

CHURCH OF CHRIST

295 Sunrise Road North,
Patchogue, NY 11772

Phone: 631-475-6556

E-mail: lanwat@live.com

www.patchoguechurchofchrist.org

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: | 5/24/15 | 5/17/15 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Bible Classes | 22 | 22 |
| Worship Service | 83 | 82 |
| General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg | \$1769.43 | \$2189.00 |
| Wed Bible Class | 21 | 18 |
| Baptisms/ | 1 | - |

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

Youth Corner

By
Jamal Colson



Told you so...

Young people "told you so" was a phrase often heard growing up. If you haven't heard it, it's okay because it's coming. Young people learn to accept correction, it's not easy, but it's beneficial and can prevent a lot of heartaches. You can find many scriptures in Proverbs that encourage individuals to listen and to follow wisdom so you don't have to hear the "told you so."

On one of Paul's journeys, he experienced a storm that not only had a life lesson but also a spiritual lesson. Acts 27:21-23 (NIV)

"After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me..."

Scripture tells us that in addition to the storm, they also went a long time without food. Those would have been enough challenges but along with everything else Paul says, "You should have taken my advice" and there you have the "Told you so!"

The bible is filled with examples of "told you so's;" we could go back to Adam and Eve, as God told them that they could eat the fruit from every tree in the garden except from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, we know how the account turns out (God told them so).

In conclusion, if you miss the correction it's not all over. In vs.22 "I urge you to keep up your courage;" deal with your setbacks and learn to accept Godly instruction. Young people continue to listen and follow Godly wisdom, its hard and sometimes difficult but remember with God all things are possible. Go out this week and be a blessing to at least one person.

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Patchogue Church of Christ
295 Sunrise Service Road N.
Patchogue, NY 11772.

Volume 2 No. 22

May 31, 2015

Take Control of Your Mind

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared," (Matthew 13:24-26).

In many ways our mind is our garden. It is the source of the produce from which we feed our souls; we have total control over our minds; we control what is planted in it and we control the use of what is grown in it. The mind is the soul of our being, we must cherish it. For this reason we must really take control of it, purposefully determining what it grows. Like the field in Jesus' parable, if we don't control what it grows, it will become a weed patch, from which we reap shame and misery. If on the other hand we exercise wise control, then it will be filled with good things, the indescribable beauty of God's creative power; good seed can only produce good fruits, "we reap what we plant" (Galatians 6:8).

So how do we control this garden? In one word it is "choice." We choose first of all whether we want a garden of weeds or a garden of good plants and fruits. No one makes that choice for us, we and we only make it for ourselves. You, dear friend, have absolute rule over your mind! You are its king or queen. Furthermore, it is the only place that guarantees you absolute privacy. Since this is so, rule it well. How? Begin with a determination to develop a good, clean garden. A clean garden is a clean mind; a clean mind is a weed free garden. So get into the habit of carefully examining each thought before it is planted. If it is a good seed, keep it, if not, discard it! Also purposefully seek out and plant good seeds in your garden. This will guarantee good results. We deceive ourselves into thinking we can reap good produce from weeds. It will not happen.

There are three important divine laws we are to keep in mind. The first is every seed produces its own kind (Gen.1:11); the second is that we reap what we plant (Gal. 6:7; and the third, we reap later than when we plant. It means therefore that we can determine now the kind of harvest we'll have sometime in the future. If we want a peaceful, happy and harmonious life then we'll have to plant seeds of happiness, peace and harmony. If we plant seeds of disunity and conflict then that's what we'll harvest in the future

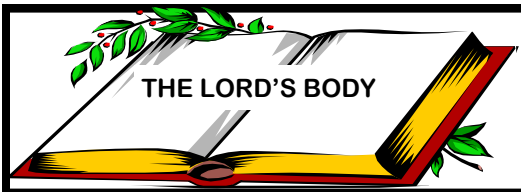
- division, strife and turmoil. Seeds produce their kind!

Let's go further and deeper. What will we harvest from the seeds of pornography, deceit, unfaithfulness, gambling, smoking, drugs, alcohol, over-eating, hate, malice, ungodliness, violence, and such like? On the other hand what will we harvest from seeds of love, joy, peace, faithfulness, forgiveness, gentleness, kindness, goodness, self-control, respect for all persons, and such like (Gal. 5:22)? We know the answers; the bad seeds will add misery and unhappiness while the good seeds will make life enjoyable, happy and fulfilled. The great thing is that we have control over the seeds—it is *our* mind, *our* garden; we determine the life we will experience. So let us make wise choices that will generate the desired results. "The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life," (Gal. 6:8-9).

But how do we get rid of the weeds in our garden? One good way is to choke them with good plants, that is, surround each weed with a sufficient number of good plants that the weeds are isolated, stifled and overwhelmed, thus losing their potency. Surround each bad thought or idea with a dozen fabulous godly and spiritual thought. Such thoughts are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable and praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8). These thoughts are weed killers; they uplift, encourage, and motivate those around us – family, friends, neighbors and self.

Gardens are not made in a day. God gave us a lifetime for the job. Control of our gardens, our minds comes with practice, study, and application of the wisdom of Christ Jesus. We are encouraged to have the mind of Christ, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ" (Philippians 2:5). This enables us to cultivate gardens of radiance and splendor, (light and salt, Matt. 5:13-14). With such a mind we enjoy spending time with self; we never feel lonely and we are always eager to share its produce with others. Isn't the joy of a garden the pleasure we get from sharing its fruits with others? Yes, it is! We experience a sense of worth, purpose and fulfillment when we share the fruit of our toils and it is at its best when that fruit is plucked from the garden of our mind. Let us therefore tend the garden of our minds carefully, for out of it springs the issues of life (Prov. 4:23).

Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD



Ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

Privileged to Serve 5/31/2015
Morning Service
Song leader Greg Watkins
Welcome/Prayer Derek Peterson
Song # 810
Scripture – Psalm 4:1-8 JJ Stallworth
Songs # 851
Song # 853
Second Prayer John Sicignano
Song # 365
Lord's table and Collection:
Lead James Guiffre
Assistant Anthony Soto
Assistant Chris McGue
Assistant Barry Koeber
Song - Kids to class
Song # 905
Scripture- Kyle Watkins
Lk. 10:21; Heb. 13:20-21
Sermon - Lancelot Watson
Invitation # 242
Responses & prayer:
Jason Harper
John Stallworth
Announcements &
Closing Prayer Derek Peterson
Closing Song # 703

The Gospel Truth
A publication of the Patchogue Church of Christ, 385 Sunrise Highway, (North Service Road), Corner of Hewlett Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772.
Editors:
Lancelot Watson - 781-420-4412
John Stallworth - 631-312-1597
Benjamin Field - 516-885-2365
E-mail comments, articles and questions to: lanwat@live.com

How was the nap?
Mt. 26:36-46 ..Jesus went ... to ... Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ...he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." ... he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, ...he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. He went away a second time and prayed,... 43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping,... 44 he ... prayed the third time...45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? ..."
At a critical moment in Jesus' life, the men he depended on were sleeping. After three reminders, they were still sleeping.
A scary fact to learn here is: A Christian can be spiritually "SLEEPING".
*Mt.13:24-25 24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. Bad things happen while we're sleeping!
Mk. 13:33-36 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, ...35 "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back... do not let him find you sleeping.
Each of us have been given tasks in Christ. Will Jesus return and say "Well done good and faithful servant"? Or will he find us "sleeping". God needs a "Few Good Men". Jesus changed the world with twelve.
Are you going to be one of the twelve or just living in a dream world while you are asleep. Don't miss his wakeup call.
*Rom. 13:11 ... The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.**

Baptism- "Are you saying ___ is in/going to hell?"
Argument #5- "Are all who "believe" in Christ going to/in hell if they are not baptized? Perhaps baptism is scriptural, but is everyone who doesn't see it like YOU damned??"
ANSWER –I'm not saying that. Accurately representing scripture is different from declaring God's treatment of a soul. I did not witness their life, nor the judgement of the dead. There are enough examples of God's demonstration that He gives scripture, but is not ruled by it to give even the most legalistic person some pause (Lk 10:25-37, Acts 17:30, Lk 23:43, Heb. 11:31, James 2:25, 2 Sam 12:13, Jn 8:1-11, Heb. 11:5, Heb.9:27). The Samaritan showed spiritual truth in the midst of doctrinal error, the punishment of adultery was death, the thief should have become a Jew, scripture says all men die but some didn't, and we had no reason to believe God "overlooked" anything of the Law until God revealed it.
Judging souls is above the authority of man. We serve God. We are not God. *No one can declare what He did, or dare tell Him what to do with a soul. When I see how the Coptic Christians died at the hands of ISIS, as 21 were be-headed while refusing to the death to deny Jesus/convert to Islam- even while their heads were removed - my human response is awe and admiration. I simply refuse to judge despite what I see as clear error in typical Coptic practices. What I saw haunted me, and while I can comfortably cite clear scriptural absolutes on baptism, I cannot cast eternal judgements on such as these. If you feel you can, consider watching the video. Since I am worthy of damnation, I refuse, and I have little regard for how popular this is. If it were my judgment I would say they fulfilled the intents and purposes of all scripture. It would not surprise me to see them in heaven (Matt.10:32-33). I believe God to be a fair judge; considering EVERY aspect of a man (Ezek. 18:5-9, Deut. 32:4, Ps 7:11).*
BUT – Any who dare to represent God (1 Peter 4:11, 2 Cor. 5:20) do not have a right to teach anything which deviates from clear scripture. Nor do we have the right to teach error based on exceptions. Shall we all start smoking because some people live to 95? Why risk the smoking section of eternity hoping to be an exception? To do so is to call scripture a lie.
My response to the baptism issue is "Bible teaching is clear and I believe it. Jesus says most choose incorrectly. I won't cross into eternity doing anything short of the Gospel in full. I recommend the same to you. I would not take an eternal bet on a whim that God makes me an exception. I believe any person to be in great danger who willingly ignores scripture."
We can adhere to doctrine without presuming to be God.

Knowledge
In examining the qualities that will keep us from being "ineffective and unproductive" (2Peter 1:8), we see that to virtue and faith we should add knowledge. Let us look at a few of the many facts the Bible gives us about knowledge.
God wants us to know Him: What do you know about God? He is the creator, our father, faithful, merciful, He is Love, truth, holy... and the list goes on. Knowing about God is good. But God wants us to know Him. He wants us to "seek him and ...reach out for him and find him though he is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27). It is through our knowledge of Him that God gives us "everything we need for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3).
God wants us to have a knowledge of the truth: He has spoken to us, and His word is truth (John 17:17). We therefore gain knowledge of God's truth by reading and studying His word. If we do not know what He wants us to do, how can we do it? Paul tells us to transform and renew our minds from "the pattern of this world" so we "will be able to test and approve what God's will is" (Romans 12:2). We can only do this when we have a knowledge of God's truth. The apostles prayed for Christians to have knowledge: "we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will ... and we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:9-11).
Having the knowledge of God is like wearing perfume: When we live by the truth we can't hoard it, or hide it. It reaches out to others. God, "through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing." (2 Corinthians 2:14-15). We become living testaments of God and everything we have imbibed of Him.