

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

295 Sunrise Road North,  
Patchogue, NY 11772

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[www.patchoguechurchofchrist.org](http://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:	8/9/15	8/2/15
Bible Classes	28	54
Worship Service	103	147
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$1849.00 \$394.00	\$2350.00
Wed Bible Class	18	23
Baptisms/ YTD	1	10

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

## Youth Corner

By  
Jamal Colson



When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I AM A CHRISTIAN  
When I say, "I am a Christian,"  
I'm not shouting "I am saved."  
I'm whispering, "I get lost."  
That is why I chose this way.  
When I say, "I am a Christian."  
I don't speak of this with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble.  
And I need someone to be my guide.  
When I say "I am a Christian,"  
I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I am weak.  
And pray for strength to carry on.  
When I say "I am a Christian,"  
I'm not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting I have failed  
And cannot ever pay the debt.  
When I say, "I am a Christian,"  
I'm not clamming to be perfect.  
My flaws are too visible.  
But God believes I'm worth it.  
When I say, "I am a Christian,"  
I still feel the string of pain.  
I have my share of heartaches,  
Which is why I seek HIS name?  
When I say, "I am a Christian."  
I do not wish to judge.  
I have no authority.  
I only know I'm loved.  
Author Unknown.

## THE GOSPEL TRUTH

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

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### A united body

*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."* (John 17:20-23).

Jesus prayed for His Church. This Church was the purpose of His mission to earth and it is the vehicle that will take His people to heaven. Had he been a mere man, we could say that His Church was His life because that is what He gave for it. It was "bought with his own blood," (Acts 20:28). Jesus loves His Church and gave himself up for her "to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant Church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless," (Eph 5:25-27). With this depth of love and concern we are not unduly surprised that he would offer such a powerful prayer for His Church. Let us remind ourselves that His Church are His followers. His followers are those persons who obey His gospel (Acts 2:38), and continue living in His grace. These are the ones the text speaks of by saying, "the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved," (Acts 2:47).

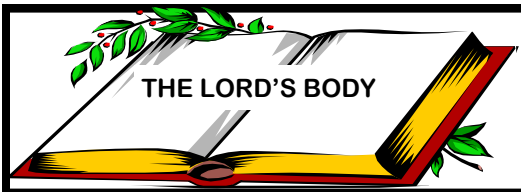
In praying for His Church, Jesus prays that His Church be a united body. He knew that if His Church is divided up into all sort of factions, it

loses credibility with the claim to be the body of Christ. Divisions generate bitterness and "vexation of spirit" a "chasing after the wind" (Eccl. 1:14-2:26); it makes our ministry to the world a contradiction of our practices. Jesus therefore prayed that these divisions would not take place. You and I and all members of the Lord's Church must work toward the fulfillment of that prayer in our lives and assemblies.

The Church has a mission and a purpose. Its mission is to convert the lost to Jesus and its purpose is to keep us saved until Jesus returns. Disunity hinders the cause of Christ. It scatters and discourages the sheep. It destroys the good image and esteem held by the local community. It destroys years of labor that went into the building up of the Church and prevents future laborers from reaping harvest based on the work of their predecessors. Disunity prevents continuity of works and programs. In essence disunity stifles the growth of the Church and eventually, kills the Church. It is for this and other reasons why we are commanded "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace," (Eph 4:3).

Unity is to be desired by everyone who loves the Lord. When we love the Lord we want to be like Him in both word and practice. Therefore we obey Him. When we see disunity creeping into our fellowship we work at expelling it. The apostle tells us how it is done. "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you," (Eph 4:31-32).

Lancelot W.



# The family by John Stallworth



*LIVING IT OUT—  
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY  
BY  
BENJAMIN FIELD*



**ladies' Corner**  
by  
*Paulette Watson*

**Privileged to Serve 8/16/2015**

**Morning Service**

Song leader	Greg Watkins
Call to worship	
Welcome/Prayer	James Guiffre
Song #1	453
Scripture – Psalm 15:1-5	Brian Maddox
Songs #2	538
Song #3	559
Second Prayer	Steve Lynch
Song #4	176
Lord's table and Collection:	
Lead	Mike Salimbene
Assistant	Chris McGue
Assistant	Jamal Colson
Assistant	C. Hendrickson
Song - Kids to class	
Song #5	578
Scripture- James 3:13-18	John Scignano
Sermon -	Lancelot Watson
Invitation #6	382
Responses & prayer:	
Derek Peterson	
Joe Cirnigliaro	
Announcements &	
Closing Prayer	James Guiffre
Closing Song #7	703

**The Gospel Truth**

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## Judging Your Own Destiny

*Matt. 7:1-5 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

*Mk. 7:24 "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you--and even more.*

Every time you forgive, you are filling a side of a scale. The more you forgive, the more the scale is tipped. This scale will be important when you stand before the Lord on your day of Judgement.

Jesus describes a process of judgement. When you stand before the Lord, he will fill the other side of your scale with the forgiveness you will receive. However, he will NOT tip the scale past the weight of your own forgiveness towards others.

*Prov. 20:23 The LORD detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him.*

There is a real sobering fact here. When we withhold forgiveness, we are judging our own destiny. We are limiting our own mercy!

*Matt. 18:21-22 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

## Recognizing Religious Dysfunction Part III

### The Signs of Systemic Problems – Continued

#### Consolidation of Power – “Get in line, or get out.”

As long as someone is not causing doctrinal or other issues they should be permitted to grow at different rates as equals. We don't strangle garden plants or crowd out seedlings. It is the same with people. **Our culture MUST reflect the nature of the good soil Jesus spoke of. This cannot be negotiable.** Patchogue C.O.C. does its best. It is healthy when members engage you; encouraging activity and growth. Think of it as watering and fertilizing. If you aren't engaged in regular activity, it is a bad spiritual sign – an unbiblical and concerning state.

But is **wrong** for teachers to **build systems around this** - creating conditions of friendship, inclusion, and brotherhood. It's even worse when there is cutting people off as punishment to instill fear and compliance. When men act like God, God eventually smacks them down. If you are in a church that demands people go through training, indoctrination of group-think, and adoption of priorities, programs, activities, and actions under the threat of ostracism... just run... get out before you become an instrument of evil. (None of this was required for the Eunuch or Centurion.) Jesus warned such people “travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.”

Paul reminded “the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" This means that the functions and activities of the members will be diverse in a healthy body, not singular!!!! It means we should be happy when we see this – a sign of health.

**Stick to the tradition! - “It Has Always Been This Way.”**

Similarly, watch for abuse of human nature with traditions. If you are an “insider,” but feel that taking a hiatus or changing priority will get you punished... you are the problem - you personify the “traditions of men.” A system with a power structure of traditions that feeds itself, evangelizes itself, and has a caste/class structure isn't biblical and will fail. Don't engage in “prove my approach wrong” debates. Artificial hurdles demanding you show the bible specifically says their tradition is wrong feeds into the mindset.

In extreme forms this is how cults operate.

## Find Contentment in God's Promises (I)

God “has given us his very great and precious promises” (2 Peter 1:4), and from reading about His interaction with men and women from the creation we know that we can trust Him, “God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments” (Deuteronomy 7:9). Many of God's promises offer us comfort, security, protection, and provision of our needs. I know of no better source of the Christian's contentment. Let us look at some of the promises God has given us and the areas in which they bring contentment:

Our relationship with God: He has saved us and promised heaven. He promises, <sup>13</sup>“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Our continued salvation: James tells us, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7).

Jesus' permanent invitation to fellowship: “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me” (Revelations 3:20).

Supplying our needs: John tells us, “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us” (1 John 5:14).

Healing our sicknesses: “And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up” (James 5:14).

There are so many more wonderful promises. This beginning is a strong motivation to continue to look into the treasury of God's “great and precious promises” and the contentment that they offer. Let us pray that as we contemplate these promises, our souls will find contentment.