

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Patchogue, NY 11772

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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:	2/15/15	2/08/15
Bible Classes	16	28
Worship Service	52	80
Contribution	\$1360.00	\$1824.00 \$348.00
Wed Bible Class	30	28
Baptisms/Placing membership	-	-

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

## Youth Corner

By  
Jamal Colson



### Reward in Full

Mathew 6:1-4NIV- “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Have you ever noticed how some people enjoy being recognized by the sounding of the trumpets? While other people enjoy serving and helping people almost concealing that they are the ones who helped. The scriptures teach us to be careful in our practice of “Righteousness” especially in front of others.

Keep in mind, the passage doesn’t say *not* to help the needy; instead it says, “Be careful...” we are called to serve otherwise there can be no reward in full.

The Lord will judge us on the last day with regard to how we served. We must always remember that it is Jesus we are serving!!! (Matthew 25:31-46)

In conclusion, to receive your reward in full you need to serve the needy. A good question to ask ourselves is, “Do we serve to receive the reward from others (people)?” Or do we serve to receive the reward from the Lord?

## THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Patchogue Church of Christ  
295 Sunrise Service Road N.  
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### Forty days to the Crucifixion

For the denominational world, we are now in the season of “Lent,” a forty day period of fasting and penance. Penance is defined as “an act of self-abasement, to show sorrow or repentance for sin.” It started on ‘Ash Wednesday,’ Wednesday, February 17, commemorating the betrayal of Christ and it will end on April 3rd, ‘Good Friday,’ the anniversary of the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This period of Lent, as a Christian religious festival or law, was not known by the Church in the New Testament; “Lent” is not found in your Bible. The Christians in the first century followed the example and teachings of our Lord and as such they engaged in much prayer and fasting. For them however, there was no season or law for it. It was a voluntary, personal and/or congregational matter.

A forty day period of fasting has deep religious significance. It can be traced from the time “The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction,” (Exodus 24:12). Moses went up into the Mountain as God commanded “And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights,” (Exodus 24:18). Our Lord Jesus after His baptism by John in the river Jordan began to prepare Himself for His work of redemption by fasting in the desert forty days and nights (Matthew 4:1-2). Here He was tempted by the Devil who wished to discover whether Jesus would project Himself as the son of Mary or the Son of God.

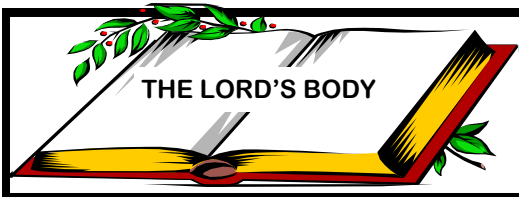
As early as the third century the last forty days of our Lord’s life began to weigh heavily on the minds of Christians. It was an opportunity for them to refocus and recommit their lives to the cause of Christ. Voluntary fasting was encouraged; at the beginning it was for a period of forty hours which was later extended to forty days. By the sixth cen-

tury fasting ceased to be a voluntary exercise. At the second council of Orleans, A.D. 541, it was decreed that any one neglecting to observe the stated times of abstinence should be treated as an offender against the laws of the Church. The Douay Catechism states, “The Church commands fasts, and disobedience to her commands is sin,” (p. 44).

This certainly is a departure from Biblical authority and a corruption of a great spiritual experience. Not willing to appear to be following or encouraging Catholic or Protestant Church Laws, and to maintain a commitment only to practices specifically authorized by the New Testament Scriptures, mainline Churches of Christ traditionally shy away from practices associated with the period of “Lent” and prolong periods of penance. In the process however, the Scriptural practices of fasting and prolonged periods of prayer have fallen by the way-side.

We may need to rethink our attitude toward fasting and prayer. These activities were common to the early Church, especially in periods of crises and solemn occasions (Acts 13:2-3;14:23) In Old Testament times it helped to bring about national revival as people were brought to a state of spiritual awakening. (Jonah 3:5-9)

From the experience of Jesus in the desert, (Matt. 4:2), we learn that it helps to focus our minds on our commitment to God and equips us to carry out His great spiritual work. The discipline and self-denial it commands, makes it easier for us to present “our bodies as living sacrifices,” (Rom. 12:1). Jesus did this. He successfully completing the journey to Calvary. Calvary’s climax, is and was not a catastrophe, as the tragedy of the crucifixion led to the triumph of the resurrection. In Christ there is hope!  
Lancelot W.



## The family by John Stallworth



*LIVING IT OUT—  
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY  
BY  
BENJAMIN FIELD*



**ladies' Corner**  
By  
**Zuleen Stallworth**

**Privileged to Serve 02/22/2015**

### Morning Service

<b>Song leader</b>	<b>Jason Harper</b>
<b>Welcome/Prayer</b>	<b>Mike Salimbene</b>
<b>Song #</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Scripture – Matt. 8:23-27</b>	<b>Tyler Dowdy</b>
<b>Songs #</b>	<b>852</b>
<b>Song #</b>	<b>853</b>
<b>Second Prayer</b>	<b>Jamal Colson</b>
<b>Song #</b>	<b>313</b>
<b>Lord's table and Collection:</b>	
<b>Lead</b>	<b>Jason Holfman</b>
<b>Assistant</b>	<b>James Guiffre</b>
<b>Assistant</b>	<b>Tom Meehan</b>
<b>Assistant</b>	<b>Steve Lynch</b>
<b>Song - Kids to class</b>	
<b>Song #</b>	<b>895</b>
<b>Scripture -Matt. 10:34-39</b>	<b>Bailey Holfman Jr</b>
<b>Sermon -</b>	<b>Lancelot Watson</b>
<b>Invitation #</b>	<b>924</b>
<b>Responses &amp; prayer:</b>	
<b>Mike Salimbene</b>	
<b>Jason Harper</b>	
<b>Announcements &amp;</b>	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	<b>Mike Salimbene</b>

### **The Gospel Truth**

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### **"I don't wanna – "Be Happy" - Joy**

*Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

We asked last week: if these are "fruit of the spirit", how are non-Christians able to do these things. Do you know what joy means? Pause and think for a minute. Joy is use synonymously with the word happiness. The Bible will challenge our view with what comes from the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's 'Joy' shows itself in different circumstance than that of the non-Christian. The non-Christian's joy depends on the happenings of positive events. In other words when something good happens, joy goes up, but when something bad happens, joy goes down. Let's consider two scriptures:

*Heb. 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

In Hebrews we see a joy that drove our Lord to endure the cross; something no sane human would do willingly. The Hebrew writer tells us He endures the worse death tool of it time for the joy set before him; that 'joy' was you and I. What is your 'Joy'? Does it drive you to do things beyond your natural ability?

*Jam. 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

Here James tells us to "consider it pure joy when we face trial of many kinds..." So James gives us this concept of not just joy, but the purest form of it. But when should it come out? During trials. Is he crazy??? Yeah that 'joy' must be divine; from the Spirit! This 'joy' has a purpose. Do you see the growing process James describes? This 'joy' gets us thru the painful growing process.

**Do you know what the Spirit is calling you to do?**

**Just do it!**

We'll continue next week. Stay blessed and "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4)

### **Practical Religion**

It is more important to get **Christianity** right than it is to get Christianity **right**. To say it another way, it is more important to do well as a Christian than to act well as a Christian. Consider these assertions. Please speak with me if you feel these assertions inaccurate; you will never be perfect (1John 1:8). You'll never understand God perfectly (Rom. 11:33). Your worship may be accepted, but will never give God the honor and glory He fully deserves (Rev 4:6-11). **Therefore**, there will always be error or inadequacy in what you do or say pertaining to God. **Always**.

**Consider Samaritans** – an offshoot of Jew considered a half-bred mixes with Gentiles. Racist beliefs considered them worse than dogs by pure Jews. Jews would build avoidance of the area into their travel plans with great increases in time and danger to avoid defilement. There was idolatry there, they rejected the writings of David and the prophets. They no longer traveled to the temple as commanded. Their religion was viewed as unorthodox and ungodly...and it was. It was a bit like American Christianity is now...

When Jesus asked the experts in the Law about the Samaritan "which of these...was a neighbor..." The **expert** replied "the one who had mercy on him." It must have stung them badly. It must have offended their religious sense, identity, piety, and all they taught their family and friends. It offended their perfect Law. *But Jesus selected an embodiment of imperfect doctrine and worship to demonstrate perfection in religion with God.* Jesus demonstrated it was more important to **be a neighbor** than to **act a Jew**. In Gal 5:14 we are reminded (**note it is in the N.T**) "*For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."* I personally believe the Samaritan is in heaven, not because he corrected his nation or religious errors, but because his fulfillment of the Law pleased God more than perfectly keeping it.

This doesn't mean that doctrine and practice have no importance. It is saying that God values the **reasons** for his sacred writings **more** than he does perfection in religious practices (Matthew 5:17).

The next time we are tempted to look at another of our brethren in contempt for an error in their understanding or bothersome practice, remember that from the words of our High Priest it is clear that it would be better to have error and love, than no error and no love

### **Have You Forgotten Your 1<sup>st</sup> Love?**

In the month of February we typically celebrate love and relationships that represent love. Women are huge romantics and dream and/or remember a special person. However, what is love according to the Bible? What is YOUR 1st love? God rebukes the Ephesian church in the book of Revelations because they had forgotten their first love and instructed them to do the things they did at first: *Rev2:4-5 "Yet I Hold this against you: You have forsaken your first Love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first."* Forgetting our first love, aka GOD, is offensive and sinful in His sight. I mean, wouldn't you feel offended and hurt if your love forgot about you? God wants ALL our hearts. (*Matt22:36-38 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..."*) He wants our BEST (Col3:17, 23) because HE LOVED FIRST and gave HIS VERY BEST—HIS ONE AND ONLY SON CHRIST (John3:16).

How can we keep from forgetting our 1st love?

1. By remembering. How do we remember? Reading the word daily. Christ said man cannot live on bread alone (Matt4:4). Faith and hope come from reading, hearing the Word (Rom10:17, 15:4). Remember God's love and mercies for you. **1 John3:1-3; Rom5:6-8**
2. Guard your heart. **Prov4:23**. Your heart belongs only to God. Watch your life and doctrine daily, **1 Tim. 4:16**.
3. Spend time with God. Frequency builds intimacy. (This also works with marriage and is crucial). Examine your schedule and make adjustments **daily**.
4. Let us encourage each other daily and feed each other spiritual food, (emails, in person fellowshiping, texts, inspirational messages, letters/cards etc). **Heb. 10:23-25**. Many things are fighting for our hearts and devotion (flesh, world, Satan, etc). We must fight for our 1st Love- GOD. Satan wants to destroy our relationship with God which leads to destruction of our faith and to a life of indulgence of sin etc. Let us persevere. (**1Tim 4:8-16**)