

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:	3/29/15	3/22/15
Bible Classes	40	39
Worship Service	97	88
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$2280.00	\$2294.00
Wed Bible Class	GM -62	38
Baptisms/	-	-

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

Youth Corner

By
Jamal Colson



Will he find faith on the earth?

Luke 18:1-6 (NIV) "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'"

In these passages Jesus teaches us about prayer and faith. He helps us to understand the answer to the question concerning Faith. Jesus wondered if he would find the widow's type of faith in God on the earth when He returned.

First things first we should always pray. We should always have faith in God that no matter what the situation is. We must always believe that God can work it out! Next, we should not give up. Again no matter how difficult it may become to do the right thing do not give up.

Verse 4 : "For some time he (The unjust judge) refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will sew that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

We need to be this persistent in our faith that we keep believing!!!

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says: 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

In conclusion, we should remember that God will bring about justice for his chosen ones! Let's us not be too ashamed to cry out to him day and night. The Lord's reply "he will see that they get justice and quickly". But only individually can we answer the question Jesus asks about faith: "Will he find faith on the earth?"

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

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The empty tomb

"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." (Matthew 28:5-6)

The tomb was empty! Jesus had had a mockery of a trial and had been found guilty. The punishment was death by crucifixion. The disciples had witnessed his crucifixion and burial and now three days later, they learn that the body had disappeared, the tomb was empty!

So as to prevent this from happening the Jews went to Pilate and requested, "Give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day." "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go; make the tomb as secure as you know how." "So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard," (Matt 27:63-66).

The guard posted was not one person. The "guard" was a contingent of soldiers. Notwithstanding their precautions the Jews were confronted with a dilemma. The body that was buried had disappeared. What were they to do? Not willing to face the implication of the resurrection, they resorted to bribery and lies. "The guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. The Chief Priests with the elders ... gave **the soldiers** a large sum of money, telling them, 'You are to say, His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'... So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed," (Matt 28:11-15).

The body of Jesus was not stolen. What happened was as the Holy Spirit revealed. "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). What are we to understand from this empty tomb? What are

its meaning and message?

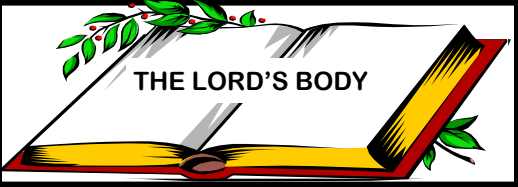
The empty tomb means that Jesus Christ is a divine being and HE is for real! He is whom He claimed to be, God! Dying and coming out of death is the ultimate and greatest proof that God Almighty could give proving that the person, message and work of Jesus Christ are real and true. His teachings are true, His promises are sure and the life He offers to us is real.

The empty tomb means that Jesus Christ has defeated death and the devil. Our greatest enemies have been vanquished by The One who desires to be our Lord! The triumphant Christ makes His declaration, "I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades" (Revelation 1:17-18).

The empty tomb means that your tomb will some day be just as empty. It will happen just as Jesus says, "a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned." (John 5:28-29) This being the case we must make the necessary preparations for that day. Why? Because we "have faith in God that it will happen just as he told [us]" (Acts 27:25).

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the message of the empty tomb. In dying on the cross, Jesus paid for our sins. In rising from the dead he makes it possible for us to have a transformed life with a glorious ending. This life begins when we surrender our will to Jesus, obey His gospel and remain His dedicated servants. Let us therefore surrender our lives to Him and experience what He died for us to have.

Lancelot W.



Privileged to Serve 04/05/2015
Morning Service
Welcome/Prayer Derek Peterson
Song - Brian Maddox #345
Scripture – Matt. 27:62-66 Joe Cirnigliaro
Songs - Brian Maddox #464
Song - J. Harper #959
Second Prayer James Guiffre
Song - J. Harper - Hard Fighting Soldier
Song - Greg Watkins #364
Lord's table and Collection:
Lead Mike Salimbene
Assistant Anthony Soto
Assistant Jamal Colson
Assistant Ryan Costello
Song - Kids to class
Song - Ben Field #448
Scripture - Matt. 28:1-8 Kyle Watkins
Sermon - Lancelot Watson
Invitation - Watkins # 926
Responses & prayer:
Jason Harper
Mike Salimbene
Announcements &
Closing Prayer Derek Peterson
Closing Song # 703

The Gospel Truth
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The family by John Stallworth

“I don’t wanna ... be gentle”
Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy ... goodness, faithfulness, gentleness...
We still ask: if these are “fruit of the spirit”, how are non-Christians able to do these things. The Greek word for ‘Gentleness’ is also translated in NIV as ‘meekness’ and ‘humility’. A similar word is translated ‘proper’ and ‘appropriate’. An antonym for ‘gentleness’ would be ‘harsh’. The combination of words give us a feeling of the Bible meaning. As a growing Christian: When was the last time you worked on your ‘gentleness’? Humans are emotional beings. Our hearts sometime leads us to dangerous places. The world will tell us ‘follow your heart’; as a map for life. If you consider this council when someone hurts you with their actions or words: the non-Christian is harsh and violent. Jer 17:9 will challenge us against such advice. Our Lord will challenge us in Lk. 6:28: “bless those who curse you”. Rom. 12 will convict us to feed our enemy. The point is our **spiritual** ‘Gentleness’ is called when our emotions are involved. Husbands are specifically challenged in *Col. 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.*
The world is watching. Christians are meant to be LIGHT. What should the non-Christian see? Perhaps many things, but one is our GENTLENESS:
1 Pet. 3:15 ... Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,
1 Tim. 6:11 ... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.
Col. 3:12 ...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
Phil. 4:5 Let your gentleness be evident to all...
Gentleness is a spiritual garment we put on with Jesus as we dress ourselves each day. We can be as right as right can be, but it must be smothered in gentleness.
Do you know what the Spirit is calling you to do? Do it!
Jn. 12:49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.



*LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD*

Easter and Christ
There is a reason some are uncomfortable with mixing Easter and the Resurrection. Bunnies are a leftover from the pagan festival of the goddess Eostre, and had the symbol of the hare. Our name for the female hormone estrogen comes from this. “Sunrise” services have roots in the history of sun worship and the Solstice. Pagan worship and the Spring Solstice are well known. Eggs represented fertility and were used in rituals for ensuring the bearing of children. The hiding of and consumption of eggs, candy, etc. had roots in belief that consuming something or its image gave its powers, and Catholics trying to absorb these traditions. Ishtar and Horus (“born” on Dec 25) were gods who had been resurrected and reborn and celebrated in the spring. Catholicism absorbed these traditions out of frustration. There was Pagan cultural resistance to giving them up.
So, my faithful Protestants, you are likely celebrating a pagan holiday to false gods, later accepted by Catholics. But hey, you probably have nice clothes on! J
Although we do not need to be legalistic, it is good to be aware of the history and the feelings of some brethren with respect to “resurrection egg hunts” etc, as they feel there to be a mixing of the sacred with the profane. To some Christians, Paul’s discussion of idols as being nothing gives liberty. They might point to the days of the week having origin in false gods and being meaningless. Others feel irreverent in bringing such symbolism into the worship of the true God, and say it is “strange fire.” A question for reflection – would we bring symbols of Islam or Buddhism into our worship? I’m not telling you what to think but encouraging awareness and sensitivity.
With regard to the sacred, this is such a beautiful time. We cannot know when Christ was born, but we CAN know when Christ was crucified and resurrected thanks to the Jewish calendar and Passover. Lancelot pointed out the **powerful and symbolic proximity of Passover to the crucifixion** at our Gospel meeting. To me, it is so amazing that we can know the *true anniversary* of the death and resurrection of Jesus. We can know that at **this time** of year on **this very day** the Lord was crucified and resurrected; He commanded we remember His death. Let us recognize the importance of this very day as we take communion today. It is wonderful.



ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

Women in the Easter Story - Part II
The roles that women played in the Easter story leave no doubt of the importance of women to Jesus. Indeed throughout His life and ministry we see Jesus acknowledging and honoring their work and service. As women, this is very encouraging because we see and learn that God treasures our devotion and service to Him. The work of the women in the Easter story provides us with several valuable lessons that can strengthen and encourage us.
We are told that after Jesus was crucified, “The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes” (Luke 23:55-56). In their grief, these women strove to do what they considered useful and necessary. In times of distress, this is the road to take. The alternatives—sulking, being discouraged, or worse, depressed, represent the low road. Like these women, in times of sadness our commitment and trust in Jesus can motivate us to be useful and do those things that need to be done. As women, we tend to see such things if we look for them.
The Bible names four women who worked together during sorrowful time after the crucifixion: “It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.” These women did not work alone. They found comfort in each other’s company. There is much to be gained by sticking together. Cultivating and nurturing friendships with other Christian women will give us others who can strengthen us to persevere in our Christian walk and help us on various occasions to walk as Jesus would have us do.
Finally, when these women went to anoint Jesus’ body on Easter Sunday, they were the ones who found the empty tomb, and who were sent by the angels to testify about Jesus’ resurrection to the disciples. This powerful gospel message was first entrusted to Christian women. They delivered it, and at first they were not believed. Sisters, let us not be shy in following the great example these women set of sharing the good news of Christ, our resurrected savior, whether we anticipate a positive or a negative response.