

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:	5/10/15	5/03/15
Bible Classes	23	23
Worship Service	91	73
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$2557.00 \$437.00	\$1644.00
Wed Bible Class	15	22
Baptisms/	-	1

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

Youth Corner

By
Jamal Colson



What if...?

Young people do you ever wonder "what if"? Of course you do, we all do at some point in our lives. Many times I would ask the question "what if" with regard to physical things such as height, weight, money, and looks just to mention a few things. For example "what if my parents were rich? Another thought was, what if I were seven feet tall? Then I could play in the national basketball association (NBA). I would like us to think about the spiritual "what ifs".

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31 NIV)

What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? (Romans 3:3 NIV)

....then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it. (Ecclesiastes 8:17 NIV)

In conclusion, we can spend our entire life saying "what if" and by so doing miss out on our full potential of this life. Like it says in Ecclesiastes 8:17 we can never fully comprehend "what if." Instead, young people we should focus on what we can do now. Go out this week with the focus of doing what you CAN DO, NOW, to encourage someone. You can encourage your parents, guardian or friends. Now go, and be a blessing to someone.

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

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

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Where's the fruit?

An advertisement which made the "hall of great ads" was Wendy's "Where's the beef?" This ad targeted competitors whose hamburgers were short on beef. The latent line was, "a hamburger is not good unless it has plenty of beef!"

Just as a good hamburger contains plenty of beef, Christians consecrated to God bears much fruit. Jesus stated that the seed that fell on good ground was the word of God planted in a good and noble heart which bears much fruit, some a hundred, some sixty some thirty times what was sown, (Luke 8:11, 15; Matt. 13:23). To be "fruitful" means to be productive. A fruitful garden produces much fruit; a fruitful worker is a worker productive in his work. To produce fruit for God means we are working and serving God in the works God would have us do. Paul wrote that we must "you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work ..." (Col. 1:10). The fruit God expects "consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth" (Eph. 5:9).

The New Testament uses the phrase "in Christ" to describe those who have a spiritual relationship with Christ. To get "into Christ" one must first be obedient to Christ by being "baptized into Christ" (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; Col. 2:12-13).

Those outside of Christ cannot bear fruit for Christ. It does not matter how pious, humble or sincere one becomes, there is no producing for the Lord outside of the Lord. Jesus said, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-6).

Christians must recognize that the Christian life is more than "being" a Christian; it is *do-*

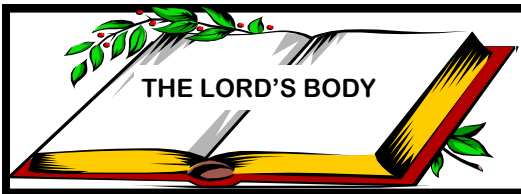
ing what Christian do! Jesus spoke of the vine and the branches in John 15 to illustrate the Christian life as an intricate relationship with Christ (abiding in Christ) and a service to Christ (bearing fruit). Jesus warned His followers, "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away" (John 15:2). Those branches taken away are cast "into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6). Jesus explained the twofold purpose of His disciples fruit bearing, "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples" (John 15:8).

This brings up once again a question every Christian should ask, "Where's the Fruit?" The Christian life is to be one of labor not loafing, fruit not foliage. So we ask ourselves "is my life producing fruit for the Lord or am just putting off the Lord?"

Jesus cursed a fruitless fig tree. "And seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it, and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He said to it, 'No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you' and at once the fig tree withered" (Matt. 21:19). If Jesus would not tolerate a fruitless fig tree, will He tolerate a fruitless Christian?

Let us make a determined effort to produce fruit for the Lord. Things that will help toward this goal are consistent attendance to all assemblies, conscientious, systematic Bible reading, daily fervent prayers, a formal Bible study program and a commitment to share our faith with an unbeliever. This determination is important because of who we are, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Pet. 2:9).

Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD



Ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

Privileged to Serve 5/17/2015

Morning Service

Song leader	Greg Watkins
Welcome/Prayer	James Guiffre
Song #	453
Scripture – Psalm 1:1-6	Brian Dunham
Songs #	538
Song #	559
Second Prayer	Randall Colson
Song #	176

Lord's table and Collection:

Lead	Jason Harper
Assistant	Ryan Costello
Assistant	Kyle Watkins
Assistant	C. Henrickson

Song - Kids to class

Song #	578
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Scripture-Matt.24:10-14 Tom Meeham

Sermon - Lancelot Watson

Invitation # 382

Responses & prayer:

Derek Peterson
John Stallworth

Announcements & Closing Prayer James Guiffre

Closing Song # 703

Product-ivity

By definition, productivity is the process of "producing" a large quantity of "product". Further clarity tells us the product must be GOOD. The Bible's use of the word follows this same concept. Jesus will say,

Lk. 6:43-45 43 "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his Heart.

Paul will say,

Tit. 3:14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.

Facts are: We always have an impact. We will produce fruit. We have to decide if it is going to be good! What is growing on your branches.

The Gospel Truth

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Baptism- Be Baptized Because of Forgiveness

Argument #4– “”Acts 2:38 REALLY means “Repent and be baptized...**BECAUSE OF** the forgiveness of your sins...” NOT “**FOR**”; therefore baptism is **because** of salvation.

Answer – This relies on a circumstantial case that ignores context. It is predicated upon an assumption that the hearer is ignorant of scripture, translation, and transliteration. I pray God’s mercy on people who have fallen for this. The Greek word EIS or εις is defined as “**to or into** (indicating the point reached or entered, of place, time, purpose, **RESULT**). **Therefore, we can correctly translate the verse as** “be baptized, every one of you **into** the forgiveness of your sins...” It marks transition in the natural language. **Yes – “eis” has different meanings (actually 3), yes – depending upon the context it can mean something “already existing”, NO- in this context, it is not possible to conclude a prepossession of salvation without a presupposed theology. Why would we use context that does not fit?**

Problem 1 – guilt was assumed as a present state. Scripture states; “They were cut to the quick.” They were pierced to their very heart and soul. Their response was to ask “what shall we do?” They were at a loss. Peter didn’t respond “Your faith has made you well- be baptized.” They were terrified. Likely some of them jeered at Jesus at his trial, they had just realized their guilt. Peter told them what to do for a clean conscience.

Problem 2 - “Belief” wasn’t the issue; guilt was. Peter was speaking to Jews who believed already in God, and now believed in Jesus. They still received further command. **They recognized and declared their need** when they asked what to do. Peter replied with baptism.

Problem 3– You cannot ignore the rest of the verse; “and you “**WILL**” receive.” Λαμβάνω, or “lambanó,” means “**to take, or receive**” quite literally defining the previous action as necessary to receive the Holy Spirit. **Straining at “For” and ignoring “Will” indicates prejudice and dishonesty.**

Next Week – “Peter baptized Jews, Paul gave Grace.

Be Effective and Productive with Fire and Faith!

2 Peter 1:5-10 lists some qualities we should develop in our Christian walk. The apostle Peter tells us in verse 10, “If you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” He further states in verse 10 that “if you do these things, you will never fall.”

I certainly want to be effective and productive as a Christian and to practice those things that will ensure that I “never fall,” and I think you also share those goals. I would therefore like to examine each of the qualities listed, following up on a former article, “Be Sure” which I ended by saying, “Let us study these characteristics, know what they mean, and practice them diligently to be sure of eternal life.”

The list is preceded in verse 5 by the words. “... giving all diligence, add to your faith...” So, the first thing to note is that to achieve our goals of being effective and productive, involves an attitude of “diligence”. Diligence means “persistent and hard working effort in doing something (Encarta Dictionary). In Bible times it meant, “Bringing in all zeal or effort” (*Barnes Notes*). Half-hearted attitudes will not help us achieve our goals. Great effort is involved.

We must be full of enthusiasm and zeal, working persistently to develop the listed qualities in our lives. We must really want them, and work hard to achieve them. We should be motivated and excited about growing in these qualities.

The second noteworthy phrase is “add to your faith.” Faith is an assumption in this passage because Peter is addressing Christians. In Galatians3: 26-27 we read, “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.” We will strengthen our faith by reading the Bible and by attending Bible classes and services to hear the word of God and be encouraged to follow it: “faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17).

Let us be on fire for the Lord.

Next week I will examine the first quality to be added to faith – virtue.