

The Better Way

Volume XXXIX, Issue 41

October 6, 2024

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

WHY DID CHRIST COME TO THE EARTH?

L. O. Sanderson

That Jesus of Nazareth was a real person, upon the earth, is an accepted fact, by both friend and foe, and myriads believe He was the Messiah, divinely sent even the centurion and those with him at the crucifixion said: **“Truly this was the Son of God.”** But why was it necessary for Him to leave the glory world to walk the paths of Palestine? Why could not God accomplish His purposes without this earthly mission of a divine personality?

A well-known hymn sets forth the query, “Why did my Savior come to earth?” and then answers: “Because he loved me so.” Certainly, love was the prompting cause, but true cause is not without purposed effect. Everyone knows **“God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son;”** but we must not forget that this **“love the Father hath bestowed upon us”** was to the intent **“that we should be called the sons of God”** (1 John 3:1), and, in a broader sense, **“the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world”** (1 John 4:14). Love, then, must needs have an objective—and to accomplish this, Jesus came to the earth.

But it was not alone the love of God the Father **“Christ also hath loved us,”** so that **“we love him because he first loved us.”** He is indeed the one who so loved the lost that He gave Himself for us (Gal. 2:20). With this deep, divine motive, Christ was willing to fulfill His mission on earth, and **“thought it not robbery to be equal with God”** (that is, that He should hold on to His heavenly position, or persist in remaining equal with God), **“but made himself of no reputation”** (He emptied, or divested, Himself of that glory and state, voluntarily) and became as **“a servant ... in the likeness of men,”** **humbling himself, even to** appointed death (Phi. 2:6-8). Divine love demanded action, prompted sacrifice, and required visible, personal contact with its objective, that God’s purposes might be fulfilled.

Christ came to earth, therefore, to demonstrate love. Love, in and of itself, is neither tangible nor visible; what it does is the proof of its reality and quality (1 Cor. 13). Check all the characteristics of love, and every identifying trait will be an expression or an accomplishment of love. The Lord won His way into many hearts by practicing love, and He is adored, some nineteen hundred years later [now it is over 2000 years later— *Editor*], because He loved and is lovable—His attitude, His mind, His words, His deeds, His appeal, His suffering, His death, these all bespeak heaven’s genuine interest in the world. It was while mankind was unworthy that **“Christ died for us,”** and in that God commended **“his love toward us”** (Rom. 5:8). God **“sent his**

only begotten Son into the world” to accomplish love’s purpose and aim, **“that we might live through him,”** and **“in this was manifested the love of God toward us”** (1 John 4:9). This manifestation could not have been done if Christ had remained in heaven, out of personal touch with the human race. But love, being demonstrated, touches, tenders, and draws the souls of men to God.

Christ had to come to earth to fulfill the Scriptures. Job knew that his Redeemer lived, and that **“he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.”** The promise to Abraham was that in him and his seed **“shall all families of the earth be blessed.”** Isaiah prophesied that **“all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”** It was for the earth that God in heaven planned. And every prophecy, relating to the Messiah, demanded His presence upon the earth and among men. He had to come to fulfill them.

Christ must needs come to earth to effect a signal victory over Satan. We would not argue that the devil was once an angel, who waged and lost a war in heaven, thence being cast out (Rev. 12:7-9), nor that he and his cohorts were the fallen angels who, sinning and leaving their first estate, were cast down (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6), though Isaiah did say, **“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer”** (Isa. 14:12), and Jesus told the seventy, **“I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven”** (Luke 10:18). Nevertheless Satan is called “the prince of this world,” man’s, earthly **“adversary,”** who has a **“seat”** and **“synagogue”** on the earth, who “had the power of death,” and Christ came to destroy him and turn men **“from the power of Satan unto God.”** But to accomplish this feat, He had to meet the arch enemy on His own ground—He had to come to the earth. The climax of Christ’s triumph over Satan was reached in His death—it was **“through death”** that He destroyed **“the devil”** (Heb. 2:14).

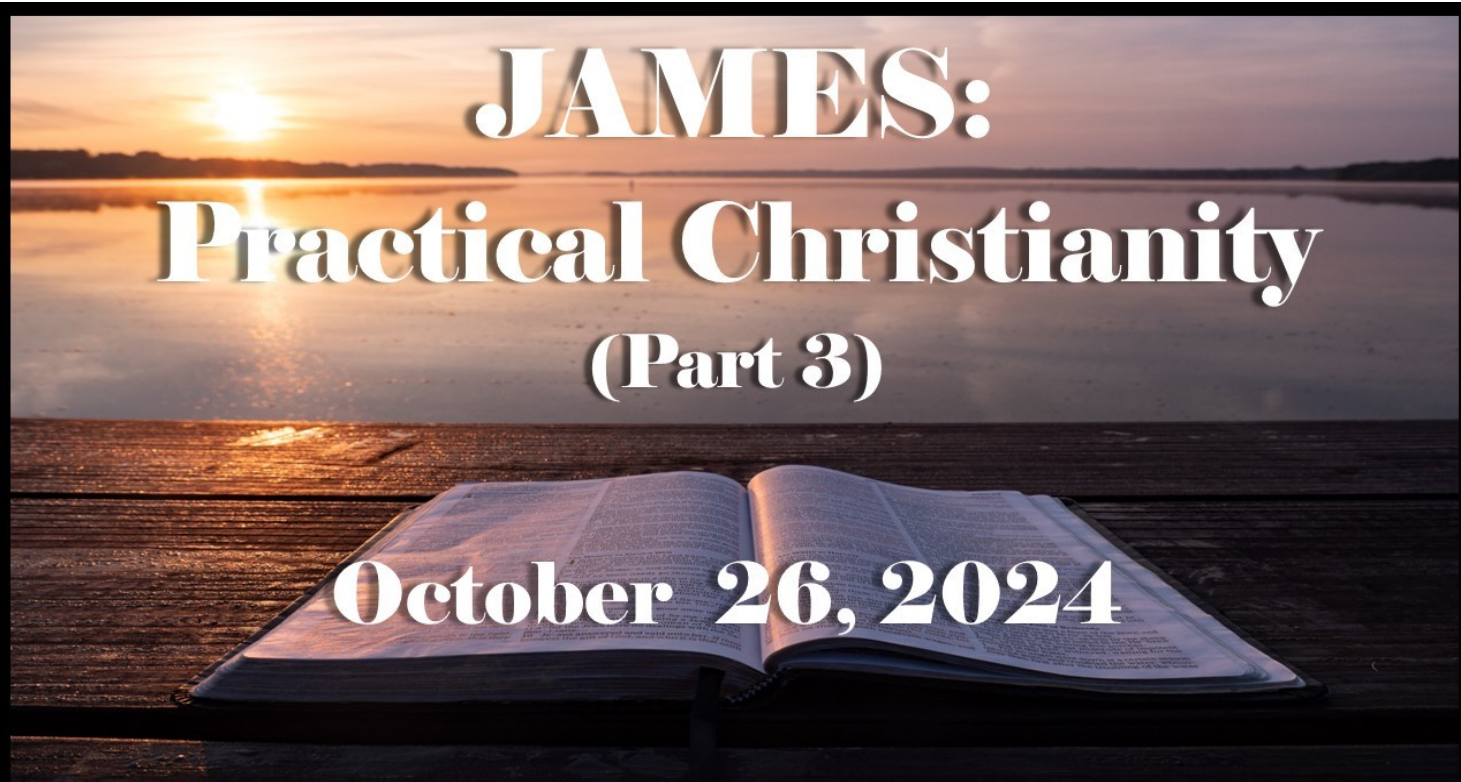
Christ came to earth not only to portray God, but also that He might live among men and thus more acceptably serve both God and man. It seems almost natural for men to view God as so mighty and all wise, so exalted and perfect, that He is beyond approach by earthly creatures. Christ had to establish Himself as God, live among men as man, present God’s desires and demands, and

give man the incentive to draw nigh unto Him, that He might prove this view false. He, in whom the Godhead dwells, is an understanding friend of mankind—he can be **“touched with the feeling of our infirmities”** (Heb. 4:15). To mediate between God and man, to represent man before God, as advocate and intercessor, having long been aware of heaven’s point of view, Christ had to live, serve, suffer, and die upon this earth. It **“behooved him to be made like unto his brethren”**—he is **“the firstborn among many brethren.”** Only in this capacity could he please God and save the souls of men.

Christ came to fulfill the law, abolish it, and establish a better covenant. The law from Sinai was faulty and unkeepable; it could not give life nor justify; yet, whether kept or not, it was the constitution of Israel—Moses was their final authority. Hence, one greater than Moses had to accomplish the change. He could not blot out a law and enact another by proxy or *in absentia*. So, **“God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law”** (Gal. 4:4), that He might accomplish all things—even some things which the law could not do (Rom. 8:3, 4). The climax of His work came at the cross, to which the law was nailed (Col. 2:14), hence abolished (Eph. 2:15,16), and where, by His blood, Christ was **“made a surety of a better testament”** (Heb. 7:22, 27). The new covenant, which could not be established until the first was taken away (Heb. 10:9), became a sanctifying power **“through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”** (verse 10). This plan, purposed before the foundation of the world, demanded that heaven’s representative live and die in the flesh.

Finally, Christ had to be here to be an example to man. That He is our example, none can gainsay (John 13:15; 1 Tim. 1:16; 1 Pet. 2:21). But without likeness, there can be no example. Can a star be an example for a mother, or an elephant for a rose bush? Neither could the Word be an example unto man, except He become flesh and dwell among men. In fact, every step by Christ from birth to ascension had to be common to the lot of men.~

Deceased



JAMES: Practical Christianity (Part 3)

October 26, 2024

Fish Hatchery Road Church Of Christ

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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: *Don't Leave God Out Of Your Plans* (4:13-17) ~ Jose Gamez

10:00 am: *The Misuse Of Riches* (5:1-6) ~ Eric Paluka

11:00 am: *Patient Endurance* (5:7-12) ~ David Brown

1:30 pm: *The Prayer Of Faith* (5:13-18) ~ Jack Stephens

2:30 pm: *Saving A Soul From Death* (5:19-20) ~ John West

3:30 pm: *Question & Answer Session*

Rightly Dividing
The Word Of Truth

Sunday Morning Bible Class David P. Brown

A Study Of
1ST PETER

Teacher:
David P. Brown

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE CLASS VIA ZOOM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.churchesofchrist.com

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Saturday, October 26th:** Fish Hatchery Road Lectureship. "James: Practical Christianity Part 3"
- **Sunday, October 27th:** Monthly meal and afternoon singing service
- **Tuesday, October 29th:** Ladies' Bible Class (last one for this year)
- **Saturday, November 23rd:** Chili Cook-off at Burroughs Park

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024

Announcements	Eric Paluka
Scripture Reading	J.D. Gunter <i>Genesis 1:1-8</i>
Song Leader	Jonathan West
Prayer	J.D. Gunter/Stephen Cohn (AM) Steven Johnson/Andrew Paluka (PM)
Speaker	David Brown
Lord's Table (AM) <i>(Mark 15:6-15)</i>	
Stephen Cohn	Eric Paluka
Bret Bailey	J.D. Gunter
Lord's Table (PM)	
Steven Johnson	Andrew Paluka
Audio/Video Monitor	Joshua West
Camera/Door Monitor	Jaden Gruchow

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024
(via Zoom Meetings)

Announcements	Ken Cohn
Speaker	Steven Johnson
Bible Class Teacher	David Brown

FOR OCTOBER

Prepare Communion	Bailey
Lock Buildings	Gunter
Prepare Bulletin Board	Mercier/Ferguson

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Robbie Kirby, Edith Young, Zack Nero, April McCain, Debbie Brannon, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlinda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Who broke in pieces the brazen serpent which Moses had made?

Answer to last week's question:
Samson; Judges 14:12-20