

OCTOBER 22, 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 I BE LIFTED UP”**

**John 12:23-33**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. No individual with a more profound effect on society.
2. He encountered many problems while on earth, among the biggest was that of His rejection by people in general, the Jews in particular.
3. No matter how many miracles that He did, they would still not believe Him—No matter how many parables ...some would still not follow.
4. But He tells us that there would be one event that would draw all men unto Him (John 12:32): His crucifixion: Jn. 3:14; 8:28. “Lift up” - exalt; raise; raise to dignity.

### **I. THE LIFTING UP ...WAS THE DEATH-BLOW TO SATAN (Jn. 12:31).**

- A. Satan would bruise Christ's heel but that Christ would bruise Satan's head (Gen. 3:15)—A death blow was dealt to Satan.
- B. Until the death of Christ, Satan held power over us (Col. 1:13).
- C. No forgiveness under the OT Law (Heb. 10:1-4).
- D. Forgiveness of sins came only by the sacrifice of the blameless Son of God (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Not possible to buy, earn, or merit salvation, neither are we born into salvation.

### **II. CHRIST WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS LIFTED UP FOR OUR SINS.**

- A. Man has a habit of exalting men rather than Christ (1 Cor.1:10-13).
  1. In the church, powerful preachers are often exalted.
  2. In denominations, other men (and women) are exalted.
- B. We do not draw attention/followers to us; but to Chris (1 Cor. 2:1-5; Jn. 3:30).

### **III. THE LIFTING UP OF CHRIST WILL DRAW MEN UNTO GOD.**

- A. Many have no confidence in the power of the Gospel (Rom. 1:16).
  1. They feel we have to entertain them.
  2. Brethren, if hearing God's Word won't draw you to worship, you don't need to come.
- B. God desires true worshipers who will worship him in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:23-24).

### **IV. HOW DO WE LIFT UP CHRIST?**

- A. We Fulfill the Great Commission. Mt. 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 4:1-4. People tend to talk about things which excite them.
- B. We can lift Him up by being unashamed of Him (Mk 8:38).
- C. We can lift Him up by keeping His commandments (Lk 6:46).

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. What is the drawing power of the church (Jn. 12:32)?
2. Why are you here today?
  - A. Worship or entertainment?
  - B. Hopefully, it is because there is One who died for your sins and you want to honor Him.

## MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man” (Psalm 118:8). How true that is! I have heard this verse quoted and have read it many times myself. The meaning, it seems, is obvious; don’t trust in man for salvation, rather, trust in God. That is true, but past circumstances have pointed me to a practical application that applies to daily living as well as final victory.

We have all place certain confidence in man at some point in our lives; school teachers, doctors, family, friends, etc. At one time or another, man has let us down. Doctors can make mistakes with devastating results, as can teachers, and so on. However when friends, in whom we have placed a measure of confidence, let us down, it can crush our spirits like nothing else. Close friends bring you laughter, happiness, and stability which just cannot be equaled with daily acquaintances. Close friends—real friends will go out of their way to please you and include you—you will do the same for them and it is a wonderful time.

But then it happens: that friend or group of friends will do the unexpected, and it does not matter what “it” is, but “it” makes you question whether or not they were genuine friends or if they were simply using you as a steppingstone to reach the next level in some pursuit of worldly renown (depressed yet?). When this happens it can leave us feeling empty and used, but the reality is you are not the primary one at fault. They took you for granted and got what they wanted and then like a mist, they were gone.

But notice I said that you were not the “primary” fault; some of the fault does lie with you (me). Sometimes we set ourselves up for this very unpleasant turn of events. Does it mean we selected the wrong people to be our friends? Not necessarily the wrong people, but the wrong *expectation of people* in general. We have formed a concept in our minds that friends will never hurt us in any way and we almost elevate them to infallibility. We place in them the confidence which we should only place in God for only God is worthy of such veneration and is the only One capable of never leaving or forsaking us (Hebrews 13:5; cf. Deut. 31:6).

Go ahead and make friends and enjoy them. However, realize that they are not perfect. Go into any relationship with the clear understanding that sometimes friends let you down, even Christians. You may even let them down too. Put your confidence in God for He will never let you down. “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24)—✍

*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 Study: Romans 5:1f

AM Lesson: If I Be Lifted Up (John 12:23-33).

PM Lesson: Rights Christ Refused (Matt. 3:13-17).

Wednesday Study: Revelation 19:14f

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Hazel Leap** is still experiencing weakness and will have tests on Monday. She is staying with one of her daughters.
- There will be a pot-luck dinner after morning worship on October 29<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet on the table under the picture directory.
- **POTTER Children's Home** picked up the cans and have left more on the table in the rear of the auditorium.

<b><u>IN OUR PRAYERS:</u></b> Kevin Adkins, Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Hazel Leap, Jody Main, Carol Mitchell, Linda Steele, Helena Tewksbury.				<b><u>SHUT-INS:</u></b> Debbie Jones, Nancy Love, and Randy Yost
<b><u>FAMILY AND FRIENDS:</u></b> <b>Bill and Peggy Albright</b> (friend of the Starrett's), <b>Weston Boulet</b> (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), <b>Betty Cox</b> (Diann Bachmann's sister), <b>Ryleigh Farson</b> , <b>Linda Potts</b> (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), <b>Addy Reed</b> , <b>Rodney Reeves</b> (Erica Cunningham's father), <b>John Rockhold</b> , <b>John Shipley</b> (New Concord), <b>Conrad Schultz</b> , and remember to pray for <b>one another</b> .				
<b>AM STUDY</b>	<b>SUN. AM</b>	<b>SUN. PM</b>	<b>GIVING (\$2,460)</b>	<b>WED.</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$2,363</b>	<b>32</b>

**REMINDERS:**

- ❖ The **New Concord church of Christ** is hosting a *Congregational Evangelism Seminar* starting today. See the flier on the bulletin board.