

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:	11/23	11/16
Bible Classes	40	30
Morning Worship	81	78
Contribution	\$2017	\$2878
Mid Week Bible Class—Wed.	36	48

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

Youth Corner

By
Jamal Colson



Trials

The bible teaches us that we are going to suffer “grief in all kinds of trials” (1Pet 1:6). Some people want you to view that as hopeless, defeated, and rejected. Instead, God wants us to realize what he says in Matthew 7:24-

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine **and puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock”.

The storms are coming on the righteous as well as the foolish. However, God desires that His righteous ones live by faith.

In 1 Peter 1:7 it says that “these have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

The trials come so that we may prove genuine in our faith. Young people, when we come through the trials the result will be praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

We receive further instruction in James 1:2-4- “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything”.

James goes on to say because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. As we persevere and trial finishes its work we will become mature and complete, not lacking anything.

In conclusion, young people, are you in the midst of a trial? Realize scripture says that we must become like the wise man who builds his house on the rock. Have the genuine faith and persevering in that faith so that we may become mature and complete, not lacking anything

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Patchogue Church of Christ

1 N. Sunrise
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The Family of God

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.” (Eph 3:14).

That God has a family is evident from the above quotation. The text states also that this family is to be found both in heaven and on earth. Regarding this family, a question often asked is this, “Who are the members of God’s family, and what did they do to become members?” It is not enough for us to give an answer that reflects what we think or feel or even who we think ought to be members of God’s family. If we really want to know the truth on this matter, then we must go to the Bible, the word of God, for God’s answer. He does tell us, who His family members are and what they did to be incorporated into His family.

When Jesus came into the world, He lived and worked among the nation of Israel. These were the people who had a covenant relationship with God. Jesus went first to them with the message of salvation. He was rejected by many *“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”* (John 1:12-13). To become a child of God it was necessary the text says, to “believe in his name.” If an Israelite, a blood descendant of Abraham, chose not to believe on the name of Christ, God would reject that one from becoming one of his children.

Addition to the family of God will be through the avenue of adoption and not natural descent. This is so because God is divine and we are human, the divine essence is altogether different from the human essence. Essence has to do with the essential qualities of being. The nature of God is therefore altogether different from the nature of Humans.

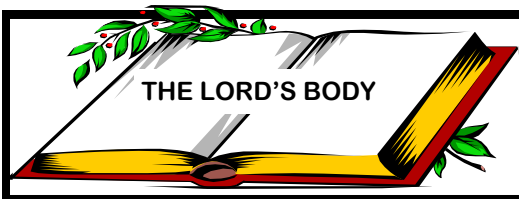
Getting into God’s family therefore can only be by adoption. *“He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.”* (Eph 1:5). Being “born again” (John 3:2), is the means used by God to bring about our spiritual adoption. Christ indicated that Mary his earthly surrogate mother along with his brothers and sisters were not exempt from the principle of adoption. They like everyone else could only become family members if they did the will of God. *“Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”* (Mark 3:33-35).

The will of God today is the gospel of Christ. To do “God’s will” is to obey and live by the gospel of Christ. If a person does not obey the Gospel of Christ, he cannot be a child of God. It is by obeying the gospel that one is adopted into God’s family and only family members can carry out God’s will.

It is not enough just to be a family member. One must be an active family member. *“For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”* (1 Peter 4:17).

A person obeys the gospel by believing in Christ (MK. 16:15-16), repenting of their sins (Acts 17:30), confessing their faith in Christ and being baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:36-42). Only then is that person a child of God and the Lord adds such a person to His Church family because that person “should be saved,” (Acts 2:47).

Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



*LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD*



Ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watron

Privileged to Serve 11/30/14

Morning Service

Song leader	Jason Harper
Welcome/Prayer	John Stallworth
Song #	851
Scripture -	<u>Psalms 23:1-6</u> Corey Guifre
Song #	852
Song #	853
Second Prayer	Joe Cirnigliaro
Song #	324
Lord's table and Collection:	
Lead	Derek Petterson
Assistant	Tom Meehan
Assistant	Joe Cirnigliaro
Assistant	Ben Field
Song - Kids to class	
Song #	985
Scripture -	<u>2 Kgs 6:8-20</u> Ryan Costello
Sermon	Lancelot Watson
Invitation #	924
Responses & prayer:	
Derek Petersen	
Jason Holfman	
Announcements &	
Closing Prayer	John Stallworth

Could you ever stay in a relationship with someone who was half in? Half committed? In those dating days, "Hey, you want to go out?" Answer: "Ah, Maybe". How long would such a relationship last? There are so many world scenarios this applies to:

- Couples stuck in courting engagement.
- Wives/husbands getting on their husbands/wives to truly commit to the family and/or marriage.

If the relationship does not come to full commitment, it is destined to fail. The Bible highlights this lack of commitment in several ways. Consider these verses:

Matt. 5:37 Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Jam. 4:8 - Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Rev 3:15-18 - I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Mathew exposes the words that challenge our integrity. James uses the strong term "double-minded". Revelation eliminates how distasteful someone with the wishy-washy commitment can be. If you read it, you see they don't even have a clear perspective of themselves. Consider:

2 Cor. 1:19 - For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes."

1 Jn. 3:16 - This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

Paul emphasizes the Lord's commitment. John shows how!

The "Learning Christian" – Conclusion

It is important to continually learn and grow. Join me in concluding and summarizing thoughts on engagement in theology and issues of practice;

1. Is this a salvation issue?

a) Back to the Gospel, otherwise, engage but leave room to grow.

2. Is this "scripture" or "church tradition?"

a) Don't confuse these, don't twist scripture context, don't connect unrelated passages, don't force "in the bible" proof which hurts credibility.

b) Church tradition is important, and offer insights.

And now lastly;

3. What is my motive?

a) Am I defending my worldview? Back to question 1. :)

b) Am I using scripture to justify myself/bias?

-Anyone can be guilty of this, so don't make your religious concerns above the priorities of Christ.

-The church doesn't exist to cater to each person's comforts and desires. It is not here to mold itself to the appearance we each prefer. The church is not fast food. :)

c) Am I using scripture as a weapon? Back to number 2. :)

-Make sure you don't overstep biblical grounds.

I heard a beautiful song the other day. It wasn't a religious artist, but it spoke to me, reminded me of scripture, and reminded me as to why we care to learn or consider any matter of Christianity. It explained the "why" behind our care for God and theology and the reason we are here.

Juventa – "Move into the light"

We are, all that remains, (2 Cor. 5:20, Matt. 5:13)

of a world in chaos-

Broken by change. (Gen 6:13, Romans 8:22)

We are light in the dark, (John 8:12, Luke 11:33)

Calling out for something to spark... (Phili.3:20)

And we'll hide in the graphite, (Gen 2:7, Ecc. 12:7)

Deep inside the earth. (Isaiah 45:12, Ps. 103:14)

And wait for the fires,

To start - in your eyes... (Rev 19:12, 2 Pet. 3:12, 1 Cor. 15:52, Rom. 8:19, Gal 5:5)

Wise and Foolish Women

Jesus chose to compare the church to a bride - one of the roles of women. This is indeed an honor given to women. In the parable of the ten virgins He depicts Himself as the bridegroom and compares the "kingdom of heaven" - the church, to virgins awaiting the bridegroom. His coming was delayed and the virgins needed to wait for his arrival. Five virgins were described as foolish because when the bridegroom eventually appeared they were unprepared and had gone to buy oil for their lamps. The five who had kept their lamps in readiness were welcomed and led into the bridal banquet. The five who were unprepared and turned up late were unsympathetically told, "I don't know you" (Matt. 25:12).

While we wait for the return of Christ, we obviously want to emulate the wise virgins, and keep ourselves in readiness. Titus 2: 12-14 tells us that God's grace teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ... We cannot afford to get distracted or side-tracked, because the price is too great.

The foolish virgins had lost their focus on Christ, but did not seem to realize it. They might fit into the category of some other persons Jesus denied knowing. He said in Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, ... 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' As Christian women, let us live up to the honor Christ bestows on us in comparing the church to his bride. Let us strive always to be pure and holy in His sight, constantly watching for His coming.

The Gospel Truth

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