

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:	4/12/15	4/05/15
Bible Classes	45	42
Worship Service	105	143
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$2256.00 \$542.00	\$2269.00
Wed Bible Class	39	25
Baptisms/	-	-

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

Youth Corner

By
Jamal Colson



Thanks be to God for...

Good morning young people. I would like to ask a question. What are some things for which you are thankful to God? As you are thinking, let's read a few scriptures:

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Cor.9:15)

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 15:57)

Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!... (Romans 7:25)

"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" (Revelation 7:12)

...But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruitsto be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. (2 Thess. 2:13)

In conclusion, perhaps you were not sure of what to be thankful for but now through these scriptures, we realize there is much to be thankful to God for!!!

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

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

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Church of Christ - The Jerusalem Model

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. ... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:41, 47)

The Church in Jerusalem was established by Jesus Christ in fulfillment of His promise as stated in Matt. 16:18. The Holy Spirit worked through Peter and the other apostles to raise up this Church whose membership may have exceeded 50,000 people, (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7). The Jerusalem Church serves as a model for all generations. What is this model?

The pure gospel was preached, (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). The gospel of Jesus Christ is the one true basis for a true Church of Christ. When what is preached is the philosophy of the day or the likes and dislikes of religious leaders, or the "smooth things" that tickle the ears so we may be comfortable in our life-styles (Isa. 30:10; 2 Tim. 4:3-4), the end product is a group of people who are religious, but whose beliefs and practices are different from the beliefs and practices of the first century members of the Church that Jesus built. In the Church built by Jesus the pure undiluted gospel is preached - all the time. The Jerusalem Church was taught that for a believer to be to be saved he or she must obey the gospel. They were told, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," (Acts 2:38)

In the Jerusalem Church **converts were a devoted people.** WordNet Dictionary defines 'devote' as: "to give entirely to a specific person, activity or thing." The Jerusalem Church had members who "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer," (Acts 2:42). Notice the things to which these Christians under apostolic leadership were devoted.

They were devoted to the Apostles' teaching.

This guaranteed the purity of the gospel message; only the apostles were guided by the Holy Spirit into all the truth, hence, they are the only ones with the complete truth of God's word and His will for us, (John 16:13). Devotion to the apostles' teaching guaranteed that what the new converts practiced was acceptable to God.

These new converts were also devoted to the fellowship. They were taught that Church attendance was mandatory and not a matter of convenience. They interacted with each other on a level that allowed them to get to know each other and to minister to each other, (Acts 2:44-46).

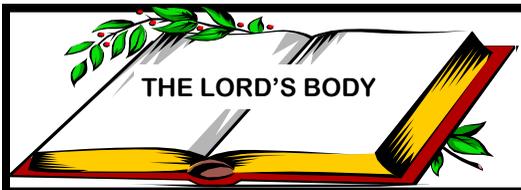
They were devoted to Lord's Supper or the communion. They understood that when an able-bodied person does not partake of the Lord's body and blood each Sunday, such a person had "trampled the Son of God under foot... treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him ... and insulted the Spirit of grace," (Heb 10:29).

They were devoted to prayer. They were taught that a praying Church is a holy Church. Christians are to "pray without ceasing;" whatever we lack "ask God who gives generously to all" (I Thess. 5:17; James 1:5)

In the Jerusalem Church **personal evangelism was practiced daily.** They met every day (small groups) for prayer, preaching and fellowship. They were continually "praising God" and were in harmony with their community. They were not afraid to teach the gospel. Consequently, "the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved," (Acts 2:47). The results are related to their efforts.

This is the Jerusalem model, an inspired model for all generations including us here in Patchogue. Let us work towards emulating this model.

Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



*LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD*



ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

Privileged to Serve 04/19/2015

Morning Service

Song leader	Greg Watkins
Welcome/Prayer	Jason Harper
Song #	567
Scripture – Phil. 4:4-9	Brian Maddox
Songs #	100
Song #	101
Second Prayer	Steve Lynch
Song #	902
Lord's table and Collection:	
Lead	Jamal Colson
Assistant	Chris McGue
Assistant	John Sicignano
Assistant	C. Hendrickson
Song - Kids to class	
Song #	448
Scripture -	John Stallworth
Sermon -	Mike Salimbene
Invitation #	396
Responses & prayer:	
Jason Harper	
John Stallworth	
Announcements &	
Closing Prayer	Ben Field
Closing Song #	703

The Gospel Truth

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“I wanna ... die”

Gal. 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy ... gentleness, self-control... Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

For the last several weeks we've been trying to answer the question: if Paul is writing to us about the “fruit of the Spirit”, how are non-Christians able to do these things. Through some brief thoughts, we see clarity comes from the Bible definition NOT man's.

Concluding the discussion this week: I'd like to consider one more point where Paul says “Those who belong to Christ...” This snippet of scripture is part of Paul's discussion of the war between the sinful nature (flesh) and the spirit. **READ, it's worth it.** The battle is fierce. We have the flesh fighting against the Spirit. The question is: who is winning the battle in your life? The flesh or the Spirit. More importantly who will win the WAR? Do you belong to Christ? Have you given up ownership? Have you taken on Jesus as master? If so, have you: “...*crucified the sinful nature...*” Luke 14 will say we must carry our cross daily. Knowing the cross is an instrument of death, you and I MUST die. So, I ask: what does it look like when you and I have died? Shouldn't our lives reflect the Spirit and all of His fruit? Are you ready to die? Are you ready to...? *Love those who don't love you. Joyful beyond circumstances. Be a peacemaker. Thick skinned. Give beyond your comfort zone. Be disciplined. Full of faith. Do what is right, no matter who is watching. Tame your tongue. Etc.*

Challenge: Memorize Gal. 5:22-25

Do you know what the Spirit is calling you to do? Do it!

Start of keeping in step with the spirit by setting your mind.

Rom. 8:5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Baptism – a practical examination

There was some confusion on baptism even in the early days of the church, but believers back then got to speak with the authorities of the matter who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In modern culture the issue of what it means to become a Christian has taken a turn. There are a number of popular notions including the “sinner's prayer,” and this is in contrast to those who teach that baptism is a necessary element of salvation. So who is right? Perhaps both? If you are considering it this far we can likely agree that we should not place faith in a mode of salvation that is not verifiable by scripture. This series of articles will deal with practical examinations of what we know about the ritual and practice of baptism as a part of the salvation process. To be clear, I believe the Bible describes baptism as only at best a part of salvation. In fact, the salvation process cannot be objectively isolated to baptism alone, or belief alone, or confession alone, etc. as I believe scripture states clearly that salvation is a multifaceted process by Divine design.

What we discuss now is meant to help, not to hurt, so if you have questions, ask me. I have tested my conscience against what I propose to teach, and I believe that having spent my entire life in the church I have heard every variation of argument for and against baptism as related to the salvation process. I feel I can speak objectively without agenda. I know some of you have a real issue with what to believe and even strong emotions so this is intended to help.

Why does this matter? Because if we teach a Gospel that is incomplete, we teach the perfect lie the evil one would want to trick a real believer into almost fulfilling. If we teach additional matters to salvation we should in fact reduce our doctrine to reflect the Bible and its teaching more simply and accurately.

Open your mind, open your heart, and get ready for a ride, as we will walk together through the toughest questions of the sacrament of baptism. I will go to uncomfortable places intentionally. I want us all to think and question. Truth is not destroyed by questions; truth is revealed and established by them.

Rooted

One of the joys of spring is looking at trees that throughout the winter appeared dried up and dead, yet in spring flourish once more, taking on new life and beauty. You may know that the roots of a tree take up nourishment from the soil to feed it; they store food to be released when the tree needs strengthening because of drought or other stress; and they stabilize and anchor it so that it is not knocked down or blown away. It is no wonder, then, that the Lord uses this physical process to teach spiritual lessons. We are encouraged, “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him” (Colossians 2:6-7).

A function of roots is to go deep into the soil to procure water and food to feed the tree. This stimulates growth and strength. To be “rooted and built up in him,” therefore, must involve getting spiritual nourishment to grow and be strengthened spiritually. The bible is referred to as “the sincere milk of the word” (1 Peter 2:2). This means we must study and learn the word of God to be rooted in Him. We must take the time to go deep into the word, doing personal study as well as attending Bible study classes, and not be content to merely scratch the surface.

Roots also store food so that when the tree is stressed by environmental hardship or disaster, it has a store of nourishment to provide relief. Jesus spoke of Christians who “have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away” (Luke 8:13). Babies left alone become malnourished and die. They need their families to survive. Christians also need the spiritual family. So, being rooted in Christ also means being rooted in His body, the church. We must be rooted spiritually in the family of Christ to be sustained in times of testing or trouble.

Growing roots deep in the word and in fellowship with other Christians will stabilize and anchor us in Christ. We will be “rooted and built up” in Christ and “will be like a tree that does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit” (Jer. 17:8).