

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:	8/23/15	8/16/15
Bible Classes	26	38
Worship Service	96	75
General Contribution 2nd Sunday - Bldg	\$1412.79	\$2001.00
Wed Bible Class	28	18
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's Thoughts and Ways

Young people, do you ever wonder why it is that when we ask God for certain things, they don't always work out exactly the way we ask. God clearly says in Isaiah 55:8-9, that his thoughts are not our thoughts. We sometimes want to think of God as a good luck charm or a genie in a bottle. To that the Word of God says "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways". Young people, let's not try to limit God or limit our blessings. I'm sure if I ask "Siri" the distance between the earth and heaven "Siri" would have some answer like "that's a topic for another day and another assistant". We can figure that is a large distance and that's just a glimpse of how deep and wide God has loved us!

God has gone great lengths to show his Love for us, let's not short change ourselves by thinking we know all that God can accomplish in our lives instead, let us trust in Him!

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV)

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Patchogue Church of Christ
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Patchogue, NY 11772.

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The Grace of Giving, Pt I

"But just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us-- see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (2 Cor 8:7)

Personal evangelism and giving are the most neglected areas of our Christian service. The inspired apostle teaches us that the collection that is taken each Sunday morning ranks in importance with our faith in God, the teaching of the gospel, our knowledge of God, our sincerity and zeal for God and the love we are to have for each other. We are strongly advised to make sure that we ***"excel in this grace of giving."*** Why is our contribution so important?

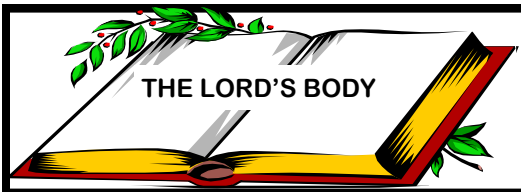
1. Our contribution is important because of ***what it is.*** 2 Cor. 8:4, says our contribution is a "service to the saints" (NIV). The KJV, says it is a "gift" and indeed it is. It is our gift to God used to service the needs of the saints. 2 Cor. 8:6, describes it as "grace." Biblical grace is unmerited favor. We usually focus on God's grace toward us, ***"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."*** (Eph 2:8) In giving we display our understanding of, and an appreciation for God's grace to us. God's grace (unmerited favor) presented us with Jesus Christ, our gift from God. Jesus' grace (unmerited favor) toward us, resulted in Him "laying down His life for us" (John 15:13). In our contribution, we have the privilege of and are displaying both our grace and our gift to God.

2. Our contribution is important because of ***what it does.*** Our contribution proves the sincerity of our love. ***"I am not commanding you, but***

I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others." (2 Cor 8:8). How sincere are you in your love for God, Christ and His Church? Your contribution tells you, the giver, the kind of love you have. Sincerity has to do with the heart, and the religion of Jesus Christ is a religion of the heart. We serve God with sincere hearts, our contribution tells how sincere we really are. Our contribution also encourages brethren to do likewise. Paul told the Corinthian Church that he boasted about them to the Macedonian Church. This prodded the Macedonians to do likewise. ***"For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action."*** (2 Cor 9:2). Our giving is an exhortation to others to follow our example.

What else does our contribution do? It brings glory to God. ***"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else,"*** (2 Cor 9:13). Our giving results in praise being offered to God. When our giving is not up to standard, God is denied the praise and the glory that belongs to Him. We prevent God from getting His praise! How awful, to think that I may be responsible for men not praising God. Are we understanding why we are instructed to excel in the grace of giving? **Cont'd next week.**

Lancelot W.



The family by John Stallworth



LIVING IT OUT—
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY
BY
BENJAMIN FIELD



Ladies' Corner
by
Paulette Watson

Privileged to Serve 8/30/2015
Morning Service
Song leader Brian Maddox
Call to worship
Welcome/Prayer Mike Salimbene
Song #1 463 (1,3)
Scripture – Psalm 17:6-15 Kyle Watkins
Songs #2 456
Song #3 808
Second Prayer Tom Meehan
Song #4 383
Lord's table and Collection:
Lead John Stallworth
Assistant Mike Costello
Assistant Steve Lynch
Assistant Anthony Soto
Song - Kids to class
Song #5 716
Scripture- 2 Cor. 8:1-7 John Sicignano
Sermon - Lancelot Watson
Invitation #6 909
Responses & prayer:
Jamal Colson
Derek Peterson
Announcements &
Closing Prayer Mike Salimbene
Closing Song #7 703

The Gospel Truth
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Good Circulation
Paul teaches us about the church throughout the New Testament. He describes this intimate group of people that not only share their worship together, but truly share their lives.
1 Cor. 12:12-13 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body...
Paul uses the analogy of a body and how there are many parts. If we consider the depth of being one body, we can start to understand this living organism (body) created by Jesus. Like ever "body", the church needs a head. For the church the head is Jesus. However the head is NOT the only part. Every head needs a body. The body described in your Bible is the church of Christ. Now the head and the body, have an intricate relation. Again, that is NOT the only important relationship.
1 Cor. 12:21-22 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!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,
Paul describes the interdependent relationship between the members of the body; His Church. The concept is well understood, by the human condition. If any part of your body does not have healthy circulation with the rest of the body, that part will soon die. And depending on how important that part is, the entire body could die. It is the obligation of each part to make sure they are a health contribution to the body.
Ask yourself: How is your circulation with the rest of the body? Does it ONLY consist of fellowship on Sunday? What about the rest of the week? How about calling someone who needs prayers? How about going out for a cup of coffee. We should be convicted if our strongest relationships are outside of the church!
1 Pet. 1:22 ...love one another deeply, from the heart.

Context in History
On April 30, 1789, George Washington was to be inaugurated into office at our nation's capital in New York City – Federal Hall. The announcement read as follows.
"On the morning of the day on which our illustrious President will be invested with his office, the bells will ring at nine o'clock, when the people may go up to the house of God and in a solemn manner commit the new government, with its important train of consequences, to the holy protection and blessing of the Most high. An early hour is prudently fixed for this peculiar act of devotion and . . . is designed wholly for prayer. "
After his inauguration Washington gave a speech and in it declared America to be under the law of nature and nature's God, and established a national covenant with God.
"These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. . . . since there is no truth more thoroughly established than that there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness – between duty and advantage – between the genuine maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity; since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious [favorable] smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained. . . . Having thus imparted to you my sentiments as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the Human Race in humble supplication that . . . His divine blessing may be equally conspicuous . . . on which the success of this government must depend.
I love our great country, but it is prudent to listen to the words of its first president – that we should have no expectation that God's blessings will abound if we as a nation forget who He is - and that we can fall as profoundly before the Almighty as we have arisen within His grace.
Therefore, our allegiance should not be to inanimate objects as routine dictates at the beginning of school days, but firstly we must remember that we are citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:30, Hebrews 13:14, John 17:16)– in this world, but not of it. We should never hold a pride in our nation that believes it cannot fall as all others have, and that it does not answer to God, and the laws of nature he established.

**Find Contentment in God's Promises:
The Big Picture**
Our lives consist of many aspects, and one or even several of these may give us cause to be unhappy. However, we should be careful not to let these overwhelm us, forgetting the many other areas that are going very well and in which we are blessed. In Romans 8:28 we read: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." By looking at the big picture of our lives we can find contentment in this scripture.
There are many examples in the Bible of those who loved God who were called upon to endure pain and unhappy circumstances, yet were able to triumph and glorify God. Jesus, our supreme example, endured temptation, constant harassment from the Pharisees, ridicule, shame, and degradation, before death, yet called upon God and declared, "Not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Job also set an example for us, saying to his wife, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble" (Job 2:10)? With Jesus, the big picture was eventual triumph sitting at the right hand of God in heaven, after paying the price for our sins and enabling us to enter heaven also. With Job, the big picture was his faith that God loved him and that God was all powerful and in control of everything. Can you see your big picture?
Is your source of unhappiness sickness, pain, unemployment, the lack of a companion, harassment on the job, harassment in the home, or something else? Do not fall into the devil's trap, following Job's wife who said, "Curse God and die!" How sad to give the devil triumph and lose our fellowship with God! How sad to lose the wonderful benefits of our status as God's children! If you love God, and are doing His will, remember the big picture: In all things, God works for our good and His ultimate purpose is to make us Holy so that we can be with Him. Let's try to find contentment in that.