

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:	10/4/15	9/27/15
Bible Classes	16	31
Worship Service	79	78
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$2254.00	\$2394.00
Wed Bible Class	28	22
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



If the Lord Had Not Been on our Side

Young people, have you ever wondered if the Lord is on your side? I usually struggle with that when I allow the accuser to badger me into a corner. I need to simply flee the evil one during those times. When we are feeling doubtful about God's love for us, let us turn to His word for answers:

Psalm 124:2-7- if the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us, they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us; the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us, the raging waters would have swept us away. Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

In conclusion, remember there are two sides to every coin. In this case we need to understand that first, not having God on our side, being without help of the Lord is not simply difficult or hard living, its **separation** from God. On the other side, remaining in God's love, having His favor on our side, we **will** be like a bird freed from a snare.

Let us remember Psalm 124:8

"Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

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

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The cross of Christ is our only boast

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Gal 6:14).

To boast is to brag and to glory is to rejoice proudly. As a people we have been schooled to accomplish worthwhile goals and when we do, we are exhilarated by it. We tend to bask in this euphoric feeling as we feel it strengthens our self-worth, improves the image of ourselves and our family; friends and neighbors may even think more highly of us because of these achievements. We crave the goodwill of others and so many times we will remind them (boast) of our accomplishments.

Our God however takes a different view. God is of the view that the only thing worth boasting about is our righteousness with Him. If we are righteous, we will have the Spirit of God and live according to the will of God. Boasting is not included in God's will for us. Israel was told, "This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD." (Jer. 9:23-24).

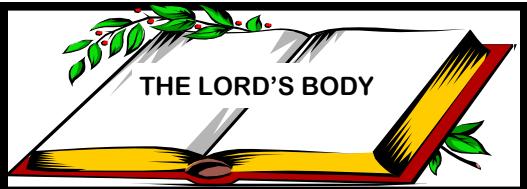
This principle holds true even today. The apostle Paul states that his boast is in the Cross of Christ. It is in this that we are to have a sense of achievement, as it is in the cross we find ourselves, our righteousness, our purpose and our destiny.

The cross was a symbol of shame. It was reserved for the worst of criminals, a means of showing extreme contempt for the condemned.

The suffering and humiliation of a Roman crucifixion were unequalled. It is unthinkable therefore that justice could be so perverted that an innocent person be crucified. Yet this was the case of Jesus Christ our Lord. Not only was He innocent, but He willingly went to the cross. It is you and I who ought to be on that cross, we are the guilty ones, we are the sinners. Sin is the greatest of all evils, so no punishment can be too great for the sinner. Jesus Christ took our place, He took our punishment; He gave His life for us. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God," (2 Cor. 5:21).

We are to glory in the cross and to glory in the cross is to glory in the doctrine of the cross. "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Cor 1:18). The message of the cross is the glorious gospel of which we must not be ashamed (Rom. 1:16), "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," (1 Cor. 15:3-4). This message is to be preached, believed and obeyed. It is the message of hope and life in Christ for all eternity. In this message, Christ makes it possible for us to be reconciled with our God - "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isa 1:18). This great miracle is ours by our faith in the Man on the cross and our obedience to the message of the cross. That message gives the commands, "repent and be baptized ... for the remission of your sins." Do you have faith in the Man on that cross? Have you obeyed the message of the cross?

Lancelot W.



The family

by

John Stallworth

Privileged to Serve 10/11/2015

Morning Service

Song leader	Brian Maddox
Call to worship	Jamal Colson
Welcome/Prayer	
Song #1	749
Scripture – Psalm 25:1-7	Garrett Watkins

Songs #2	647
Song #3	800

Second Prayer	Tom Meehan
Song #4	350

Lord's table and Collection:

Lead	Joe Curnigliaro
Assistant	Barry Koeber
Assistant	Steve Lynch
Assistant	Chris McGue
Song - Kids to class	

Song #5	867 (1,2,4)
Scripture-Heb. 10:32-36	Ryan Costello

Sermon -	Lancelot Watson
Invitation #6	909

Responses & prayer:

Jason Harper	
Ben Field	
Announcements &	
Closing Prayer	Jamal Colson
Closing Song #7	703

The Gospel Truth

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**LIVING IT OUT –
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD**



ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

The Joy of the Lord is in Service to Him

Serving God is source of Joy, not a burden! David encourages us in Psalm 32:11 “Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!” As we practice righteousness to please God, we can rejoice because we are pleasing Him. We can rejoice because we are following a path we have chosen, and God is rewarding us with victory. We are assured that through our faith we believe that God rewards us for seeking Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Paul tells us that the service we give to God is our sacrifice to Him: “Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—alive, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your reasonable service (Romans 12:1). This is expanded by the Hebrew writer’s exhortation, “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased (Hebrews 13:15-16). God’s pleasure in us is cause for joy in our hearts as we speak and work for Him. Therefore, we can follow David’s lead and say: “I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle” (Psalm 27:6).

We serve God by worshipping Him in His church. As Christians we know that we assemble for worship on the Lord’s Day. We break bread together, we study His Word, we give a sacrifice from our earnings, and we offer prayers and praise in song. This worship service is a joyous activity, not an obligation we find to be a chore. Again, we can follow David’s example and say, I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD" (Psalm 122:1).

Let us find joy as we serve the Lord. We do not serve Him in vain!

Excuse #1 –Your Stuff

Lk. 14:16-18 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' 18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

“Excuse me” often means “Excuses for me”. We see 3 excuses; all of which are pretty poor. Let’s consider the 1st excuser who explains he just bought a field. Let’s categorize this one as ‘stuff’. Given an invitation to a ‘great banquet’, he uses his stuff to decline the invitation. What might this excuse look like for you and me? “I can’t come to Bible class, because I need to go shopping for ...” “I won’t be at church, because I need to fix my ...” “I’m having a family party and I need to prepare!” “I promised my kids I’d take them to ..., so I won’t make it to church.” Consider what types of stuff do you prioritize over your spiritual activities? Why does this stuff need to happen during church times?

"Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." (vs15). If we consider our excuses, in light of what Jesus is replying to, we might get a stronger perspective. We are all given the privilege to participate in the kingdom of God (the church). When Jesus returns to bring us to the ‘great banquet’ in heaven: how justified will our ‘excuses’ sound? “But you just don’t understand my situation we explain.” Consider what your ‘situation’ looks like on the final day.

When we prioritize our spiritual activities 1st, we are working on eternal matters. We are setting ourselves up for a ‘situation’ that reaps wonderful rewards (Jn. 14:1ff).

Let’s address 2 things for the competing stuff:

- 1) Our words: Don’t say "I have to go to church." But instead: “I get to...”
- 2) Our planning: anchor your spiritual activities into your calendar. Don’t plan over them!

Mt. 6:33But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Perils and Perks of Prophecy – Part I

Many of you know I have expressed interest in prophecy. I find it of value, and relevant to daily life as I perceive the living Word in the conditions of humanity (ex- 2 Tim 3:1, 1 Tim 4:1, 2 Thess 2:3, Rev 2:10 parallel cultural slip, public executions/jailing, theological slip, Christians = most persecuted group at all-time high of **110 of 198** countries, 76 percent of all world live under threat <http://eclj.org/> <http://www.pewforum.org/2014>). There is also false teaching mixed in, adding danger, and our enemy obscures prophecy by loading it with crazy people. But false teaching is insufficient reason for us to avoid prophecy, otherwise we’d need to avoid all aspects of Christianity.

I see a dichotomy within our numbers; two seemingly coexisting camps - there are those who value prophecy, and there are those who dismiss and avoid the topic *despite the potential benefits*. It results in an “underground” who ponder prophecy (but only talk to people who won’t judge them), and the typical Christian that avoids the topic. There is a lack of good conversation on the very thing that sets the bible apart from all else – God’s foreknowledge and His telling. Those excited by prophecy *don’t know what to do with what they read/see*, and those who avoid it “close the blinds” as if it isn’t very relevant. Neither extreme is good. Our way of processing it is often to declare a safe spot theology (“well Jesus is coming at any time so let’s move on”) and shut it down. Feathering out truth is hard. That is why we need to talk about it, and why there should be “not many teachers among you.” New Christians need caution, and old Christians need knowledge...even then it can be tough/inconclusive. I wish to examine discernment before any reflection on scriptures.

We can have personal ideas and speculations, but we should tread lightly in fusing them with doctrine. Likewise, scripture permits us to acknowledge our wonder at the Word. I hope to show that prophecy has value. I also hope to show we can draw a line between scripture and conjecture. Nearly a third of all scripture relates to prophecy. Are we “bible based” if we avoid the tough meat and stay with milk? The early church relied on prophecy, pondered events, and used it to the benefit of their faith. We can too....carefully.