

AUGUST 27, 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
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WELCOME!

We invite you to all of our services.

“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)

SINGERS OF THE “NEW SONG”

Rev. 14:1-5

INTRODUCTION: Who will sing the New Song? “The redeemed from the earth” (14:3).

I. THEY WERE FAITHFUL (4a).

- A. “They were virgins” [*parthenos*]
1. Some contend John viewed celibacy as a higher state of righteousness. Such belief was not held in the early church but Paul predicted the rise of such false notions, cf. 1 Timothy 4:3.
 - a. God never said this. (Gen. 2:18).
 - b. Paul compared the church’s relationship w/ Christ as that of a bride to her husband (Eph. 5:22-33).
 - c. Church leaders are required to be married (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6).
 - d. “Marriage *is* honorable” (Heb. 13:4; cf. 1 Cor. 7:1, 26).
 2. Others think John was irrational or misogynistic: “Why just men”?
 - a. “In chapter 17 *Babylon* is pictured as a harlot, a female prostitute whose purpose in life is to seduce men.
 - b. John’s focus is on spiritual purity; nothing to do with gender roles
- B. These undefiled, virgin males refer symbolically to the spiritual purity indicative of faithfulness to God.
1. In OT, Israel is portrayed as God’s bride because unfaithfulness on her part was called adultery (Jer. 3:6; Hos. 4:12).
 2. Unfaithfulness to God is spiritual adultery and death in this state precludes singing the new song.

II. THEY WERE FOLLOWERS (4b).

- A. They had accepted Jesus’ most basic, yet demanding command; “Follow Me” (Mk. 2:14; 10:21; Lk. 9:59; Jn. 1:43; 21:19-22).
- B. They had broken ties w/ their past and put Him first (Mk. 8:34).
- C. They followed Him even to the point of physical death (2:10).
- D. Does Christ expect that from us (1 Pet. 2:21).
- E. The only way to sing the New Song is to be a continual follower of Christ.

III. THEY WERE FIRST FRUITS (4c).

- A. Among the 1st generation of Christ’s harvest.
- B. “First fruits” has OT origin; 1st and/or best part of a farmer’s harvest (Exo. 23:19).
- C. Originally it referred to a symbolic offering to God Later the term became used for any offering or gift, which is the way it’s used here referring to: Faithful Israel (Jer. 2:3), and Faithful Christians (Jas. 1:18).

IV. THEY WERE FAULTLESS (5).

- A. Truthfulness has always been prized by the Lord.
1. Temptation to lie may have been especially strong under the intense persecution of the times (21:8).
 2. “Without fault”= blameless, without blemish, unblemished, fit to be used as a sacrifice (Lev. 22:19, 21; cf. 1 Pet. 1:19; Rom. 12:1-2).
- B. Perhaps the combination of these two terms implies the absence of compromise among the faithful. Lying is a compromise with the truth; any fault is a compromise with a standard.

30-DAY NEW TESTAMENT CHALLENGE

Several congregations of the Lord's church are challenging all members to read through the New Testament throughout the month of September.

It may sound like a daunting task, but it is not that difficult. It requires only about 30-35 minutes each day. I'm sure we could all watch 30 minutes less television each day.

Below is a daily schedule. Who knows? You might even decide to do this each month.

1. Matt. 1-9	16. Acts 15-21
2. Matt. 10-15	17. Acts 22-28
3. Matt. 16-22	18. Romans 1-8
4. Matt. 23-28	19. Romans 9-16
5. Mark 1-8	20. 1 Cor. 1-9
6. Mark 9-16	21. 1 Cor. 10-16
7. Luke 1-6	22. 2 Cor. 1-13
8. Luke 7-11	23. Gal., Eph.
9. Luke 12-18	24. Phlp. 1— 2 Thes. 3
10. Luke 19-24	25. 1 Tim. 1—Phlmn 1
11. John 1-7	26. Hebrews 1-13
12. John 8-13	27. James 1—2 Pet. 1-3
13. John 14-21	28. 1 John 1—Jude 1
14. Acts 1-7	29. Revelation 1-11
15. Acts 8-14	30. Revelation 12-22

*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 2:28f

AM Lesson: Singers of the New Song (Revelation 14:1-5).

PM Lesson: Starting Over- Starting Right (Nehemiah 8:1-3).

Wednesday Bible Study: Revelation 17:15f

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Richard Mayo** got a good post-op report from his doctor. He has a checkup in six months.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ **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 and baby Kaden Jamiel, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Hazel Leap, Heather Lucas, Jody Main, Richard Mayo, Carol Mitchell, Linda Steele, Helena Tewksbury, Jean Whitley.

SHUT-INS:
Debbie Jones,
Nancy Love,
and Randy Yost

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), **Ryleigh Farson**, **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.
35	51	38	\$2,287	33

“O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name” (Psalm 63:1-4).