

DECEMBER 11, 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)

RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE?

On December 9th of this year, H.R. 8404, the mis-named *Respect for Marriage Act*, was presented to the president. This bill, sponsored by Jerry Nadler, was introduced back in the summer on July 18.

This bill provides statutory authority for same-sex and interracial marriages. Specifically, the bill replaces provisions that define, for purposes of federal law, marriage as between a man and a woman and spouse as a person of the opposite sex with provisions that recognize any marriage between two individuals that is valid under state law (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8404>).

Any faithful and thinking Christian knows that so-called, “same-sex-marriage” is an abomination to God, and therefore, it should be to them also. That is not really my purpose here. What I would like to point out is some of the determined confusion surrounding this bill.

Notice *how* this bill is labeled: “Respect for Marriage”. Such a misnomer is a common tactic of Satan and his allies as they ever disregard God and His word. Example: marriage—as defined by God—is the union of one man and one woman for life (Gen. 1:24-25; 1 Cor. 7:2). This bill actually *disrespects* marriage. We should not be surprised, however, God’s law for marriage has been disrespected for millennia, and even by Christians in adulterous unions who love their spouses more than they love God.

Second, in the description of the bill they remind us that “The Supreme Court held that state laws barring same-sex marriages were unconstitutional in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015” (*ibid*). Then, they have the daring to reference that “the Court held that state laws barring interracial marriages were unconstitutional in *Loving v. Virginia* in 1967” (*ibid*), as though the issues are remotely the same. In God’s eyes, any two consenting adults who meet scriptural eligibility requirements may be married. Same-sex couples do not meet such requirements, and as long as they persist in the sinful practice of homosexuality, cannot meet them.

So far, “[t]he bill does not (1) affect religious liberties or conscience protections that are available under the Constitution or federal law, (2) require religious organizations to provide goods or services to formally recognize or celebrate a marriage”, but as with other things, I’m sure its only a matter of time. Most folks my age and older, and many Christians can see the inherent dangers of promoting such unauthorized (sinful) behavior, but the ones mostly in jeopardy are the un-churched folks who will be born into a world where deviant, sexual behavior is considered normal and celebrated—*JK*.

TRUE DISCIPLES

John 15:6-8.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Definition: A pupil or follower of any teacher or school of religion, learning, art, etc.
2. Waving “old glory” does not make one an American.
3. Persons may be “religious” but not be a disciple of Christ.

DISCUSSION:

I. TRUE DISCIPLES ARE A SPECTACLE TO THE WORLD

- A. According to Paul (1 Cor. 4:9).
- B. According to Christ (Mt. 5:16).
- C. Christians are to be lights in the world (Phil. 2:14-15).

II. TRUE DISCIPLES ARE ANXIOUS TO LEARN.

- A. Jesus’ disciples wanted to know more about the parable of the Sower (Lk. 8:9).
- B. They asked Jesus to teach them...to pray (Lk. 11:1).
 1. We must pray with the proper understanding (1 Cor. 14:15).
 2. Can pray for the wrong things/wrong way (Jas. 4:3).
- C. Accept greatness of Scripture (Psa. 119:129-131; Pro. 1:5-7).

III. TRUE DISCIPLES PRACTICE SELF DENIAL.

- A. Jesus set the example-gave up Heaven (John 1:1-3).
- B. Jesus emptied Himself (Phil. 2:5-8).
- C. His disciples pled “We have left all” (Mt. 19:27).
- D. Self-denial pays great dividends (Lk. 18:29-30).

IV. TRUE DISCIPLES LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

- A. Badge of discipleship (Jn. 13:35; Jn. 15:12).
- B. Love must be true (genuine, pure) (Rom. 12:9; 1 Pet. 1:22).
- C. Must “let brotherly love continue” (Heb. 13:1).

V. TRUE DISCIPLES WAITED FOR THE KINGDOM.

- A. Joseph of Arimathea (Mk.15:43).
- B. Disciples “show his death till he comes” (2 Cor. 11:26).
- C. We *look* for the Saviour (Phlp. 3:20-21).

CONCLUSION: Are you a true disciple, looking with anticipation for the Lord’s return?

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 4:21f.

AM Sermon: True Disciples (John 15:6-8).

PM Sermon: Why Have You Forsaken Me (Psa. 22:1-8)?

Wednesday Bible Study: Revelation 9:1f.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Bev Singleton** is home and doing better.
- There will be a **Business Meeting** at **5:15** for the men of the congregation.
- I urge everyone to study the enclosed tract. You can make notes in your Bible and use this to teach the precious lost. We have several of these available so, please share it others—JK.
- It's time to renew subscriptions to *The West Virginia Christian*, or if you're not getting it, now is a good time to subscribe. \$8 for 12 issues of this good, brotherhood publication. See **Randy Cunningham**.
- We will be making our annual Christmas donations to the veterans, through the *Cambridge Community Development Corp.* **Today is the last day** to contribute. There is a list of needed items on the bulletin board for those wishing to participate.
- **Holiday Baskets** will be packed on Dec. 21st at 5 p.m. There is no sign up; just bring items anytime: all items should be pre-packaged, various snacks, cookies, candy, etc.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ John will take questions for his **Questions You Have Asked** series. Submissions remain confidential. Write them down and give to John.
- ❖ There are just a couple change cans left for *POTTER Children's Home*.

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

SHUT-INS:
Debbie Jones,
Nancy Love,

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: 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)
33	56	34	28	\$3,740 (\$2,420)