

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:	11/16	11/9
Bible Classes	30	38
Morning Worship	78	74
Contribution	2878	1616 323
Mid Week Bible Class—Wed.	48	41

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

Youth Corner

By
Jamal Colson



In all your ways submit to him

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV).

What does “In all your ways submit to him” mean to you? Back in the day “all” used to mean all. It appears now-a-days that “all” means “some”, “most of” or “just about.” Young people, let bible define it as **“All.”** In **all** your ways submit to him. If we submit to him he will make our paths straight. What I love about this, is God’s willingness to give us purpose and strength for submitting to him. Purpose and strength means less wasted time.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. (Matt 7:13-14 NIV). As young people we can waste or lose so much time waiting for a straight path. Usually friends will lead us down the wide path and many will misguide us on that path. Only God will send us on the straight and narrow path.

In conclusion; do you want to continue down a path to destruction? No! Instead, choose to trust in the Lord and “lean not on your own understanding.” This is key! The world says to rely on yourself, but God says in all your ways submit to HIM! He love us more than our parents and WAY better than we can love ourselves, God will give you purpose and strength. Trust Him and Submit to Him.

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Patchogue Church of Christ

1 N. Sunrise
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Our Lord is good! Give thanks to Him

“Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ...Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations”. (Psa. 100:2-5)

What is “thanksgiving” and what is “praise” anyway? Thanksgiving is an expression of gratitude and the giving of thanks. Being thankful is a feeling and a showing of gratitude. To praise means to verbally express our admiration, to honor and to glorify with song. Being grateful is feeling and showing appreciation for the kindness and many benefits that God has given us!

Thanksgiving should be engaged in by families as a unit as well as by individuals because gratitude unites us in a common celebration of life. Of all the profound gestures of the human heart, thanksgiving is among the most communal and the most basic. Its presence creates a universal bond that overlaps tribal differences, social differences, religious differences and even family differences.

Thanksgiving is a testimony of God’s image within us. It separates us from animals which for the most part do not possess this capability to any great extent. When we choose not to give thanks, we have taken ourselves down to the level of brutish animals.

The Psalmist knew of the spiritual benefits derived from a thanksgiving that is directed heavenward. The heart that is conscious that all good things are from God cannot refrain from expressions of thanks. **“In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”** (1 Thess. 5:18). The goodness of God towards us has been staggering. Sometimes we ought to take the time to list the things for which we should be

thankful. Why not do that today? “List your many blessings, name them one by one!”

In times of difficulties, hardships and sufferings, Christians are still thankful to God. As followers of Christ we understand that our thankfulness to God is not dictated by outward circumstances, but by the love we have for our God. The apostle reminds us that God “has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” (Acts 14:17-18)

In 1636, amid the darkness of the Thirty Years’ War, a German, Martin Rinkart, is said to have buried five thousand of his countrymen in one year, an average of fifteen a day. His country was ravaged by war, death, and economic disaster. In the heart of that darkness, with the cries of fear outside his window, he sat down and wrote this table grace for his children:

Now thank we all our God, With heart
and hands and voices;

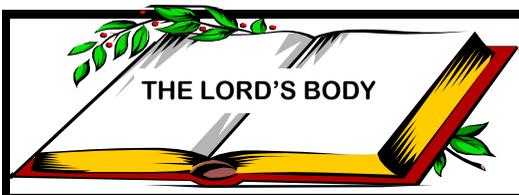
Who wondrous things had done, In
whom His world rejoices.

Who, from our mother’s arms, Hath led
us on our way

With countless gifts of love, And still is
ours today.

Let us be ever thankful to God! “But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ... So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.” (2 Thess. 2:13-15)

Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD



Ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watron

Privileged to Serve 11/23/14

Morning Service

Song leader	Ben Fields
Welcome/Prayer	Jamal Colson
Song #	647
Scripture	<u>Psalm 100</u>
Song #	578
Song #	180
Second Prayer	Jamal Colson
Song #	318
Lord's table and Collection:	
Lead	John Sicignano
Assistant	James Guiffre
Assistant	C. Hendrickson
Assistant	Steve Lynch
Song - Kids to class	
Song #	214
Scripture - <u>Phil 4:6-7</u>	Kyle Watkins
Sermon	Lancelot Watson
Invitation #	23
Responses & prayer:	
Jason Holfman	
Derek Petersen	
Announcements &	
Closing Prayer	Jamal Colson
Closing Song #	703

The Gospel Truth

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An Eye for and Eye

Have you ever been scared of a Bible verse? You tend to ignore the verse or just say, "Ah, I don't think I can do that." Maybe: "I have to grow". Well for me this was one of those verse:

Matt. 5:38-42 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

At first glance, you may go away intimidated the way I had been for years. Perhaps you're reading this and saying: "I am not going to be a doormat." I'd say this verse seems difficult and/or impossible to carry out. However, I submit that most if not all verses tend to end up in that category for us, because we don't really understand the message of what is being said.

"Eye for and eye" – if there is no first "eye or tooth", there would not be a second "eye or tooth". "Brother what are you talking about?" This phrase has to do with revenge, not being a doormat. Paul helps us with this verse in Romans.

Rom. 12:18-21 - If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
In this light, Matt.5 becomes more livable. Leaving room for God, put's in perspective who will judge all man and helps me understand my role in that judgment. I will leave you with more from Matthew.

Matt. 5:43-47 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

"The Learning Christian" - continued

Question 2- "Is the issue or discussion related to scripture, or to the traditions of the church?"

Many defend traditions as if they are scripture. We must differentiate between commanded behaviors (Lord's Supper) and those that imitate the patterns of early churches.

"Only from the Bible" and "Speak where the Bible speaks..." can be misleading. Anyone comparing those statements to COC worship, for example, will be skeptical.

Examples –

Church Pews – They didn't exist in worship for centuries (until 1500's). Protestants/Catholics *added* them to worship. First to the room's perimeter, and eventually to their current arrangement. Spots were bought and owned by the rich, and they were sometimes fought over! People viewed seating as indicating status (contrary to biblical principles), and it is possible the word "pew" offers clues that their introduction into worship shifted worship focus from scriptural commands to the sermon.

So why do we use them? Because our culture expects them. They never appear in the bible or church tradition....

Instruments – Some claim "psalms" in Ephesians 5:19 means "plucking heart strings" (phrase didn't exist until 1400s) instead of a "stringed instrument" as it translates. Others present "melody in your heart" asintended to exclude instruments, or as intending to say that instrumental melody and melody in the heart cannot coexist despite the psalms. This interpretation would then also forbid using a mouth as well, forcing us to imagine music inside the heart! ☺ Another is the "strange fire" argument. This references O.T. incidents to justify N.T. practice. Aaron's sons disobeyed explicit instructions direct from God to the prophets. We just don't have procedural step-by-step recipes like Jews had, no matter how hard we may want them sometimes. Lastly, research reveals that any bible references to worship and instruments are only in a positive context and they are promised to be present in heaven.

So why don't we use them? It was NOT a tradition of the early church, (began 600 yrs later), their use was never detailed, and we adhere to that safe pattern. Introducing them would violate the consciences of **many** and THAT would make them sinful.

Question 2 stops us from calling church traditions "scripture" inappropriately, and frees us to honestly discuss issues. Tradition and scripture both have a vital place.

A woman's Persistence Pays Off

The parables of Jesus are simple, easy to remember stories, which also convey a deep spiritual message. In a few of them, a woman is the main character who demonstrates the important lesson, indicating Jesus' recognition women in His teaching. The parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge illustrates that persistence in prayer yields positive results. Jesus tells the story of a widow who pleads with a judge, who did not fear God, to grant her justice against an adversary. The judge refused, but the widow "kept coming to him with her plea" (Luke 18:3). Finally the judge said to himself, "...because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!" Jesus asked His followers to listen to what that worldly, unbelieving judge said and realize that our just God will "bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night (Luke 18:7).

Do we cry out to God "day and night?" This parable teaches through the actions of this persistent widow that it is ok to repeat our petitions to God, constantly keeping them before Him. It benefits us to constantly repeat our prayers to God because this reminds us that we need Him and are not self-sufficient. It demonstrates our faith in the power of God—that He is "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).

Jesus told his disciples this parable "to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:10). We should never stop praying and become discouraged because we feel that God does not hear us. Instead, we should "pray continually" (1 Thess. 5:19), and have the "confidence... that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of Him" (1 John 5:14-15).