



“For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water.”

Revelation 7:17

April 15, 2018

Dripping Springs
Church of Christ

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Sunday
Bible Class 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Worship 6:00pm
Wednesday
Bible Class 7:00pm

from the **Springs**

Christ—the Firstfruits

Eric Lyons

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul wrote at length concerning the resurrection of the dead, because some of the Christians in Corinth taught “that there is no resurrection of the dead” (vs. 12). As one of his proofs for the Christian’s eventual resurrection, Paul pointed to the fact of the resurrection of Christ, and showed that the two stand or fall together, saying, “if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins” (vss. 16-17)! After hypothetically arguing from the absurd in an attempt to get the Corinthian Christians to see that their stance on the final resurrection completely undermined Christianity, Paul proceeded to demonstrate that Christ had risen, and thus made the resurrection of the dead inevitable. It is in this section of scripture that some find a difficulty. Beginning with verse 20, Paul wrote:

But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall

be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming (1 Corinthians 15:20-23, emp. added).

In view of the fact that Jesus was not the first person ever to arise from the dead (cf. 2 Kings 13:21; Luke 7:14-15; Matthew 10:8; 11:5), some have questioned why the apostle Paul twice described Jesus as “the firstfruits” from the dead in 1 Corinthians 15. Did Paul err? Was he ignorant of the widow’s son whom God revived at Zarephath (1 Kings 17:22)? Did he not know that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43-44)? How could Paul legitimately speak of Christ as “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep”?

One solution to this alleged discrepancy can be found in the fact that Jesus was the first to rise from the dead—never to die again. All who have ever arisen from the dead, including the sons of both the widow of Zarephath and the Shunammite (2 Kings 4:8-37), the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:35-43), Lazarus, et al., died in later years. Jesus, however, accurately

could be called “the firstfruits” of the dead because “Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him” (Romans 6:9). All others who previously were raised at one time, died again, and are among those who “sleep” and continue to wait for the bodily resurrection; only Jesus has truly conquered death. In this sense, Christ is “the firstborn from the dead” (Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5; cf. Acts 26:23).

Another possible explanation of the difficulty surrounding 1 Corinthians 15:20,23 and Paul’s use of the word “firstfruits”

(Greek *aparche*) is to understand how “firstfruits” was used in the Old Testament. Under the Old Law, the firstfruits were the earliest gathered grains, fruits, and vegetables that the people dedicated to God in recognition of His faithfulness for providing the necessities of life. The Israelites were to offer to God a sheaf of the first grain that was harvested on the day after the Sabbath following the Passover feast (Leviticus 23:9-14). Paul may have used the term “firstfruits” in this letter to the Corinthian church to reinforce the certainty of the resurrection. Just as the term “firstfruits” indicates that “the first

sheaf of the forthcoming grain harvest will be followed by the rest of the sheaves, Christ, the firstfruits raised from the dead, is the guarantee for all those who belong to him that they also will share in his resurrection” (Kistemaker, 1993, p. 548). Jesus is God’s “firstfruits” of the resurrection. And, like the Israelites, God will gather the rest of the harvest at the final resurrection. It may be that Paul wanted the Corinthians to understand (by way of metaphor) that Christ’s resurrection is a pledge of our resurrection. It is inevitable—guaranteed by God Himself.

Sermon Outline

“Contentment in Christ”

Introduction:

1. _____ discovered what _____ spent his whole life searching for!
2. We study Solomon’s failures, but deep down in our heart of hearts we still hold the belief that _____ and _____ will satisfy us.

I. Contentment is _____ (4:11):

A. Before I can be content, I have to overcome:

1. The hurdle of _____ (4:6; Matt. 6:25-33)
2. The hurdle of a _____ (4:8; Rom. 8:5, 6)

B. “God has provided everything I need to learn _____ find _____.”

II. Contentment is not _____ (4:12):

A. There is a fundamental difference between _____ and _____.

1. _____ is “an emotion based purely on my current circumstances or mood.”
2. _____ is the state of inner peace, poise, and confidence despite life’s ups and downs.

B. Some more examples of contentment despite hardship:

1. 2 Cor. 8:1-5 à _____
2. Acts 5:27-41 à _____
3. Acts 16:23-25 à _____

III. Contentment is _____ (4:13):

A. The source of Paul’s contentment: Christ! Why?

1. He guards our _____ and _____ (4:7)
2. He _____ us (4:13)
3. He will never _____ or _____ you (Heb. 13:5, 6)
4. He is able to sympathize with our _____ (Heb. 4:15)

B. The secret to finding true freedom, joy, and contentment is to _____ to Christ.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS

CONTINUING
"FUNDAMENTAL'S OF CHRISTIAN FAITH"
 SPEAKER: JACOB RUTLEDGE

MARCH - MAY
 9:30 A.M.
 (IN THE AUDITORIUM)

WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASS

"SPIRITUAL PATRIOTS"
 BOOK OF JUDE
 SPEAKER: DON STAFFORD

MARCH - MAY
 7:00 P.M.
 (IN THE AUDITORIUM)

For the Record

Week of Apr 1
 Sunday AM.....174
 Contribution \$7,804

Week of Apr 8
 Sunday AM..... 170
 Contribution \$8,086

Elders:
 Tracy Frisinger
 Bill Hyde
 Roland Merz
 Kelly Miller

Deacons:
 Randy Banks
 Stephen Estrada
 John Gray
 Damon Hyde
 Jay Kelsey
 Winston Kinser
 Matt Walker
 Joel Wilkinson
 Brian Wilks
 Robert Wright
 Tim Wright

Ministers:
 Steven Akin
 Jacob Rutledge

Mission Works

Joshua Ankiah
 South Africa

Daniel Sackey
 Liberia, West Africa

Peter Chin
 Far East Evangelism (Singapore)

Tom Jackson
 Lancaster, New Hampshire

Life Verlooy
 Rice Lake, Wisconsin

John Moore
 Bible Passages

Troy Spradlin
 Paraguay Mission Work

Hensel Youth Camp

Southwest School of Bible Studies

World Video Bible School



*Please join us for
 a bridal shower honoring*

Reagan Gray

*At the home of Tammy Hyde
 13130 Nutty Brown Road
 Austin, TX 78737*

Saturday, April 21st at 2:00 pm

*Hosted by Sheri Bangs, Renee Frisinger,
 Carolyn Gully, Tammy Hyde, Judy
 Templeton, Bonnie Walker and Diane
 Williamson*

*The couple is registered at Bed, Bath &
 Beyond, Macy's and Amazon.com*



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MARCH 20TH

7:00PM

AT THE HOME OF BILL HYDE

DINNER PROVIDED

SIGN-UP SHEET IS ON THE BACK TABLE OF THE AUDITORIUM

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

APRIL 24TH

6:30PM

AT THE HOME OF ANITA MERZ

BRING YOUR FAVORITE SALAD & DESSERT

Announcements

Prayer List

Church Family:

Opaline Bonner, Paul & Lolly Brown, Marvin & Mary Crumley, Peggy Hinseley, Dennis Joiner, Norman & Betty Starling, Joe & Diane Williamson

Shut-ins & Other Needs

Nelawyn Dalley, Alene McNair

HCC Resident

Nancy Wallace

Lavender Springs Residents

Marvin & Mary Crumley

Bereavement

The Armstrong, Bonner & Knox Families

Family & Friends of Church Family

Cyndi & Kelly Arbuckle, Pat Balderas, Tom & Judy Barthel, Donald Ferguson Family, Ray Frisinger, Carol Hiennman, Hank Karr, Lura (Stovall) Lyles, Elizabeth McKenzie, Monty & Linda McNair, Gary & Sandra Montgomery, Mary Moore, Edward O'Daniel, Avis Yates Rivers, Andrew Sanchez, Regina Sanchez, Shirley Scott, Mary Sharp, Lisa Shepard, Dennis Tilley, Barbara Valle, Don Walker, Gary Williamson, Tommy Williamson

New to Prayer List

Mary Crumley is experiencing increased back pain and could use our prayers.

Hank Karr, brother of Kathy Boydston, was recently diagnosed with stage 4 bladder cancer. He will be starting immunotherapy next week.

Lisa Shepard, sister of Jay Kelsey, has made some improvements and has been moved out of the ICU, but still has many battles to conquer before being released.

Announcements

Robert Wright's Fellowship Care Group meets today following morning worship

Camp Hensel Registration is now open. Space fills up quick so register ASAP at: <http://www.swcofc.org/youth.html>

Pantry Items Needed: Sign-up sheet is on the back table.

We are collecting donations for Prom Alternative door prizes. If you're interested in helping out, please see Steven Akin.

There is a sign-up sheet on the youth bulletin board for those of you who would like to host one of our Sharpen the Sword Devo's.

Pew Packers (NEW TIME) before evening worship at 5:45pm

Mark Your Calendars

Apr 17 - Men's Bible Study; 7:00pm at the home of Bill Hyde; dinner provided (sign-up sheet on the back table in the auditorium, if you plan to attend)

Apr 19 - Good Samaritans; 9:30am in room 101

Apr 21 - Reagan Gray Wedding Shower; 2:00pm at the home of Tammy Hyde; (Reagan is registered at Bed Bath & Beyond, Macy's and Amazon)

Apr 24 - Ladies' Bible Study; 6:30pm at the home of Anita Merz (bring your favorite salad)

Apr 29 - 5th Sunday Nursing Home Singing

May 3 - Good Samaritans; 9:30am in room 101

May 6 - First Sunday Focus & Fellowship Potluck

Youth Calendar

Youth Singing Class & Dinner Every Wednesday @ 5:45 Dinner/6:15 Class

Friends in Faith Dinner Every Wednesday @ 6:15pm in Room 101

Prayer & Coffee (High School) Every Tuesday @ Starbucks 7:45-8:15am with Steven

Bible Study "Sharpen The Sword" every Monday @ the home of Steven & Catherine Akin - 6:30pm Followed by Ultimate Frisbee

TODAY - Pew Packers (NEW TIME) before evening worship at 5:45pm

Apr 20-21 - F.U.E.L Youth Rally; hosted by Mid-Town CofC (see details on youth bulletin board in foyer)

May 11 - Prom Alternative; Hosted by Southwest CofC (see details on youth bulletin board in foyer)

May 13 - Graduation Banquet; following evening worship

Jun 10-15 - Camp Hensel

Jun 25-27 - VBS; Jesus Christ: Chief Hero of Faith

Jul 8-11 - DSCofC Mission Trip to Arkansas (details to follow)

Jul 22-27 - Peach Valley Camp

Lesson Titles for Today

A.M. — Content in Christ

P.M. — Marks of Spiritual Immaturity (Heb. 5:11-14)

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, April 15

Lord's Table

Bill Hyde Joel Walker
Brian Wilks Mark Somervell
Tim Wright Kyle Merz
John Gray Grant Lawrence

Morning

Announcements..... Roland Merz
Scripture Reading..... To Be Selected
Song Leader Damon Hyde
Opening Prayer Mat Cain
Sermon..... Steven Akin
Closing Prayer Ryan Bonnett

Evening

Song Leader Ryan Bonnett
Opening Prayer Jay Kelsey
Sermon..... Steven Akin
Closing Prayer Joel Wilkinson

Wednesday, April 18

Prayers To Be Selected
Song Leader Bill Hyde
Speaker Mark Somervell

Sunday, April 22

Morning

Announcements..... Damon Hyde
Scripture Reading..... To Be Selected
Song Leader Tim Wright
Opening Prayer Stephen Estrada
Sermon..... Jacob Rutledge
Closing Prayer Joel Walker

Evening

Song Leader David Nuckels
Opening Prayer Keith Mauck
Sermon..... Jacob Rutledge
Closing Prayer Joe Williamson

Ushers

Charles Smith Gavin Valle

Building Lockup

Jay Kelsey Joel Wilkinson

Communion Preparation

Mark Somervell..... Russell Speir

Ladies Room 101 Duty

April: Carol Nelson, Carrie Nelson, Lori Simonetti, Mary Williams

May: Marilyn Wilkinson, Phyllis Joiner, Carla Moore, Carolyn Rutherford

June: Tara Hyde, Leslie Speir, Jeri Belyea, Doyla Burrell