

The Better Way

Volume XXXIX, Issue 2

January 7, 2024

SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

Physical Address:
1327 Spring Cypress Rd.
Spring, TX 77373

Mailing Address:
25403 Lancewood Dr.
Spring, TX 77373

Office: 281-353-2707

springcoc@gmail.com
www.churchesofchrist.com

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

Special Contribution Today

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come”

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

GIVING, A PROOF OF LOVE

Roy J. Hearn

Many sermons have been preached and articles written about love; love for God, etc., but in most cases they have dealt with the emotions—a feeling of affection—while the real basis for love is often a neglected subject. There can be no salvation without real love for God.

Love is reciprocal. We love God because he first loved us (1 John 4:19). God showed love for man in making him in His own image. God has filled the earth with wonderful material things for man's enjoyment: gold, silver, precious stones, minerals of many kinds, plus the wonders and beauty of nature. Above all gifts is the Son of His love, the rare Jewel of heaven, for the redemption of our souls (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). Man reciprocates by giving.

A PRINCIPLE STATED

God made everything good. He needs nothing from man, **“seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things”** (Acts 17:25). Man can do nothing to add to God's comfort. How then do we express love for God? There is only one way: **“This is the love of God that we keep his commandments”** (1 John 2:3). Observe here that “to know” God is to keep His commands, and “to love” is the same, therefore, “to love” and “to know” may be used synonymously. To substitute the former for the latter in 1 John 2:4, we have this: **“He that saith, I love him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”**

In John 14:15,21,23,24, Jesus says, **“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”** He emphasizes that those who have the commandments and keep them are the ones who love Him. **“If a man love me he will keep my words ... he that loveth me not, keepeth not my sayings.”** Regardless how much one claims affection for the Lord, if he neglects or refuses to keep His love there is no love in him. Love is proved by obeying the law of God.

The gospel plan of salvation includes several acts of obedience, by which one is saved, becomes a Christian. None in the church of Christ would question that to be saved one must believe in Christ (John 8:24; Acts 16:31); repent of sins (Acts 3: 19); confess faith in Christ as God's Son (Mat. 10:31; Acts 8:37); be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38); upon which he is added to the place of the saved (Acts

2:41,47). In obedience to these commands one expresses trust in the love for God. Almost with one voice we say these conditions must be met, or one is not saved. Please make this application to:

THE LAW OF GIVING

1. Giving must be done willingly (2 Cor. 8:12). There must be a readiness of mind. Christ loved us and willingly gave Himself for us. To give willingly is to express our gratitude for the gracious Redeemer; it is reciprocal love.

2. Giving must be done cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7). Those who love the Lord will delight in giving; to them it is a source of joy. To feel constrained to give without the desire to do so robs one of the blessing. The Macedonians furnished a good example. In poverty, beyond their power, they were willing to give and gave themselves first to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:1-5). All gifts and sacrifices must be voluntary.

3. Giving must be done purposefully (2 Cor. 9:7). It must be according to the purpose of a willing heart, not due to a feeling of coercion. The Corinthians purposed a year in advance and Paul called upon them to bring it to completion (2 Cor. 8:10-11). Before the Lord's day comes the Christian should consider his income and carefully prayerfully purpose to give according to his ability. It should not be done “on the spur of the moment.”

4. It must be done with liberality (Rom. 12:8, R.V.) This would include the liberality and the amount. The blessing received depends upon both: **“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully”** (2 Cor. 9:6). Second Peter 1:5-11 names seven graces that should characterize the child of God in order that entrance into the home of the soul may be gained. There is an eighth grace—giving. Paul commands: **“Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith ... see that ye abound in this grace also”** (2 Cor. 8:7). This is no less than a demand for liberality. What is the purpose? **“To prove the sincerity of your love”** (verse 8).

5. Giving must be done according as one has prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2). **“Honour the Lord with thy substance and with the first**



JAMES: Practical Christianity (Part I)

January 27th

Fish Hatchery Road Church Of Christ

These timely lessons will be presented at the church of Christ
Located at 1380 Fish Hatchery Road, Huntsville, Texas
Phone: 936-581-4346 Email: bruces_l@netzero.com

The book of James is so practical that some have called it “the gospel of common sense.” Because the Christian faith is not just an organization to join or a few abstract doctrines to hold, a letter like James’ is immediately relevant to every Christian. The Christian faith requires each believer to bring every thought and action into conformity to the Word of God. It proclaims a Christian philosophy of life in stark contrast to the self-seeking, unfocused, and often tumultuous existence that frequently characterizes those outside the faith. A matter worth pondering is the fact that the very first topic James discussed involved the difficulties encountered in the Christian life. Totally foreign to him was the curious modern notion that becoming a Christian will make life easier, that all problems will disappear.

9:00 AM: Jose Gamez - *Count It All Joy* (Jam. 1:2-11)

10:00 AM: Eric Paluka - *The Christian & Temptations* (Jam. 1:12-15)

11:00 AM: David Brown - *The Source Of Every Good & Perfect Gift* (Jam. 1:16-20)

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

1:30 PM: Jack Stephens - *Receiving The Engrafted Word* (Jam.1:21-25)

2:30 PM: John West - *Pure & undefiled Religion* (Jam. 1:26-27)

3:30 PM: *Question & Answer Session*

fruits of all thine increase” (Pro. 3:9). Such was required of the Jews. To give as we are prospered would require it now. Our obligation is first to the Lord. One can not burden himself with debt for conveniences and luxuries and give a little of what is left and fulfill the law of love and giving. A liberal portion should first be set aside for the Lord. The more one is prospered the more he should give.

God accused Israel of being robbers. **“Wherein have we robbed thee?”** asked the Jews. **“In tithes and offerings,”** replied Jehovah. On the Lord’s day when one refrains from giving according to his ability, and in harmony with other conditions outlined above, he may be classified as a robber the same as were those Jews. One steals when he withholds that which belongs to the Lord.

CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION

It is observed that God’s love led to the gift of Christ (Rom. 5:8-9). Christ showed His love by becoming poor that we might be made rich (2 Cor. 8:9). Love for God is demonstrated by obedience to His commandments. To obey the law of giving is to express love for God as well as for mankind who may receive direct benefits from it. Giving proves the sincerity of our love (2 Cor. 8:8b). To say we love God, or know God, and not keep His commands, including giving, makes one a liar (1 John 2:4).

In the above topic, “A Principle Stated,” the acts of obedience by which one is saved were outlined. Which one can we leave out and still be saved and by obedience express love for God? None? Then compare the law of giving. Can one give willingly, cheerfully, with purpose, but fail to do so liberally and as he has been prospered and be pleasing to God? If we omit the latter conditions why could we not also eliminate baptism or repentance? Forget not that **“this is the love of God that ye keep his commandments.”** Giving is a commandment by which you “prove the sincerity of your love.”~

Deceased

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Who knelt three times a day before an open window and prayed ?

Answer to last week’s question:

30 days for each; Num. 20:29; Deu. 34:8

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

Announcements	Ken Cohn
Scripture Reading	Stephen Cohn Rev. 6:1-6
Song Leader	Jonathan West
Prayer	Ken Cohn/James Arline (A.M.) Gary Blasingame/Eric Paluka (P.M.)
Speaker	David Brown
Lord’s Table (A.M.) (John 19:28-30)	
Zack Nero	Bret Bailey
Stephen Cohn	Eric Paluka
Lord’s Table (P.M.)	
J.D Gunter	Ben Gunter
Audio/Video Monitor	Steven Johnson
Camera/Door Monitor	Joshua West

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

(via Zoom Meetings)

Announcements	Bret Bailey
Speaker	J.D. Gunter
Bible Class Teacher	David Brown

FOR JANUARY

Prepare Communion	Z. Nero
Lock Buildings	Blasingame
Prepare Bulletin Board	TBA

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Nero Family, David Brown, Gayle Barnett, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Edith Young, Bernice Hastings, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Orlinda Chumbley, Carmen Hardy, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Today:** Special contribution
- Saturday, January 27th:** Lectureship at Fish Hatchery Road.
- Sunday, January 28th:** Monthly meal
- Saturday, February 24, 2024:** Spring *CFTF* Lectureship.