

AUGUST 20, 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)

DOING WHAT WE OUGHT

INTRODUCTION: Hebrews 6:11-12

1. It's good to enjoy what you do. When we enjoy it, we usually do a better job. However, there are some things we can't quit doing simply because we don't enjoy them.
2. The Lord's work deserves to be done even when we don't "feel like it"—Heb. 6:11-12.
3. What should our attitude be towards the Lord's work?

I. RECONSIDERING THE IDEA OF "DUTY".

- A. Words Like "Duty", "Obligation", "Responsibility" have become taboo.
 1. "It's not healthy to think in terms of "ought to do—ought not do".
 2. They say it's a "guilt trip" and damages the psyche.
- B. What we *ought* to do should rank higher than what we enjoy doing—*hedonists: pleasure is the highest moral goal.*
- C. Pleasure is not an unqualified good. Displeasure is not an unqualified evil.
- D. Consider: obedience to the law, job responsibilities, relationships, would we think of doing only what we feel like? Does the Lord deserve less?
 1. Successful people have the habit of doing the things failures don't like to do.
 2. "Know the cost of doing something and the cost of doing nothing (Ben Feldman) Cf. Luke 14:28-33.
- E. If sense of duty were all we knew about Joseph (Gen. 39:9) and Moses (Heb. 11:24-26), we would still appreciate them. Where has the idea of *honor in duty* gone?

II. LOVE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

- A. The person who says they will only do it if they enjoy it, or they won't do it at all is acting as if there were only 2 alternatives, when in reality God expects a 3rd.
 1. There's no reason we cannot *learn* to love doing what we ought to do. Doing the right thing does not have to be burdensome (1 Jn. 5:3).
 2. Jesus did not come to make our lives hard (Mt. 11:28-30); beholding Christ's benevolent intent can transform our view of responsibility (Psa. 40:8; cf. 119:14-16).
- B. Love improves one's attitude towards work (Gen. 29:20; Jn. 4:34) and learning to love is a key to maturity. EX: Abraham (Gen. 22:1f), Christ.

III. WHAT ABOUT THE COMPLAINERS?

- A. We don't like complainers any more than we like ourselves when we complain.
- B. We've reached a point where it is "acceptable" to decline the work we find unappealing, but God's idea differs from ours (2 Cor. 9:6).

CONCLUSION:

1. Mankind, especially Christians, must strive to master their emotions.
 - A. Emotions fluctuate, they come and go.
 - B. God expects better of us, so that means we are capable of more.
2. Refusing to do anything we don't enjoy is a sign of immaturity.
 - A. A mature person says, "I *will* do what I ought to do".
 - B. A more mature person, "I *want* to do what I ought to do".
 - C. The difference is the degree of love we have for the Lord, reflected by our interest in Bible study, prayer, attendance, personal evangelism, etc.
3. Spiritual maturity involves finding real joy in doing what pleases the Lord because it pleases Him—not because it benefits me.

LET'S INVEST IN PEOPLE

Mike Tiley

After being warned by the prophet Daniel about his sinful pride (Proverbs 6:16-17; Psalm 101:5; cf. Proverbs 16:18), the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar was struck with insanity. The Lord restored his mind, but only after he spent a long period of time in a field thinking he was a wild animal (Daniel 4:28-37).

Nebuchadnezzar went from boasting, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for . . . the glory of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:30 ESV), to a humble prayer: "I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven" (Daniel 4:37). He had repented of prideful empire building.

There should be concern about empire building in the church today. Instead of focusing on large church buildings, one Christian evangelist encourages Christians to "build into the lives of people" and leave the results to God (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

When a congregation devotes undue energy to statistics, buildings, and programs, pride can enter in and the spiritual needs of God's people can be forgotten (cf. Hosea 4:6).

Jesus never forgot the value of people. He invested His time in 12 appointed men (Mark 3:14 ESV). Paul taught Timothy who in turn taught others (2 Timothy 1:13; 2 Timothy 2:2).

Brethren, God's kingdom grows when we invest in people! (cf. Acts 2:37-47; Acts 4:1-4; Acts 6:7; Acts 12:24; Acts 19:20; Colossians 1:5-6).

SEVEN GUIDELINES TO PROFITABLE BIBLE STUDY

Mike Riley

Profitable Bible study involves more than just opening to a chapter and reading the words on the pages. The following are seven guidelines to help us make the most of our study of God's word:

Set aside a regular time — Unless we schedule a specific and uninterrupted time for Bible study, we will more than likely neglect Bible study.

Before we start reading — Let's ask God for help in understanding the text.

Carefully think about what we are reading — Not all of the Bible's treasures lie like pebbles on the surface. To mine the gold, we have to dig.

Seek to understand what the author was communicating to the people who first read the book or letter before we decide how to properly apply it today.

Write down at least one truth or principle we can put into everyday practice.

Try different translations of the Bible — If we find ourselves skimming over familiar words, a new translation might focus our mind on a passage in a new way.

Let's not get discouraged — Some parts of the Bible are more interesting than others, and some we may not understand immediately. But there's enough that we can understand, revolutionizing our life if we apply it. Let's read Proverbs 2:1-9 with the above guidelines in mind. Then try studying again tomorrow, remembering that the Bible's treasures are found by those who dig for them.

*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 12:25f
AM Lesson: Doing What We Ought (Hebrews 6:11-12).
PM Lesson: Christ, Our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16).
Wednesday Bible Study: Revelation 17:9f

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Kaden Jamiel** is starting to regain some weight—he’s up to 2 lbs.—12 oz. as of yesterday morning—and is doing better. **Katelynngayle** is recovering as expected.
- **Hazle Leap** is still experiencing weakness and stomach issues. She is to have a CT scan this week.
- **Ryleigh Farson**, 14-year-old great-granddaughter of **Norm Behrendt** and niece of **Heather Lucas**, underwent a below-the-knee amputation of her right leg this past Tuesday. She may get to go home today if she is managing the pain.

REMINDERS:

❖ **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 and baby Kaden Jamiel, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Hazel Leap, Heather Lucas, Jody Main, Richard Mayo, Carol Mitchell, Linda Steele, Helena Tewksbury, Jean Whitley.</p>	<p><u>SHUT-INS:</u> Debbie Jones, Nancy Love, and Randy Yost</p>
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FAMILY AND FRIENDS: **Bill and Peggy Albright** (friend of the Starrett’s), **Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Betty Cox** (Diann Bachmann’s sister), **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.
31	60	33	\$2,558	29