

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:	11/29/15	11/22/15
Bible Classes	32	22
Worship Service	102	77
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$1927.00	\$2072.00
Wed Bible Class	36	28
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



God is...?

Young people God is so amazing that we can live a lifetime and still have more to learn about God. In this article I plan to focus on the fact that God is love.

¹ John 4:7-12

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought [to love one another](#). ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

“Dear friends,” I like in verse 9, “this is how God showed his love among us he sent his one and only Son into the world”. That sounds similar to John 3:16 as it reads “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”. The bible says “no one has ever seen God but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us”.

In conclusion, God is love and His love can be our everything if we allow him. Also notice “not that we loved God, but that he loved us”! Sometime during our most difficult time we ask “how has he loved us” verse 10, “he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”. Go forth this week knowing God is Love!

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

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

Volume 2 No. 49

December 6, 2015

Abraham, God's friend

What a great honor to be called the friend of God! Abraham was the only man specifically described in this way in the Bible. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “*Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend.*” (James 2:23; II Chronicles 20:7, Isaiah 41:8). What did Abraham do, for God to identify him as His Friend?

Abraham Moved

God has never had a problem asking us humans to move. Often the problem is with our stubbornness and our disobedient heart. Many people hate the notion of making a change, even when it is a change for the better. Abraham moved from Ur to Canaan upon God's request. In making the move Abraham experienced many hardships and difficulties along the way. His father died, he got caught up in a war, a famine struck, his herdsmen fought among themselves, but finally Abraham arrived into Canaan as God said (Genesis 11:27– 13:8). Today God has no problem asking us to move. He asks all of us to move out of sin into righteous living. He asks us to be His friend. However to be God's friend we must give up the world. To be friends with the world is hatred toward God (James 4:4). Paul urged us to not conform to the world, but be transformed into the image of Christ (Romans 12:2). We must move "into Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

Abraham was Committed

In the present age of short stays and fast pace, long term commitment has lost favor to short term gains. God promised Abraham a son and expected Abraham to believe Him even though he would have to wait 25 years before the promise would be fulfilled. Waiting on the Lord is the difference between giving up in failure and soaring like an eagle

into success, (Isaiah 40:31). Abraham and Sarah went through times of discouragement and misunderstanding. Abraham for example, thought by adopting his servant Eliezer (Genesis 15) he could fulfill God's promise. Sarah thought the promised heir could come through her maid, Hagar (Genesis 16). Sarah in disbelief laughed at the prophecy of Isaac's birth in her old age (Genesis 18). What is striking about Abraham and Sarah is that although they made many mistakes they still had a commitment to believe in and serve God! Their faith continually led them back to God after their mistakes. God forgave them and blessed them with Isaac as promised. We learn from this that we are not perfect and we must not let our imperfection deter us; without strong commitment to God we have no hope!

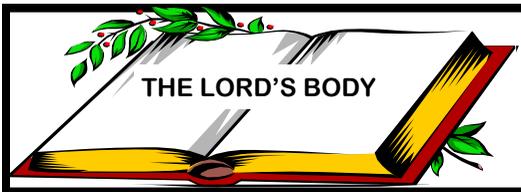
Abraham Obeyed

God tested Abraham by commanding him to offer as a burnt sacrifice his long awaited son, Isaac, (Genesis 22). He and Isaac traveled three days to obey God. Abraham built the altar and laid his son upon the altar. He raised the knife to take his life, but the angel of the Lord stopped him — proclaiming him as an obedient servant! Today, what God asks of us is not always easy, but He does expect us to obey! The test of obedience is not when our wishes and understanding are the same as God's will for our lives; the real test is when our desire is opposite to God's commands. Do we obey God then or do we do as we please?

Let's Be Friends of God

Let us all *move* from darkness to Light, making a *commitment to obey* God in everything! Let's be Friends with God! We will never have a better friend than God!

Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



*LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD*



Ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

Privileged to Serve 12/06/2015

Morning Service

Song leader	Brian Maddox
Call to worship	
Welcome/Prayer	Jason Harper
Song #1	75
Scripture – Psa. 33:1-22	Tyler Dowdy
Songs #2	560
Song #3	957
Second Prayer	Mike Salimbene
Song #4	366
Lord's table and Collection:	
Lead	Jamal Colson
Assistant	C. Hendrickson
Assistant	Garrett Watkins
Assistant	Mike Costello
Song - Kids to class	
Song #5	525
Scripture- Mat.19:16-22	Joe Cirinigliaro
Sermon -	Lancelot Watson
Invitation #6	904
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

Do you care how God feels? – Lying Tongue

As we continue to consider what makes the Lord happy or sad, let's look at the next item.

Prov. 6:16-19 *There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.*

Lying is the exact opposite of God's character. In fact Hebrews 6:18 will say, "...it is impossible for God to lie..."

Amazingly, the Bible does not give us the impression truth it is even a virtue of our God. In fact lying is so far beyond His character, this verse says "impossible". Truth is who God is. Truth cannot be a lie. They are polar opposites.

Lying is one of those things that we seem to try to mask by coloring them: black, blue or most commonly "white". We even add size: "Little white lie". Fact is, if it's not TRUTH, it's a LIE! Lies can be blatant distortion of fact, deception or even broken promises. Jesus addresses truth like this:

Matt. 5:37 *Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.*

The challenge often missed here is: KEEP IT SIMPLE. Be honest. If you cannot make a commitment or do not want to: do NOT mask falsehood with even a "maybe". All that deception is NOT from a good place. Do you know this even addresses our dependability?

Pr. 20:25 *It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows.*

Are you someone dependable? If you say, "I will..." or "Yes I can..." Can your commitment be counted on? Ask someone about you. Ask them to tell you the truth. You may learn something about yourself.

Read Eccl. 5:4-6!

The Perils and Perks of Prophecy – Part VIII
The Goals of Satan – Luke 10:18

2. HE WANTS TO BE WORSHIPPED – more than ANYTHING

He was once beautiful, powerful, and only second to God. He lost it all. Lucifer was so powerful he felt he could reach out and take God's authority (Ezekiel28). He tried to get Christ to worship him when offering what Jesus wanted for what he wanted – an exchange of deep desires– He asked to be worshiped by God in exchange for all kingdoms and Israel(Matt4:9). **He must now settle for us - as images of God - to worship him (Rev13:15). This is his future goal.** So we see cyclical manifestations of Satan's plans (2Cor.11:3), but he hasn't "pulled his card" yet to empower an individual (Rev13). It must first be through a man (2 Thess.2:3), and then will transfer that worship to himself (Rev13:4).

"Sorry try again" Let's begin End Times with the "end"

We forget that God, the master of strategy, **is in a proxy war with Satan**, and we are in the middle (Rev12:7). Is there a Commander who does not willingly accept casualties in battles for the sake of the War? Is there a loyal soldier unwilling to give his life for his greater cause? So should we view ourselves when martyred in God's service (Rev2:10). Satan selects his timing (2Thess2:7-9), and will pull his final "card" when ready. Scripture says he will empower a man to represent him, and ultimately empower. He will use this man as a proxy of worship (Daniel11, Rev.13). Timing is everything and open-ended, only God knows. Scripture implies Satan will have so much success that God Himself must step in (Matt24:22). Satan will empower his final player whenever he is ready. So he monitors and manipulates us, and plans his showdown with God. **Some of us will be casualties of this Great Tribulation.** I venture by his behaviors with Job that not even Satan fully knew/knows the exact time. So we are commanded to be ready generation to generation. Even when "imminence" in the Second Coming is **only after** certain events (2Thess2, Rom11). There is clear scripture that tells us all is not fulfilled, the same tells that Jesus' imminence requires prophecy fulfillment. Yet likewise we must always keep watch. This is scriptural. So it is not surprising that we see Satan active now although 70AD saw the destruction of the Jewish nation and 1948 the restoration. Just as **salvation does not hinge on a single verse, neither does prophecy.** It isn't just about us, it is about the epic struggle of God and Satan on the world stage. It isn't over. Israel is the only ancient nation to reestablish itself from the past (Rom11) and we can sense that as scripture says, the spirit of antichrist is here, but Antichrist is yet to come (1John2:18). We will understand more as we see history unfold.

A Woman's Place VI

We all want to be liked. "Charm is a quality that causes someone or something to be very likeable: an attractive quality," according to the Merriam Webster dictionary. It is having a personality that attracts people to us. We want this, and sometimes we strive to be liked by striving to be what we think people want us to be. The Proverbs writer instructs us though, that "charm is deceitful" (Proverbs 31:30). He also says in the same verse that "beauty is vain." Vain means "having no real value, useless: worthless." How much time do we spend fretting over the appearance of one or two more wrinkles, or researching the best make-up, hairstyle, or clothes, that will make us more beautiful? It's all vanity – that is, it's useless. The Proverbs writer does tell us what it is worthwhile to do – Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" Proverbs 31:30. From this we learn that **a woman's place, above all other places, is to be in the fear of the Lord.**

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). This does not mean that we are to be afraid of God! God is love. He loves us and wants us to serve Him out of love. However, we need to be in awe of God's great power; reverence Him because of who He is. The fear of the Lord means recognizing Him as the mighty creator and understanding that He is entitled to our service and our obedience. The fear of the Lord means acknowledging his greatness, His love, His grace and His mercy; He is to be our Lord, the Ruler of our lives! The fear of the Lord motivates us to study His word, to learn more about Him and to learn what He wants us to do. The fear of the Lord means making a commitment to follow Him and to be faithful to Him.

Ladies, let us place ourselves in the fear of the Lord; let us make this the real focus of our lives. The Psalmist encourages us, "The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him" (Psalm 25:14).