

The Better Way

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SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.
(via Zoom Meetings)

ELDERS

David P. Brown
Ken Cohn
John West

DEACONS

Bret Bailey
J. D. Gunter
Eric Paluka

EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

SECRETARY

Sonya West

WHO AM I?

Frank L. Cox

Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose in life? We have heard these questions by way of radio, TV, and in private life.

To me these are questions of major importance. I think that I have found the answer to these questions. I also think I know how to live, how I should treat myself, and how I should treat my fellow man.

Since I am a representative of God's creation, I am a very important being. I am to love myself and I am to love my neighbor as myself. However, I am not to think too highly of myself. I must see myself as I really am. I am not a worm. I am not a beast. I am a human being. I am more than flesh and blood, I possess a soul. I am an offspring of God, made in His image and in His likeness. Because this is true, He is very near. The apostle Paul said, "**He is not far from each one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being**" (Acts 17:27-28). As the bird is encompassed by the atmosphere in which it flies, and as the fish is encompassed by the water in which it swims, so I am encompassed by the presence of God.

No person or power is so near to me as my God. Because this is true, I should commune or converse with Him and conform my life to the beautiful pattern He has given.

Upon me my Maker has conferred an honor. He has placed on my brow a crown of dignity.

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, The moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained: What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him but a little lower than God, And crownest him with glory and honor. Thou makest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, Yea, and the beasts of the field, The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, Whatsoever passeth through the paths of the sea (Psa. 8:3-8).

I pause to thank God for the dignity He has bestowed upon me!

Unto me gifts and powers have been granted. Because this is true, I am a responsible being. I am not a creature of circumstances. Because I have the power of self-direction, surely I am the architect of my own future. I know that I am under solemn obligation to live as my Maker wants me to live. Because God has honored me, I feel impelled to honor Him, to adore Him, to live in subjection to His blessed will.

I am an object of divine compassion. "**God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life**" (John 3:16). God gave His Son for the world of humanity, the world of which I am a part. So, God loves me—a solitary life. Upon me He looks with compassion. When I

nourish and cherish this precious thought, I cannot refrain from loving the great Lover—the wonderful One who loves me. Because I love God, I must do His will. I must obey him. Now, I can sing, “I delight to do thy will, O God.”

I am blessed with wonderful opportunities. Before me a door is opened. I can enter and receive loving favors. Before me is a golden ladder that reaches from earth to heaven. With the help that God gives, I can ascend. I can climb; I can continue to climb until I reach the mountain top—the heights sublime. When I look into the heavens I can see the wonderful works of God. When I look into the Bible I can see the word or the will of God—the divine plan for my life. When I read the story of the life of Jesus, I can see the power and the purity and the compassion of the Father. When I look into the face of a child or of the flowers that bloom, I can see the beauty of God. Purity of heart gives me clearness of vision. God help me to be pure in heart!

If I am a Christian, I am an heir of God and joint heir with Christ. Now that I know more about myself I can say with T. B. Larimore:

My faith has never been stronger; my hope has never been brighter; by head never

clearer; my heart has never been calmer; my life has never been purer. I love all; I hate none. My love for some lifts my soul into the realm of the sublime.

My friends are dearer to me; association with them is sweeter to me; my sympathy for suffering souls is stronger; my love for all the pure, the true, the beautiful, the good, and sublime, from the bud, the blossom, the babe, up to him from whom all blessings flow, is truer, tenderer, sweeter, than ever before.

Not a mist floats between me and the land of love and life divine—people everywhere treat me with encouraging kindness, courtesy and sweetness. Truly, I am debtor to all.

I sleep soundly, dream sweetly, and rejoice evermore. The Word is sweeter and stronger to me than ever before. O, it is delightful to love and be loved, and to do whatsoever duty demands. I'll never waiver, but always to the right be true.

How very helpful it is for me to know more about myself, or who I am! Understanding gives power. That power permeates my entire personality. Now, I can and I will arise and go! I can achieve success.~

Deceased

“I WILL ASK YOU A QUESTION”

Franklin Camp

The title of this article is a statement made by Christ. The chief priest and scribes had come to Christ and asked him a question. Their question was “**By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?**” (Mat. 21:23). People often asked Christ questions and He answered many of them. But in this instance instead of answering their question He asked them a question. Let us profit from Christ's method.

Christ and the work He was doing were being attacked by His enemies. Instead of answering their question and defending His work—which He could have done—He switched from the defense to the offense. He placed His enemies in the position of defending their position. Instead of allowing His enemies to weaken His position by loaded questions and pressing Him, He pressed them with a question of His own. This method of Christ exposed His enemies much more than arguments He might

have made in His own defense. Let us try it on some of the enemies of truth today.

The infidel and the agnostic are continually asking questions about God. I think I can answer their questions, but I am going to follow Christ, and say, “I will ask you a question.” Will you explain the mystery that surrounds the world without God? If the world evolved from matter, will you please explain how it finally evolved into life? If life evolved from matter it was by chance, and not by law. This is self evident. But even the infidel must admit that the material universe is now governed by law. Will he explain how chance produced law? Life had a beginning. It came from some source, and was produced by some process. The same process that first produced life, if still operating, will still do the same thing. If the supply of life in its original source was not exhausted, and the method by which it was produced still operated, we would have it that way today, unless that

method has been suspended. One of the other of these principles will have to be true. If life came from matter, its source is not exhausted. If it came by chance, how did the method of chance come to be suspended? If you say natural law caused it to be suspended, then explain how chance produced natural law. If life came from matter, we need an explanation of why it ceased, as well as how it happened in the first place.

If man evolved from a monkey, why and how did the process cease? We still have monkeys. Have you seen any monkeys evolving into men? If the theory of evolution is true, why did not all monkeys become men? Why are there still monkeys in the world? Explain why the process that produced one man from a monkey did not make all monkeys men. If one monkey could evolve into a man then all monkeys could, unless the process that produced it ceased. Has that process ceased and if so explain how it stopped.

If evolution is true, why did it stop with men? Why have men not evolved into angels? If evolution is true, which eliminates God, then why is it that men go downward instead of upward, in the degree that they get away from God and the Bible? If evolution is true, is it a universal principle? If it is not then why is it not? If it is universal then explain how some countries and nations have evolved faster than others. I suppose the infidel would admit that civilization has reached a higher stage in some countries than others. Will they explain this by the theory of evolution. Why did evolution work faster in some countries than others? Does chance work better in some places than others? If so, I ask how and why it does? If evolution is true, will someone point out its benefits? What contribution has it made to a world in need?

I have spent a good deal of time in answering questions, now I would like to receive some answers. ~ **Deceased**

THE NAILS OF THE CROSS

G. K. Wallace

John tells us that Christ has **“in his hands the print of the nails”** (John 20:25). Matthew tells us that the mob on the hill of Calvary challenged Christ to **“come down from the cross”** (Mat. 27:40). What was it that held Christ to the cross?

1. It was not the nails that held Him to the cross. He had power to remove the nails. He could have called **“more than twelve legions of angels”** to help and remove Him from the cross (26:53). He who had the power to still the storm, feed the multitude, and raise the dead could have removed the nails. That crowd could not have killed Christ if He had not wished to do His Father’s Will. **“Therefore doth the Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one taketh it away from me, but I lay it down of myself”** (John 10:17-18).

2. The Father’s will and wish held Him to the cross. Jesus prayed in the garden and said, **“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt”** (Mat. 26:39). It was the will of God that His Son became the **“propitiation,”** that is, an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 2:2). The Savior’s love and your sins held Christ to the tree.

3. God’s eternal purpose held Christ to the cross. Jesus died to purchase the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). The church is the institution through which the eternal purpose of God is to be made known to the world (Eph. 3:10). Without the death of Christ, God’s purpose for the world have been aborted. Thus, His love for God and man held Him to the cross—not the nails.

4. The joy set before Christ held Him to the cross. In the Hebrews’ letter we learn that the **“author and perfecter of our faith”** disregarded His suffering and **“for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame”** (Heb. 12:2). The mocking by the angry mob at the foot of the cross was ignored by Christ because of the **“joy set before Him.”** Neither the lack of the power nor the nails held Jesus to the cross. His resignation to the Will of God and His love for the souls of mankind bound Him to the tree on which He died. Our love for God and His Son should cause us to remain faithful to the kingdom of God, despite the mocking of all who would have us depart from the path of duty.~

Deceased

A Study In
THE MAJOR PROPHETS

Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Isaiah

Sunday Morning Bible Class
David P. Brown

A Study Of
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE CLASS VIA ZOOM

Teacher:
David P. Brown

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www.churchesofchrist.com

- Live broadcast
- Sermon videos
- Articles
- Lectureship videos
- Debates
- Bible Study Course
- Bible Reading Schedule
- Links to Faithful works

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Today:** Monthly meal
- **This Tuesday, April 30th:** Ladies' Bible Class
- **Saturday, May 11th:** Graduation Banquet
- **Saturday, May 25th:** Fish Hatchery Rd Lectureship (Part #2)
- **Mon-Wed, July 15th-17th:** VBS at Spring

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

Announcements Ken Cohn
Scripture Reading Gary Blasingame
Rev. 13:11-18

Song Leader Bret Bailey
Prayer David Brown/John West (AM)
J.D. Gunter/Stephen Cohn (PM)

Speaker Eric Paluka

Lord's Table (AM)
(Mark 14:32-36)

Steven Johnson Gary Blasingame
Andrew Paluka Ken Cohn

Lord's Table (PM)
Joshua West Ben Gunter

Audio/Video Monitor Steven Johnson
Camera/Door Monitor Gary Blasingame

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024
(via Zoom Meetings)

Announcements Ken Cohn
Speaker Eric Paluka
Bible Class Teacher David Brown

FOR APRIL

Prepare Communion Bailey
Lock Buildings Nero
Prepare Bulletin Board TBA

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Zack Nero, Debbie Brannon, Lynne Humphrey, Noah Hackworth, Edith Young, Bob Terry, Glenda Hackworth, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlinda Chumbley, Carmen Hardy, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Who was a little rich man?

Answer to last week's question:
Damascus; 2 Cor. 11:32, 33