

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:	4/19/15	4/12/15
Bible Classes	35	45
Worship Service	84	105
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$1583.00	\$2256.00 \$542.00
Wed Bible Class	15	39
Baptisms/	-	-

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

Youth Corner

By
Jamal Colson



Love and T-I-M-E

“One way to show our Love to God; Love can be Spelled -- T-I-M-E!”

Young people we all can recall times when we have said “not now” or “ I don’t have time, maybe later” when it comes to T-I-M-E with God, either in prayer or reading the Word of God. Too often we all get caught up in our busy lifestyles of work, running errands, playing or going to events/practices/activities etc.... We all know that we should slow down and spend those special moments with our God.

There is abundant research showing clearly the importance of spending quality time with our Lord and Savior. Talking with our God in prayer, learning life lessons, building trust, learning appropriate behavior, and building self-esteem are all by products of spending time with God. Young people to simply put, “we need to spend T-I-M-E with God”!

In conclusion read the following passages and consider how we can imitate and add into our current life structures.

Mathew 14:13-14 (NIV) - ¹³When Jesus heard what had happened, **he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.** Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

James 4:8 (NIV)— ⁸**Come near to God and he will come near to you.** Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Psalms 62:8 (NIV) - ⁸**Trust in him at all times,** you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) ¹⁶Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us **in our time of need.**

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

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

Volume 2 No. 17

April 26 , 2015

God’s Own Possession

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light,” (1 Pet 2:9).

Do you belong to God? Are you a child of God? Were you born again of water and the Spirit? Now, don’t be too hasty to say yes. Not every one who claims God is claimed by God! Jesus told Jews who believed in him that their father was not God, their father was the devil. He told them, **“You are doing the things your own father does.” “We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.”** That’s what they thought, but Jesus knew otherwise, **“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire...”** (John 8:41-44).

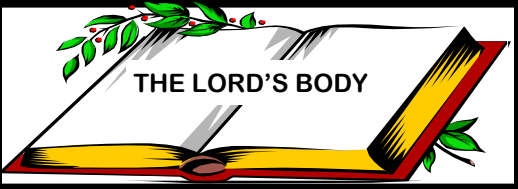
Who is a child of God? The apostle Paul answers, **“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ,”** (Gal 3:26-27). Faith in Christ is putting our trust and confidence in Christ that what he did on the cross was done on our behalf and is sufficient to atone for our sins. His death on the cross paid the penalty for our sins. As was prophesied by Isaiah “he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,” “he was pierced for our transgressions,” “he was crushed for our iniquities,” “the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,” “by his wounds we are healed,” and “the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all,” (Isaiah 53:3-6).

Faith in Christ is accepting the fact that “Jesus paid it all.” Faith in Christ puts our trust in what

Jesus did for us; for you and me! Faith requires trust; trust demands obedience and submission to Christ. Unwillingness to obey indicates that faith and confidence in the person and work of Jesus Christ is lacking. The inspired apostle therefore links baptism to faith. **“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”** (Gal 3:26-27). Baptism is an expression of our faith in Jesus, that what he did was adequate to get our sins forgiven.

What happens in baptism? Our sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ. **“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”** (Acts 22:16) What else happens? We become God’s possession for **“[we] were bought at a price,”** (1 Cor 6:20). Doubt as to the price is settled by Jesus in his charge to the elders of the Church in Ephesus. **“Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”** (Acts 20:28) The apostle Paul adds other things that happened at baptism: **“You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness,”** (Rom 6:18). And exclaims, **“But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.”** (Rom 6:17)

Do you belong to God? Are you a child of God? “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit” (John 3:5). Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD



ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

Privileged to Serve 04/26/2015	
Morning Service	
Song leader	Jason Harper
Welcome/Prayer	John Stallworth
Song #	180
Scripture – Eph. 4:17-24	Tyler Dowdy
Songs #	869
Song #	973
Second Prayer	Ben Field
Song #	324
Lord's table and Collection:	
Lead	Derek Peterson
Assistant	James Guiffre
Assistant	Kyle Watkins
Assistant	Steve Lynch
Song - Kids to class	
Song #	867
Scripture - Matt. 9:1-8	Tom Meehan
Sermon -	Lancelot Watson
Invitation #	924
Responses & prayer:	
Jamal Colson	
John Stallworth	
Announcements &	
Closing Prayer	
John Stallworth	
Closing Song #	
703	

The Gospel Truth

A publication of the Patchogue Church of Christ, 1 N. Sunrise Highway, (North Service Road), Corner of Hewlett Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772.

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“Hope and Faith”

Hope and faith; what is the difference? Pause and think for a minute. Let's consider some thoughts.

Hope is one is the vision to see some “place” which is better than where you are right now. Faith is the power to help you make the journey to get there. One of the destroyers of hope is deadly impatience.

In Numb. 21:4-8 we see Israel struggling on their journey to the promise land. With God and Moses at the helm of their path providing for all their needs, we see the people become impatient. Their hope was completely destroyed! They begin rebelling against Moses and God. Not too long before, they'd been rescued from 400 years of slavery. What happened? Two things:

1) Israel could no longer visualize the promise land. Their hope was gone. The side effect of their lost hope is rebellion against God and our brethren. We see what James 4:1-4 says how we fight and quarrel.

2) Lost faith in God. The loss of vision hindered their ability to stand firm and trust God. Their lack of faith was making them give up. Their faith was not sustaining them for the journey.

Hope and faith help us overcome trial and meet our goals. Ever feel overwhelmed and depressed. Don't you find that if you have a clear vision of a new day it helps you conquer and sustain during the trial. This is Paul's point:

Rom. 8: 23-25 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

When we struggle with trials and/or depression and want to give up: we need to check our vision. Have you set any goal or accepted the promises of God?

Baptism...The Thief

I intend to deal with extremes on both sides of the of the baptism aisle in several articles, but because of the popularity of the notion of baptism being “nice to do” after being saved I will start with popular arguments against it being necessary for salvation with a focus on Jesus. Again, I am available to speak whenever you need.

Argument – “The thief on the cross went to heaven. Therefore, baptism is unnecessary for the forgiveness of sins. Instead it is “grace or belief alone,” just as for the thief.”

Answer - Yes, the thief went to heaven, yes it was because of his faith alone, yes he was not baptized. However there are three main flaws to this argument that are inescapable. They are logical hurdles that someone betting their eternity on this view must bridge before it can be accepted as Gospel truth.

Problem 1 – Jesus forgave the thief under the old covenant. This cannot be avoided, and in itself excludes consideration of further arguments on baptism. The thief did not avoid baptism, he avoided Jewish conversion. It was the Law of Moses, not of the New Covenant that was made the exception. The rules of The Law were avoided.

Problem 2 – Jesus stated specifically that while on Earth he had the authority to forgive sins (Mk 2 and Luke 5) He also forgave others (Luke 7:48, Luke 19, and adulterous woman), yet other characters are not typically used as reasons to avoid baptism commonly. Why? This indicates someone using the “thief argument” seeks to justify a position rather than accept that Jesus made exceptions to the Law. He is God; He can do as He pleases. We cannot teach as such.

Problem 3 – Jesus didn't say this to you. We are not the thief, we didn't receive this from Christ (See problem 2 above). Therefore we are not an exception to the clear directives that came from Jesus himself after He was resurrected. Matthew 28:18-19

Showers of Blessing

We've been having some rains lately, and the tendency is to complain. We think of a beautiful spring day as a day of sunshine and warmth, with beautiful trees and beautiful flowers all around, a day on which we could enjoy a picnic. Sure, that sounds great, but the Word shows us that the rains also are a blessing.

Ezekiel prophesied that God would bless his people through rain. Speaking for God he declared, “I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; **there will be showers of blessing.** Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase...Then they will know that I am the LORD...” (Ezekiel 34:26). How blessed we should feel by the April showers! They are a reminder that God cares for us.

Showers from above are a testimony of God's great power— a demonstration of the intricate planning that went into the creation. God asked Job, “Does the rain have a father? Who fathers the drops of dew? “(Job 38:28) Like Job, we know that the rains sustain the plant life, but we often fail to acknowledge the divine process of evaporation and precipitation by which rain comes. This is evidence of God as creator, which we take for granted, and which many simply call nature, failing to bow before their maker: “God's invisible qualities— his eternal power and divine nature— have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to Him...” (Romans 1:20-21).

Sisters, the rain may be uncomfortable – cold and wet – but give thanks to God anyway, remembering that He “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." Let us also follow Zechariah's advice and, “Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone” (Zechariah 10:1).