

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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:	9/6/15	8/30/15
Bible Classes	35	27
Worship Service	90	82
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$1915.00	\$2051.00
Wed Bible Class	22	32
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



Growing Through Perseverance

Young people, we can use this definition of perseverance:

The quality that allows someone to continue trying to do something even though it is difficult.

Young people we need to continue to strive for righteousness each and everyday. The path is not easy but the success far outweighs the struggles to complete the process.

The word says: Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.
(1 John 3:18 NIV)

The Bible also says:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,
(Hebrews 12:1 NIV)

In conclusion, young disciple in training, we can grow and one of the ways to grow is through perseverance. That means we need to work at our walk with Christ. To preserve we need to actively engage in our relationships and be willing to flee the things that entangle us. One way to accomplish that is by holding on to Colossians 3:1-2:

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Amen

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Patchogue Church of Christ
295 Sunrise Service Road N.
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Small things make a big difference

Life is filled with seemingly “impossible” situations. Sometimes we feel that nothing we can do will make any difference for good. There may be some small step that we could take in a positive direction, but the devil is quick to discourage us: “The little things you are contemplating wouldn’t be enough to change the outcome. Why waste your effort? Give up on that; forget about it.” As always, of course, the devil is lying. To start with, when we stay focused and patiently do one little thing after another, we *change the outcome, we make a difference*; We accomplish what the devil said couldn’t be done!

There are many examples of cases where God called upon individuals to do something that to them would have seemed a waste of effort but ended with great results. The feeding of the multitude is a case in point. Jesus asked His apostles what they had with which to feed the people, Andrew said, “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, *but what are they among so many?*” (Jn. 6:9). Before the day was done, however, Jesus used “the small things” and fed five thousand men, proving that God is able to take small resources and produce astonishing results. This miracle ought to prevent us from asking, “Lord, what *difference* will my small effort make?”

The very essence of “faith” is the willingness to do whatever we know God wants us to do, whether or not we can see how it will “work out.” When Jesus instructed the apostles to launch out into the deep and let down their nets for a catch of fish, Peter’s answer was, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless *at Your word I will let down the net*” (Luke. 5:5). What-

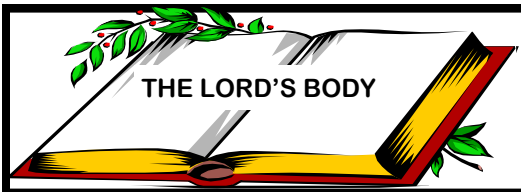
ever misgivings he had, Peter did what the Lord said *because it was the Lord speaking!* If we say we have faith, but we’re not willing to act when we can’t see the outcome, then it’s not God’s foresight that we trust, but our own! Faith takes God at His word and does whatever He says, disregarding the devil’s lie that “it won’t do any good.” It *always* does good to do good -- whether or not we live long enough to see the good!

Shortsightedness (many times its really selfishness) is a serious hindrance to positive doing and decision-making. When we know what we should do, but second guess what good it will do, we are defining “good” in terms of personal short-term benefits. This approach lacks confidence in God. Let’s overcome this and reinforce our faith and trust and do the little things; “we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Rom 8:28).

Let’s heed the word, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding” (Prov. 3:5). Also, “As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good” (Eccl. 11:5-6).

Brothers and Sisters, we don’t *need* to know all that God knows. It’s His job to run the universe, and we can trust that He’ll do it perfectly. Let’s do our part, the little things that are within our scope and let’s not “despise the day of small things” (Zechariah 4:10).

Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



*LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD*



ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

Privileged to Serve 9/13/2015

Morning Service

Song leader	Brian Maddox
Call to worship	
Welcome/Prayer	Jason Harper
Song #1	611
Scripture – Psalm 20:1-9	Mike Salimbene
Songs #2	227
Song #3	350
Second Prayer	Joe Cirnigliaro
Song #4	153 (Verse 1)
Lord's table and Collection:	
Lead	John Sicignano
Assistant	Barry Koeber
Assistant	Tom Meehan
Assistant	Tyler Dowdy
Song - Kids to class	
Song #5	432
Scripture- Psalm 34:1-10	Chris McGue
Sermon -	Lancelot Watson
Invitation #6	907
Responses & prayer:	
Jamal Colson	
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.

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Honey Do List

Leaky roof; Patchy lawn; Squeaky door; etc. Many men get that itching feeling: "Oh no, I have to get that fixed." Some of us start looking for our hammer and drill. How is your house? When folks visit, do you hear: "What a beautiful house!" Do you have a 'Honey do list'? Walking around your home, you realize ALL of the things that need fixing. We even enlist the family to sustaining the home. We challenge every member of the household to contribute to the dishes, the lawn, maintenance, etc. No freeloading!

The same is true for the Lord's house.

Hagg. 1:2-6 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come for the LORD's house to be built.' " 3 Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 4 "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" 5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. 6 You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

The Lord expects his people to contribute to the success of His home. We spend soooooo much time working on our own stuff and soooooo little time working for the Lord. This should NOT be! You and I were purchase at a great price to serve and honor our Lord. We would NOT accept someone living and enjoying all of the blessing of our home with contributing. THE LORD DOES NOT ACCEPT IT EITHER.

Prov. 3:9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops;

Context in History – The Church of Christ and Denominationalism

As discussed last week, the "Church of Christ" arose out of the Restoration Movement during the Second Great Awakening in an attempt to return to biblical grounds. We experienced our greatest cultural peak somewhere around the 1950s. Back at our inception, Alexander Campbell wished to give "Bible names to Bible things" so the name given to the movement was "Church of Christ" in preference over other biblical names ("The Way", "The Church of God," or simply "Christian Church") because of Romans 16:16. This was a decision of men to name an identifiable group.

Remember that we are not a "denomination" but we can function as one sometimes, and are **always** in danger of becoming one. Often times we engage in doctrinal error using the passage in 1 Corinthians 1:10 "See to it that there are no divisions among you." and just stop there... Then then say "this is why I am not a _____." (Insert denomination)

But we deliberately ignore the context of the passage in the very next verse which says "some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels **among** you." This verse was not written to delineate us from another group, but was intended to be used **within** the church. It was telling us to get along - no subcultures, bickering, multiple doctrines, "cliques", etc. It was never intended to be a doctrinal statement of our naming, or to delineate us from other denominations. Neither was Romans 16:16 written with intent to name. It was a salutation to those Churches belonging to Christ. That's it. We ought to stop these theologies, and be more honest as they are doctrines of men.

That is not to say that there is anything wrong with our name, or that it's not the best chance of finding Christians (it is), but the most beautiful part of our movement is that it was just that – **it was a movement** – an attempt by many to cast aside the corruptions that invaded Christian culture over centuries.

Sometimes I fear we have lost that. We must be aware that man-made teachings and our "traditions" are akin to being a "denomination." We have creeds. My personal fear is that we will never start truly growing again until we get back to our more admirable roots as a movement, and collectively return to seeking God with diligence outside of our rigidity. If we do, the world will see what we believe is real. If we don't, we may decay into obscurity as an organization.

The Joy of the Lord (I)

Joy is usually associated with being happy, having gladness and singing in our hearts: Psalm 67:4 says, "May the nations **be glad and sing for joy,**" and many other passages link joy with delight and gladness. For example, Psalm 43:4 speaks of "**God, my joy and my delight,**" while Psalm 45:15 refers to being led before the king "**with joy and gladness.**" From these verses, Joy seems to be a feeling which we can express with various signs of happiness. Yet, there is no doubt that we are commanded by God, as Christians to be joyful at all times, even in the face of trials and grief. "**Be joyful always**" (1 Thessalonians 5:16), and "**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!**" (Philippians 4:4). This is somewhat puzzling. How can a feeling be commanded? It would appear, then, that joy as commanded by Christ is more than a feeling.

Nehemiah told the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem from exile to stop mourning over their past sinful behavior: "Do not grieve, for **the joy of the LORD is your strength**" (Nehemiah 8:10). The phrase "joy of the Lord" helps to shed some light on the nature of the joy that Christ commands. It is "of the Lord," therefore it cannot be worldly or of fleshly origin. It is spiritual. In fact, as we know, it is one of the fruits of the spirit" (Galatians 5:22), so it is really something that comes from God. Nehemiah said that this joy "is your strength," so it is something that we should want and strive to gain, not only to obey God's command to have it, but because we will reap the benefit of strength from it.

We often pray for strength, yet prayer for joy is not that common, although ironically, strength and joy are closely linked. Jesus did say, "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete" (John 16:24). Prayer is only one of the ways through which we can have joy in our hearts, regardless of outside circumstances. In the coming weeks I hope we will find joy in exploring some of the other avenues to joyful living.