

CHURCH OF CHRIST

295 Sunrise SVC Road North,
Patchogue, NY 11772

Phone: 631-475-6556

E-mail: lanwat@live.com

www.patchoguechurchofchrist.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.

Records you Made:	9/27/15	9/20/15
Bible Classes	78	31
Worship Service	42	94
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$2394.00	\$1768.00
Wed Bible Class	22	27
Baptisms / YTD	-	10

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

Youth Corner

By
Jamal Colson



Whose Clothes Are You Wearing?

“Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Romans 13:14 NIV)

Young people, clothes are important, however, they are not important enough to worry about. In the Bible it says: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” (Matthew 6:25-26 NIV)

Young people, God knows what we need and when we need things. The question for us is: Will we worry about whether or not he will provide these things for us? Many times in my life, I say yes but my actions show differently. I need to remember that I it says in 1Tim 6:17, “The Lord richly provides.”

In conclusion, we need to clothe ourselves in God's righteousness. If we remain faithful, we will be clothed with a white robe.

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

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

Volume 2 No. 40

October 4, 2015

The ladder to heaven

“When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, ‘Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.’” Gen. 28:17.

It was a heart stirring reality that forced Jacob to exclaim, “God lives here!”... “I’ve stumbled into his home!” (The Living Bible). Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could go to sleep and wake up in heaven? Unfortunately it won't be like that. We will not stumble into God's house or get there by chance. Our presence there will be as a result of a deliberate choice, a faithful life of holiness and righteousness, and an indomitable spirit of perseverance.

But what was it that brought about this exclamation of Jacob? Firstly there were the circumstances which led to his mother deciding that it was needful for him to leave home and go by his uncle Laban. Jacob left home. Alone. He slept under the stars and in his sleep he dreamt. In his dream he saw the staircase of God, anchored on earth and stretched to heaven; he saw the angels of God ascending and descending on it; at the top of the stairs, stood God, who spoke to him. “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying...All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring” (Gen. 28:13-14). Notice the approach of God: He identified Himself – “I am the God of your fathers;” He promised – “I will give you.”

God gives! He gives blessings - material and spiritual, “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” (2 Pet.1:3); He gives His presence, He gives His protection and he gave his life.

All dreams come to an end and so did

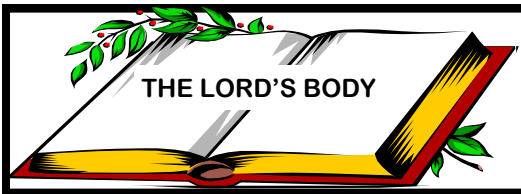
Jacob's. He awoke from his slumber and what an awakening it was! “Surely the Lord is in this place: and I knew it not.” Can you feel the dread if not the terror of Jacob's soul? The ladder, the angels, and the divine glory at the top of the ladder – these left deep and solemn impressions on the heart of Jacob. “How dreadful (awesome) is this place!” What place is that? “This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

What great treasures of heaven are revealed to us in this simple but divinely inspired statement? Consider--

1. The house of God is the gateway to heaven.
2. The house of God is a place of awe and reverential fear.
3. The house of God is the place where God is.
5. The house of God is the ladder, the staircase to heaven.
6. The house of God is the Church of Christ.

We all cherish a desire for heaven but for that desire to be realized we must climb the ladder. God in His goodness and grace built the house and provided the ladder; now it is within our power and it is our responsibility to climb it. The ladder is in the house of God, therefore we must be inside the house to get to the ladder; but what exactly is the house of God? “...if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in *the household of God, which is the church of the living God*, the pillar and bulwark of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15-16). “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” (Matt 16:18). So the house of God is the Church and Jesus built his Church; the house of God is the Church of Christ (Rom. 16:16). Are you in the house?

Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD



Ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

Privileged to Serve 10/04/2015

Morning Service

Song leader Greg Watkins
Call to worship Jason Harper
Welcome/Prayer Jason Harper
Song #1 448
Scripture – Psalm 24:1-10 Mike Salimbene
Songs #2 480
Song #3 528
Second Prayer
Song #4 903
Lord's table and Collection:
Lead Jamal Colson
Assistant C. Hendrickson
Assistant Garrett Watkins
Assistant Mike Costello
Song - Kids to class
Song #5 23
Scripture- Eph. 4:17-24 Kyle Watkins
Sermon - Lancelot Watson
Invitation #6 382
Responses & prayer:
John Stallworth
Derek Peterson
Announcements &
Closing Prayer Jason Harper
Closing Song #7 703

The Gospel Truth

A publication of the Patchogue Church of Christ, 295 Sunrise SVC Road N, (Corner of Hewlett Ave.), P.O. Box 548 Patchogue, NY 11772.

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

Well Done

Matt. 25: 21 ... *Well done, good and faithful servant!*

Affirmation. Praise. Endorphins: feels great!

OR

Matt. 25:26 ... *"You wicked, lazy servant!"*

Discipline. Punishment. How terrible a feeling.

Matthew speaks of these two options. One day

we will face the judge of man; our great God. What will he say to you? Many choose to think of HIM as the old gray bearded grandfather in the sky who offers candy and blessings to all. Well, not exactly. Is the 'King of Kings' and 'Lord of Lords' wonderful looking to bless? Answer: YES.

1 Tim. 2:3,4 *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

Fact is: God wants all men to be saved. However, it is impossible for him to lie. He is a God of truth. He want all to come to truth. Therefore he will judge on truth.

If you had a youth wash the dishes, but after they were done, you still could eat part of the old meal because it was so dirty: would you say 'Good Job'? Not likely. Likewise, God will NOT say 'Well done' for a job that was NOT well done. So what's the point? You and I have the obligation to find out what pleases our God. Eph. 5:10 says, we need to find out what pleases the Lord. Thus, we only get one of two responses when we meet the Lord:

Matt. 25: 21 ... *Well done, good and faithful servant!*

OR

Matt. 25:26 ... *"You wicked, lazy servant!"*

What will he say to you? If you think the answer is not positive: are you willing to do something about it?

The Little Known History of Halloween

Few know what you are about to read concerning Halloween. You will soon know more on this holiday than 99 percent of all people. I'm OK with my kids dressing up as a pumpkin or princess and getting some candy. That is all it means to us. That being said, if you have roots in voodoo, witchcraft, astrology etc. and have issues with occult, I would say it might be good to consider Paul's teaching on weakness and freedom. Many Christians assert their opinion about Halloween as akin to devil worship. These are generally opinions and emotional conclusions.

Brief History –

Romans had a day in October to remember their dead, as did druids, Catholics Nov 1st "All Saints Day" and "Halloween means", "Hallowed Eve," the "sacred" night before that. But - look further and note so many unrelated cultures have this same **traditions at the same time of year**. Egyptians, Australians, Peru, Hindus, Persians (see me or use googleJ). Ancient tradition was to remember the dead and celebrate renovation of life in late October/Early November. Historians say this is perhaps one of the **most universal of all customs across cultures**. "Trick or treat" started in England with the druids remembering their dead. Poor children would sneak and take the offerings off of the graves so they could eat. The tradition continues...

HALLOWEEN IS THE DAY TO REMEMBER THE FLOOD

In Parallel there are more than 270 Legends of a flood in ancient cultures around the world (See me / references). Writings from Nineveh, comments from Plato, etc. also memorialize that a flood happened. There are only 4 events in the bible where the exact day and month are given– Passover, Babylonian attack of Jerusalem, Salvation of Jews (Ester), and the Flood. **Genesis 7:9** - "In the 600th year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the same day,...the great deep burst open..." If you examine the known Jewish agricultural calendar given in Exodus, and translate it to what it means on our calendar, it is at or around October 31st. **What does this all mean?** Amazingly, at or around Oct. 31st 2453 B.C. Noah entered the ark. One year later Noah emerged from the Ark. The flood had a massive impact on Noah's family and every resulting culture had set aside time to remember that great day - but it has been obscured over time. **Romans 1:18**

The Joy of the Lord – His Reality in our Lives

God is real! He is my savior, He is my father, and He, the mighty creator, loves me. For the Christian, these undeniable, powerful truths can be a source of great joy. David says to God, "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand" (Psalms 16:11).

The message of Jesus the savior, was referred to at His birth as "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10). Reflecting on our salvation, that we have been saved from the wrath of God, which we deserve because of our sins, is a source of joy. We sing about this joy – "O happy day when Jesus washed my sins away;" "God has smiled on me." Appreciating the truth of these sentiments, taking time to reflect on them often and praising God for them can give us a quiet underlying joy in our hearts every minute of every day.

God has adopted us and made us His children. He cares for us, protects us, and provides for us better than earthly fathers do for their children. We are assured in Matthew 6: 8: "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Jesus encourages us to pray to God as "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (Matthew 6:9), and He assures us, "whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you" (John 15:16). Surely God's adoption of us as His children is cause for continuous joy in our hearts!

Looking around at the creation, thinking about the miracle of life and its maintenance, presents before us the marvel of God's awesome power. It is the knowledge of this power that enables Paul to declare, "If God is for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31)? Our knowledge that God, who is everywhere, all knowing, and all powerful, and that nothing can separate us from His love is the ultimate source of joy.

Jesus is our savior, so if we lack joy, let us pray to God like David, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain e" (Psalm 51:12).