

CHURCH OF CHRIST

295 Sunrise Road North,
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:	7/25/15	7/19/15
Bible Classes	33	43
Worship Service	93	106
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$1713.00	\$2024.00
Wed Bible Class	VBS	25
Baptisms/	-	1

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

Youth Corner

By
Jamal Colson



No Testimony Without A Test Matthew 26 & Acts 2

Have you ever thought that you were in a position to testify about our Lord and Savior and to your surprise the opportunity or situation didn't go as well as you would have liked? Have you ever thought you were growing in the Lord and to your surprise you found you hadn't grown as much as you thought, based on your response to a particular situation? You are not alone! Peter had a similar experience in Matthew 26:31.

Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'³² But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."³³ Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."³⁴ "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."³⁵ But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

First, Jesus predicts Peter's denial and later in Matthew 26 we read of the events that follow:

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.⁷¹

Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."⁷² He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"⁷³ After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."⁷⁴ Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Patchogue Church of Christ
295 Sunrise Service Road N.
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Why be a Christian?

So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch, (Acts 11:26.)

If Jesus Christ had his way with us, we all would be faithful dedicated Christians. Why should you become a Christian? Here are four reasons.

I. You should become a Christian because there is a God in heaven. This God created you, the universe, and all things that exist. Many question the existence of God, suggesting that it cannot be proven that He exists. This however is not true. The evidence for the existence and reality of God is all around us. The Bible, says, "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything," (Hebrews 3:4). What would you think of a parent who takes his family for an afternoon drive to explore their community. They drive through a residential area and are struck by the beauty of the houses. The small child asks, "Daddy who built those houses?" Daddy answers, "Son, no one built those houses. This area was empty land, and we awoke one morning, and amazingly, the houses were here!" "There was nothing and suddenly, BANG! Houses appeared." Would you believe that? Fairy Tale, you say. Indeed it is. Every house has a builder. This universe is a house. It has a builder and that builder is God. This God also made us and made us in his image and likeness. Psalm 100:3 tells us, "Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." You should become a Christian because there is a God in heaven; He is your maker and He loves you.

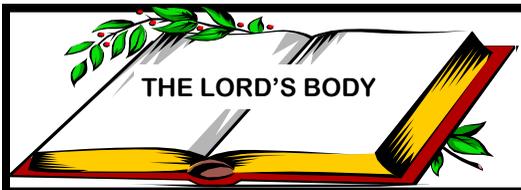
II. You should become a Christian because of sin. We sin when we disobey God. He created us to live a certain kind of moral, spiritual and ethical life. That life conforms to His character and will. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, sinned. As a result of their sin, death came into our world. We live in a world corrupted by sin and death; this sin has infected every person, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" and "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23). Each time you

see a casket, remind yourself, that person's death is as a result of sin. If there were no sin, there would be no death, neither pain nor suffering. Physical death is but one consequence of sin. Of greater importance is spiritual death - a life from which God has removed His presence. Unfortunately this is descriptive of the majority of us. When we live without God, we deny ourselves the opportunity to maximize our potential as a person created in the image of God; created to succeed in this life; created to live good, spiritually productive lives. The rights, privileges and blessings of Christians, (those persons who are in fellowship with God), are denied to us. As a result there is an emptiness in our hearts and souls leaving us with a life that is empty, unhappy and unfulfilled.

III. You should become a Christian, because the penalty for your sins has been paid. Jesus Christ had to live a sinless life and then die for you and me. That was the requirement for our redemption. God has pardoned us of our sins through Jesus Christ. The efficacy of that pardon is available only to those who accept it. If we do not accept the pardon offered by God then we will have to pay the ultimate penalty for our sins, the most horrible thing imaginable, (Mark 9:43).

IV. You should become a Christian, because the Christian life is rewarding and wholesome. It equips us with a moral and ethical character that is exemplary to all. As a Christian we are better able to handle conflicts, develop character and a spirit that is forgiving, patient and kind. It enables us to be better able to have a family life that is loving, stable and fulfilling. We are able to overcome and recover from the setbacks of life. As a Christian you are a blessing to your community, your family and your friends. You can recommend the Christian way of life to your children, grandchildren, friends and to everyone with whom you come in contact. The Christian life is the best life and now is the best time for everyone to learn about how to make that a life a personal experience. I encourage you to seriously consider becoming a Christian; give us a chance to help with your spiritual search you will be glad you did.

Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



*LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD*



ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

Privileged to Serve 8/2/2015

Morning Service

Song leader	Greg Watkins
Call to worship	
Welcome/Prayer	Jason Harper
Song #1	23
Scripture – Psalm 13:1-6	Joe Cirnigliaro
Songs #2	480
Song #3	528
Second Prayer	James Guiffre
Song #4	382
Lord's table and Collection:	
Lead	Jamal Colson
Assistant	Anthony Soto
Assistant	Ben Field
Assistant	Mike Costello
Song - Kids to class	
Song #5	448
Scripture- Acts 26:28-29	Kyle Watkins
Sermon -	Lancelot Watson
Invitation #6	903
Responses & prayer:	
Joe Cirnigliaro	
John Stallworth	
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.), Patchogue, NY 11772.

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“Turn the other cheek? Huh!”

“Are you kidding me? Turn the other cheek? No way!” That was my original reaction. Some say, “I’m not going to be a door mat.” As I matured, I realized: God will not ask us to do something we just can’t do! So I opened my heart to what His message and discovered, I never understood the passage. Let’s re-read this and see:

Matt. 5:38-42 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Jesus here dispenses with some folklore. Verse 38 is a historical law reference from Ex. 21:24. At the time, the scripture was being misused to justify re-venge. Jesus challenges the worldly concept of the day and clarifies the integrity the law. He highlights the point with some strong examples of “clothing” & “travel”. If we look at those analogies, we find the point revolves around the attitude of serving and NOT revenge! If we then consider “turn the cheek”, it is NOT about being a doormat, but more about serving and NOT SEEKING REVENGE. Many other scriptures make the point; including Exodus where the law was originally written. READ Exodus 21 and you’ll get a much different perspective.

Next time, we’ll look at another scenario which makes a similar point!

Phil. 3:15-16 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Recognizing Religious Dysfunction Part I

“An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule on their own authority; and My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it...For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for gain, and from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely. They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ but there is no peace.....”

There is a difference between religious dedication and religious dysfunction. If you are outside of the Christian faith you likely recognize the perils of religion, and if you are a Christian you have witnessed it. We must remember: religious corruption has existed for thousands of years, however it is absolutely possible to find and have a relationship with God. This place encourages that. A real person of God should lead you toward a strong and independent relationship with God; not a codependency that relies on an idea or a fragile made-up system. In the next couple of weeks we will examine the motivations of religious dysfunction, and the signs to watch for.

FIRST: The motivations of religious leaders who preside over a corrupt system.

- **Comfort** – There is physical and mental solace in creating and maintaining a system that is of your own design and is stable.
- **Power** – It is easy for a religious leader to believe that exercise of authority over others is in others best interests and that they know best.
- **Wealth** –Provision of a salary, fringe benefits, and life’s creature comforts are tempting to all of mankind.
- **Attention/Pride** – It feels good to feel like you know everything, and that you speak for God.

SECOND - The signs of a systemic problem. For Christians and Non-Christians.

- No Questions** - “Don’t question what I say or do.”
- **No further learning** – “Change your mind - you are Satan.”
- Consolidation of power** – “Get in line with us, or get out.”
- Stick to the tradition!** - “We have always done it this way.”
- Denial of reality** – “What you feel or think is a lie.”
- Disconnect between words and deeds** – “I am different.”

Pure religion- helping widows and orphans. Done it lately? Micah said “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your Lord.”

Contentment

Grumbling is not just idle talk. It is in fact a sin which shows lack of faith in God, rebellion against God, and selfishness as its roots. It is one demonstration of a discontented heart. Envy is another such sin. It is defined as a resentful feeling toward someone because of some good thing that has happened to her/him and wanting that good thing for ourselves. Envy is another expression of a discontented heart, as is anxiety, which is a fear, nervousness or worry about what **might** happen.

These three sinful habits are opposed to the contentment of a Christian heart, described by Paul in Philippians 4:11, **“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”** Contentment is defined in Easton’s Bible dictionary as “a state of mind in which we are satisfied with our lot in life whatever it may be.” As Christians, contentment is a goal worth working towards. It will help us save our souls, and enjoy a peaceful life: “The fear of the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble” (Proverbs 19:23).

Grumbling, envy, and anxiety have a way of sneaking upon us. We may have every intention of maintaining a pure heart before God, and trusting Him with all our heart, but our enemy the devil has many “wiles” or tricks that he uses in his obsessively driven dedication to trap us in sin. We have to be wary and wise, and follow God’s cautioning words: “Above all else, **guard your heart**, for everything you do flows from it” (Proverbs 24:12). We can do this when **“we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”** (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Each of us has been richly blessed in so many ways. Let us work to develop a thankful attitude by counting our blessings at least daily. Let us be conscious of our thoughts, our feelings, and the meaning of our words, so that grumbling, envy, and anxiety have no place in our lives. Let us follow God’s word to, **“give thanks in all circumstances;** for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18), and remember to **“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you”** (1 Peter 5:6-7).