

JULY 2, 2023

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)

IF IN THIS LIFE ONLY

INTRODUCTION: 1 Cor. 15:16-22

1. One of mankind's major barriers to faith is his attachment to this world.
2. We will exist in consciousness for eternity in one of two places and if we enter eternity with the idea that this life is all there is, we will be of all men most miserable.

I. IF IN THIS LIFE ONLY WE HAVE HOPE IN CHRIST (1 Cor. 15:12-22).

- A. Christ's Resurrection Is Fundamental (12-19).
 1. Implications if no resurrection:
 - a. Christ is not risen (13, 16).
 - b. Preaching and faith is worthless (14).
 - c. Apostles are liars (15).
 - d. Still guilty of sin (17).
 - e. Those already dead are lost (18).
 2. Conclusion if no resurrection: Hope is limited to this life (19).
- B. Christ's Resurrection Is Certain (20-22; 5-8).
 1. Christ is resurrected (20).
 2. Logical argument (21-22).
 3. Evidence of resurrection (5-8)

II. IF IN THIS LIFE ONLY WE HAVE HOPE OF A PAIN FREE EXISTENCE.

- A. No Scripture promises pain-free existence in present world.
- B. Yet, many Christians disappointed in God when they hurt—Why?
 1. Do not understand God's nature.
 2. Well-meaning, yet ill-informed Christians.
 3. Phys pain indicative of phys life: (Rev. 21:4).

III. IF IN THIS LIFE ONLY, WE HAVE HOPE IN THINGS BEING FAIR.

- A. Jesus Prepared Us for Injustice (Mt. 5:11; 6:22).
- B. Peter Cautioned Us Too (1 Pet. 4:14).

IV. IF IN THIS LIFE ONLY, WE HAVE HOPE OF HAVING EVERYTHING WE WANT—WEALTH AND PROSPERITY.

- A. God Provides Our Necessities (Mt. 6:26-33).
- B. Be Careful Where Your Treasure Is (Mt. 6:19-21).

V. IF IN THIS LIFE ONLY WE HAVE HOPE THAT SIN DID NOT EXIST.

- A. Temptation is everywhere (1 Pet. 5:8) "Adversary."
- B. Satan tempts all.
 1. Christ (Mt. 4:1f).
 2. Xtians (1 Pet. 4:12).

CONCLUSION:

1. There is more to our existence than the joys and heartaches of this life. Here, we have a mixture; in the next life it will be all joy, or all sorrow.
2. If your only preparation is for this life, you will be of all people most miserable for eternity. You can do something about it now!

HEAVEN IS *NOT* A PLACE ON EARTH.

Despite the seeming popularity of the pop song, *Heaven Is A Place On Earth*, the sentiments contained therein could not be further from the truth. Even though Bible believing folks know, by faith, that Heaven is real, not everyone believes it and many do not care. Perhaps this is because if they admit that Heaven is real they might feel compelled to believe Hell is just as real—and it is—and this makes them uncomfortable.

To combat this notion of Heaven and Hell, perhaps in an attempt to evade any sense of accountability, many have opted to dismiss anything regarding an afterlife. They would rather believe in *nothing* than *something*, and when it dawned on somebody that *nothing* is a depressing thing to look forward to, they began defining Heaven by their own terms, and trying to bring the attributes of Heaven to earth—how ironic!

In Scripture, the adjective “heavenly” is used to distinguish between the things of earth and the things of Heaven. For example, Jesus said, “If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things” (John 3:12)? Or when the Hebrews writer said, “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels” (Heb. 12:22).

However, today it is not uncommon to hear this beautiful word used to describe things that are wholly earthly, and even mundane. “How was dessert?” “Oh, absolutely heavenly!” If this does not violate Jesus’ command to “Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne (Matt. 5:34), it’s dangerously close! But my point is that many of the very ones who dismiss Heaven want Heaven on earth, and it just cannot be.

I wish there were no injustice on earth, no war, crime, racism, class-warfare, animal cruelty, and I appreciate the advocates for justice and right in these. To desire these things on earth is admirable, but to expect them is not reasonable and is a hopeless endeavor.

The *Heaven-on-earthers* have one thing right; Heaven is to be preferred because, “[i]t will be inhabited by the Holy Godhead (Revelation 4:8), holy angels (Luke 9:26), and the “just” (i.e., justified) ones who have been made perfect (Hebrews 12:23)”, but it will not be on earth for it “shall be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10). —*JK*.

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.

AM Bible Study: Romans 1:17
AM: If In This Life Only (1 Cor. 15:16-22).
PM: Are We Fools (Proverbs 1:1-7).
Wednesday Bible Study: Revelation 16:4.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Hazel Leap** will be undergoing more testing on her heart.
- **Richard Mayo** has a mass on his right kidney and underwent a scope on Friday. PSA was normal and the scope revealed no major issues with the surrounding organs. He sees his doctor again on the 7th to determine the next move.

REMINDERS:

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

<p><u>IN OUR PRAYERS:</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>SHUT-INS:</u> Debbie Jones, Nancy Love,</p>
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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**, **John Shipley** (New Concord), **Conrad Schultz**, the U.S.A., **Ukraine** and remember to pray for one another.

AM STUDY	SUN. AM	SUN. PM	GIVING \$2,460)	WED.
29	53	34	\$1,951	30