

JUNE 11, 2023

CHURCH OF CHRIST



*1002 Clairmont Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725
(740) 432-7486*

*Web Site: www.cambridgechurchofchrist.com
E-Mail: info@cambridgechurchofchrist.com*

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)

OUR REASONABLE SERVICE

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (Romans 12:1).

From the time of Moses, the children of God had offered dead-animal sacrifices to God to temporarily atone for their sins (Exo. 29:14). This was the way God told them to deal with sin for the time being, and since this was the way God had told them, it was only *reasonable* that they do it, and, that they do it His way. This was never intended by God to be a permanent solution, *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.* (Heb. 10:4). The old system of sacrifice, and the law (of Moses) that accompanied it was only intended to be in force until Christ should come to earth (Gal. 3:19). He, then, made a *once for all* offering (Heb. 10:10) and in so doing became our High Priest (Heb. 2:17), and thus, our lawgiver. The change in the law and the change in the high priest necessitated a change of the sacrifice that man offers to God. Christ offered the blood sacrifice to God but that does not mean that His children offer nothing further to Him, as our text clearly points out.

No longer does God require of you and me a dead-animal sacrifice, rather, **we** are to be a “living sacrifice”. This is the way God has told us to deal with sin, and since this is the way God has told us to do it, it is only *reasonable* that we do it, and do it His way (sound familiar?). Our “reasonable service”, or “logical duty” (not “spiritual worship” as some translation render it) in the context of spiritual matters, then, is to do those things God has commanded us that we might have pardon for our sins and the hope of eternal life.

Just as the priests of old had to enter the physical temple of God to offer the sacrifices required of them, we must enter the spiritual temple, the church, today (the church is not a building, but the body of baptized believers). Anything we attempt to offer to God while outside the church is vain and empty because we are not following God's instructions. But by our confidence in the person and work of Jesus Christ (faith- Heb. 11:6), by turning away from a sinful life style (repentance- Acts 17:30), by bodily and verbally living for Christ (confession- Rom. 10:9,10), and by being immersed in water for the forgiveness of our sins (baptism- Mk. 16:16;) we enter the spiritual temple, the church (Eph. 1:22, 23; I Cor. 3:17), and then we are ready to offer our continued "reasonable service" to Jehovah God.

Our reasonable service is to present our bodies to God in a holy and acceptable fashion. We must place our lives at God's disposal for that is the only way for us to be well-pleasing (acceptable) to Him. Holy, in that we have set our sights on doing His will. It is up to us to cultivate in our lives the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23); to add to our faith the Christian graces of virtue, knowledge, temperance, patients, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity (love). James said, *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world* (Jas. 1:27).

We are living in His creation as one of His created beings (Gen. 1, 2), does it not make sense - is it not reasonable, to do things His way? - *JK*.

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Serve Jehovah with gladness:

Come before his presence with singing.

Palm 100:2

Welcome! We are thankful for your presence. To our visitors, please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one of the collection plates.

Please welcome **Alan Wells** who will present the Bible Study and deliver sermons at both services today. God willing, Tina and I are traveling in Virginia and Tennessee and will be back tomorrow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

➤ As I announced Wednesday, Tina and I will be visiting the Newport church of Christ next Lord's Day, God willing. The preacher there, Lloyd Westbrook, is retiring and we are exploring the possibility of moving there to be near my mom and our daughter (both within a mile and-a-half). We do not enjoy the prospect of leaving you all, but neither do I want to shirk my familial responsibilities. If it is God's will that we move, or if we stay, time will tell. We love you and we respect you, and so we wanted to make our intentions known. Respectfully and with love, John & Tina.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ There are change cans for *Potter Children's Home* on the back table.
- ❖ **Oct. 7—Men's Encouragement Day** here with **Roger Rush**.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Kevin Adkins, Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Cathy Jackson, Katelynngayle Jamiel, 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), **Betty Cox** (Diann Bachmann's sister), **T.J. Hart**, **Trudy Kerby**, **Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), **Addy Reed**, **Rodney Reeves** (Erica Cunningham's father), **John Rockhold**, **Conrad Schultz**, the **U.S.A.**, **Ukraine** and remember to pray for **one another**.

AM STUDY	SUN. AM	SUN. PM	GIVING (\$2,460)	WED.
34	66	34	\$3,610	32