley and Randy Yost.

**SHUT-INS:**  
Debbie Jones,  
Nancy Love,

**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), **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**.

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution (Budget)
34	54	29	26	\$2146 (\$2,420)