

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Lancelot Watson- Evangelist

Worship Opportunities
Sundays

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.

Mid-Week

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Patchogue Church of Christ Patchogue, NY 11772

A multi-racial community of believers with a purpose and vision to live holy lives, fulfill the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ by serving each other and our community with compassion, love and the powerful gospel of Jesus Christ.

Records you Made:	12/28	12/21
Bible Classes	29	40
Morning Worship	89	91
Contribution	\$2389	\$2301
Mid Week Bible Class—Wed.	-	-

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings. Ro 16:16

Youth Corner

By
Jamal Colson



God is with you...

Happy New Year 2015!

May this year 2015 be a year filled with ever increasing faith and growth in the knowledge of the Lord. I saw a quote from an unknown author that sort of went like this:

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift that is why we call it the "present."

Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your **God is with you** wherever you go."

Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, **for I am with you**; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

As we travel into the New Year 2015, I must admit that sometimes, I'm a little fearful of the unknown. At times I do tremble and I am dismayed; but God tells us to continue along the path he has laid out for us. In the past, when I consider the above scriptures, I have focused on the "do not fear" or "be strong" part and unfortunately, I've failed at numerous opportunities. This year I want to focus on the "God is with you" part of the scripture. As I focus on this, it will help to remind me that God will strengthen me. The "Be strong" is in him, Not me! The "Be Courageous" is not in me but in Him, and we know as we trust in Him, God is with us.

In conclusion, 2014 is history we cannot go back and change anything. 2015 is a mystery we cannot speed ahead and see all that is going to happen. Let us therefore encourage one another of the gift we have in the present and move forward believing and relying upon that fact that "God is with you"!

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Patchogue Church of Christ

1 N. Sunrise
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The next level – Higher ground

"I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining ev'ry day; Still praying as I onward bound, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground." (#539)

All across the brotherhood Churches and brethren have been challenged by this popular song to move on to higher spiritual planes. We cannot allow ourselves to become complacent or stagnant. Neither can the Church afford to lose sight of its mission. The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ Jesus. In a clear and unequivocal way He told us what He was about: "**For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**" Luke 19:10

The great commission is the marching orders Jesus gives to his followers for them to carry out His mission: "**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age,**" (Matt 28:19-20). This is not a matter of choice, it is mandatory! It is a command that is to be obeyed like all others. If anyone thinks Christ does not concern Himself with our level of obedience, he or she is greatly mistaken. The apostle wrote, "**The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything**" (2 Cor 2:9); "**Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock,**" (Matt 7:24-25).

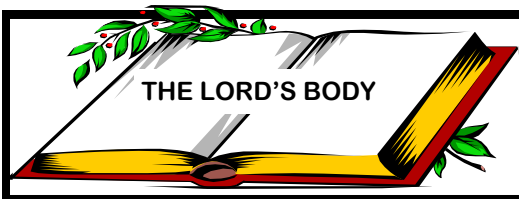
Maturing and growing congregations are those which keep their focus on the mission of Christ. They understand that all church programs have the same purpose: growth and development of its membership. This falls into three areas, inward, outward and upward. Inward has to do with individual spiritual development, outward has to do with the indi-

vidual's fulfilling of the will and mission of Christ, and upward has to do with the individual's union and fellowship with Christ, (I John 1:3).

It is normal for an individual's or a congregation's development to go in levels; basic, intermediate, advanced is one way we could view it. Obviously, the goal is to reach the highest level, but to get there we must go through the lower levels. Stagnation occurs when we get stuck at a level below the highest. If this continues for too long, regression occurs and if this is not checked the individual or body dies - spiritually that is.

The Church here in Patchogue is now at a point where it needs to move on to the next level. We must now move on to "higher ground." It is necessary for us to become more focused and in a more determined way strive to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ. This is not the work of a few, neither is it the pet program of the preacher. This is the mission of the Church - getting the lost saved and keeping the saved, saved. There is no end to this work, as all around us are people dying in sin. Friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors etc., all are lost, and if we believe and accept the teachings of Christ, we understand that there is one and only one way they can be saved and that is by their acceptance of Jesus Christ and their obedience of the gospel of Christ. This is the same gospel preached by Jesus and His apostles and that the same Jesus commands you and me to teach. Love for people - our neighbors, families, friends and acquaintances, compels us, Jesus commands us and the ultimate salvation of our souls demands it.

Let us therefore lay aside our fears and complacencies and get ourselves fired up to carry out the mission of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Let's designate 2015 as the year for maturity and growth – inward, upward and outward.



The family by John Stallworth



LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD



Ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watron

Privileged to Serve 01/04/2015

Morning Service

Song leader Ben Field
Welcome/Prayer Jason Harper
Song # 47
Scripture – Heb. 10:19-25 Jason Hofman
Song # 448
Song # 242
Second Prayer Mike Salimbene
Song # 76
Lord's table and Collection:
Lead Derek Petersen
Assistant John Sicignano
Assistant James Guiffre
Assistant Tom Meeham
Song - Kids to class
Song # 4
Scripture - 2 Cor. 8:1-5 Jamal Colson
Sermon - Lancelot Watson
Invitation # 915
Responses & prayer:
Mike Salimbene
Jamal Colson
Announcements &
Closing Prayer Jason Harper
Closing Song # 703

The Gospel Truth

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Stop Judging Me - part 1

Many of us have felt the pressure and condemnation of man's judgment. Too often from one another; the church. The impact can be incredibly hurtful, discouraging and even debilitating. Some of us have been crushed to react with negative side effects:

Walking away from God and the church
 Isolate to Reclusion / Introversion
 Super sensitive and defensiveness

We defend ourselves mentally or verbally with verses like:

Lk. 6:37 - Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Rom. 14:10 - You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

Rom. 2 – ALL ABOUT 'JUDGMENT'

Let me add one to your list with:

Rev. 12:10 - Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

Eph. 6:10-12 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

For #1 above: Let me encourage you with the reminder that the "accuser" is working day and night to tear down your spirit and focus. If he can debilitate your faith, the true enemy WINS and we lose our TRUE friend and father in heaven.

Let's consider more on this (#2, #3) in the next weeks. Stay tuned.

78.74

You might be blessed to go further than this number but the average number of years that you can currently expect to reasonably live to in our country is 78.74. In Japan it is 83.1. Don't you wish you lived there now! J Now take your current age and subtract it from that number. How much time is left? Also keep in mind your last few years are usually spent in pain, suffering, incontinence, and in being cared for, so they are not particularly productive. How much time is left if you account for that time too? For me it is less than 40 years left.

Begin with the end in mind –

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 "Remember him--before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."

Remember- you are a spirit trapped in a physical body. More importantly, what do we want God to say about our life when he takes it back from the clay in which it currently resides? We only want to hear "Well done."

Now let's consider what we really want. What do you want your funeral to look like? What do you want people to say about you? What do you want people to think about you as they remember you? What witness can your brothers and sisters in Christ offer of your life and time? What would we all say and think about you right now?

Now just do it. Seek God, worship Him, serve in gratitude not in delusion that doing a lot earns you a lot with God, and make the end of your days spectacular!

PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL

The apostle Paul makes an interesting observation and comparison in 1 Cor. 9:25 that encourages us to start the New Year in a positive direction. He writes, "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that... I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." Paul reminds us with these words that we should not live our Christian lives aimlessly. What better time than at the beginning of a new year to set some goals for our spiritual growth and development? We expect to grow one year older during the next year. Why not have some expectations for one year of spiritual growth instead of just "running aimlessly"?

Setting spiritual goals is a very personal exercise. Only you (and God) know your true spiritual condition, so only you can decide on the best choice of goals. Paul again exhorts, "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith;" (2 Cor. 13:5). So, know yourself, but in addition, include God in the decision. Pray for guidance in this as we should in everything. As John writes, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" (1 John 5:14).

Some examples of goals to achieve spiritual growth include: systematic bible study – deeper knowledge of a certain book or topic; systematic prayer – at a specific time and/or place daily; outreach & hospitality – start a Bible study group or prayer meeting in your home; set a target for the number of persons you would like to teach the gospel this year. These suggestions may not be for you, but, the idea is that based on who and what you are, make specific plans for what you can do to help you grow spiritually. Do not spend 2015 "beating air," but rather beat your body into disciplined activity to move you closer to the "crown that will last forever."