

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

1 N. Sunrise Highway,  
Patchogue, NY 11772

Phone: 631-475-6556

E-mail: lanwat@live.com

www.patchoguecofc.org

**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.

<b>Records you Made:</b>	11/9	11/2
<b>Bible Classes</b>	38	45
<b>Morning Worship</b>	74	175
<b>Contribution</b>	1616 323	2449
<b>Mid Week Bible Class—Wed.</b>	41	27

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

## Youth Corner

By  
Jamal Colson



### With Whom Do You Surround Yourself?

Young people, do you ever find yourself torn between friends you spend time with from church services and another group of friends you hang out with from school? Are you careful to not “Mesh the Worlds” or mix the groups? Maybe around one group you potentially act one way with and the other group you act another way. Another way to ask yourself is, “Are the people who I surround myself with encourage toward Christ or away from Him?” The decisions come down to choices. The best way to be sure if our choices are Godly is to seek out God’s Word. Your ability to search the scriptures will help you in your decision making.

**Psalm 125:1-2** says:

**“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forever—more.”**

All of us young and old should be careful to choose the people you surround yourself with wisely. There’s an old saying, “*Show me your friends and I’ll tell you who you are*”. The Lord will always help us; we just need to go to Him!!

He promises from Psalm above that as we trust in God we can be like Mount Zion which cannot be shaken. He then teaches us that just as Jerusalem is surrounded by mountains, so the **Lord surrounds** his people both now and forever.

In conclusion, we are all going to be surrounded by people; some more than others. We need to follow the biblical example of first trusting in the Lord, allowing Him to surround us!

Psalm 20:7 says: “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but **we** trust in the name of the Lord our God.”

People will come in and out of your life very few will stay with you through the good and not so good times. As we trust in him, the Lord will surround us both now and forever.

## THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Patchogue Church of Christ

1 N. Sunrise  
Highway.

**Volume 1 No. 8**

**November 16, 2014**

### Be aware of the Devil and his schemes

**“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes”** (Eph 6:11)

The Devil is not stupid! You and I must continually remind ourselves that in dealing with the Devil, we are doing battle against a supernatural being that surpasses us in knowledge, cunning and power. *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against ... the spiritual forces of evil...”* (6:12)

He is a most formidable opponent. Treat him lightly and we risk our souls. He will win the battle and have us spend eternity in his hell, (Rev. 20:10, 13-15). Our only defense against the devil is Jesus the Christ. Until we have Christ as our armor, whatever defense we put up, is only make believe. We are merely deceiving ourselves into thinking we are fighting, when the battle is already over and we lost! To have Christ as our armor, we must get into Him and continue to live in Him. This begins when we place our faith in Him, repent of our sins and are baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins. (John 8:24; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6).

We must be aware of the “wiles of the devil,” and we must not allow him to “outwit us” (Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 2:11). His goal is to keep us separated from Jesus Christ. He knows that if he influences us to compromise the teachings of Christ, or be lukewarm in our service, or to incorporate some amount of “worldliness” into our lives, eventually God will separate Himself from us.

We see two of his tricks in the conflict between Moses and Pharaoh. Pharaoh is the devil’s representative who is determined to keep the people of God in Egypt. Let us learn from this conflict (Exodus 8-12).

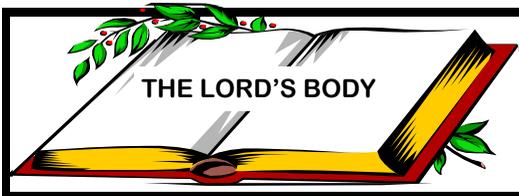
Through Moses God sends Israel’s call of deliverance, “Let my people go that they may serve me in the wilderness.” Pharaoh refuses and God sends plagues upon Egypt. After the fifth plague Pharaoh relents but with conditions. In these conditions we see the devil at work.

“Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land.” (Ex. 8:25). God demands that we separate ourselves completely from the world. Satan says worship God in the world. The devil smiles when he hears, “I don’t have to be in the Church to serve or worship God.” That’s the devil’s guile, for us to serve God “in the land.” When we give our lives to the Lord we come out of the world and into His Church, there and only there, can God be served. (2 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 3:20,21)

“I will let you go,... but you must not go very far” (Ex. 8:28). How unfortunate, that we fall for this guise. Jesus wants us with Him all the way. “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke. 9:62). The devil wants us to believe that we can remain close to him and still serve God. Even if it were possible, it would not be a wise thing. The devil wants us to be within his reach at all times. The closer we are to him, the stronger will be his influence over us. The farther away we are from him, the weaker his influence.

Peter learned the hard way. His denial of Jesus was no doubt influenced by his interaction with the enemies of Christ, (John 18:17-18). Let us give heed to the advice of James, “Come near to God and he will come near to you” (Jam. 4:7-10).

Lancelot W.



# The family by John Stallworth



LIVING IT OUT—  
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY  
BY  
BENJAMIN FIELD



Ladies' Corner  
by  
Paulette Watron

**Privileged to Serve 11/16/14**

Morning Service  
**Song leader** Greg Watkins  
**Welcome/Prayer** Jason Harper  
**Song #** 100, 101  
**Scripture** Psalm 15:1-5 C. Hendrickson  
**Song #** 4  
**Song #** 480  
**Second Prayer** Ben Field  
**Song #** 903  
**Lord's table and Collection:**  
**Lead** Joe Cirnigliaro  
**Assistant** Ryan Costello  
**Assistant** John Sicignano  
**Assistant** C. Hendrickson  
**Song - Kids to class**  
**Song #** 613  
**Scripture - Eph. 6:10-13** Jason Holfman  
**Sermon** Lancelot Watson  
**Invitation #** 926  
**Responses & prayer:**  
**Jason Holfman**  
**Derek Petersen**  
**Announcements &**  
**Closing Prayer** Jason Harper  
**Closing Song #** 703

**The Gospel Truth**  
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 Editors:  
 Lancelot Watson - 781-420-4412  
 John Stallworth - 631-312-1597  
 Benjamin Field - 516-885-2365  
 E-mail comments, articles and questions to: lanwat@live.com

**Both Points**  
*Jn. 13:1-9 - It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."*

This Bible passage is packed with messages, but I'd like to highlight two of them. The first message is usually the obvious one: **If you are claiming to have love, prove it by serving.** Verse one here will say Jesus "... showed them the full extent of his love". I don't know about you, but I've been chewing on that concept for a while; like a tough piece of steak. I suggest the more we try to carry this out, the better we'll understand "the full message". I think John helps with the understanding and practice:

*1 Jn. 3:17-18 - If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

The second message is a bit of a challenge, because we sometime don't see how serious Jesus was about it. "No, you shall never wash my feet." Ever stop someone from serving you. Verbal and private excuses: "I don't want to be a burden." "I don't want to be rejected." "I don't want anyone to know." Etc. etc. Pride will can leave us hungry and needy physically and spiritually. It did for a good portion of my life. Let's pray for one another that we can learn to be inter-dependent. Paul will say:

*Gal. 6:10 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

Last week I suggested questions to ask yourself when you are in theological debate.

**Question 1**  
**Is this biblical matter a salvation issue?**  
 As Lancelot had mentioned this past Wednesday class (did you know it is streamed on Skype?) - "debatable issues" are by definition not salvation issues. They do not necessarily impact the salvation status of a person regardless of how you feel. Still, scripture says "right" and "wrong" are guided by their conscience's view. You may feel strongly about a position of opinion (food, drink, religious practice, religious teaching methods, certain gender issues), but that is different than attempting to bind that conviction on someone else if it is not clearly spelled out in scripture.

If you and the person you debate share the same conviction in the Gospel and salvation you then both have the right to discuss and to disagree. Yet you are still of the "same mind." Therefore you do not have the "right" to FORCE your understanding. If your "truth" is "true" it should not be beyond open and honest scrutiny, nor should you require your position to be accepted on the spot. Someone challenging your view should not require you to demonize them.

**WARNING** – Many Christians will assert that every issue they are arguing is a salvation issue or that it is so important that it must be addressed, and someone must either agree or they will cut them off, or worse, they will leave the congregation. Such actions actually prevent agreement because they never stay long enough to grow with their fellow Christians. Be wary of such people. God is not with them. Jesus spoke of them in Matthew 23 saying: "they tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing...."

If you are making it a salvation issue ask how it relates to the Gospel or clear commands of the apostles. If you are on the receiving end make the person show you how it relates to the Gospel or clear commands of the apostles. If both parties ask the same question....the conversation is instantly framed under the authority of Christ.

Next week

- Is it scripture or traditions of the church?
- What is my motive?

**A Woman Shows How to Seek the Lost**  
 An important part of Jesus' teaching was his use of parables to teach important spiritual lessons. It is interesting to note that women characters were not omitted from His parables but were depicted in a manner to show Jesus' respect and admiration for women's abilities. The first of the parables with a woman as the main character is the story of the lost coin.

A woman who had 10 silver coins, lost one, and she searched diligently until she found it. She then invited her friends to celebrate finding this one coin. Jesus compares this celebration to the rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:8-10). This parable depicts a woman in an evangelistic role and has several lessons for women. It shows that women can evangelize successfully. To evangelize is to win souls for Jesus – to influence others to commit their lives to Christ. The woman was willing to work hard to find the lost coin. She lit a lamp, swept her house, and searched carefully for it (Luke 15:8).

Like her, we must use the right tools and work diligently for success. Although she still had nine coins, she valued the lost one enough to search hard for it.

We too should recognize the value of each soul. Every person's soul is important to God and we should recognize and value the soul of each one who comes within our sphere of influence.

Finally, the woman in this parable calls her friends and neighbors together and says "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin" Luke 15:9. She extends her interaction from being only with the lost one to friends and neighbors also. She initiated fellowship for the lost one, herself and her friends and neighbors. Jesus' comparison of this celebration with what happens in heaven when one sinner repents shows God's love for us and highlights His joy in each one's repentance.

This woman shows us that in seeking the lost we must use the right tools, work diligently, value each soul and commune together to celebrate each saved soul.