



Christ Community Church
Orlando, Florida

*September
2011*

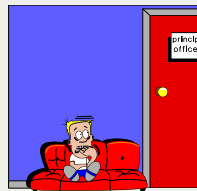
BACK TO SCHOOL

Well it is September again. The summer is almost over and the kids are back in school. Sir Henry Newbolt has a poem called, "The Best School of All" The first verse goes like this:

It's good to see the school we knew,
the land of youth and dream.
To greet again the rule we knew,
before we took the stream.
Though long we've missed the sight of her,
Our hearts may not forget:
We've lost the old delight of her,
We keep her honour yet.



Not everyone would agree with this. However much we are told they were the best years of our lives, for some, this is not true. One of the things that makes us human is the desire and ability to learn, to find out, to know. What are your memories of school? Perhaps this:



My teachers looked rather like this: →



Whatever our opinion or government policy is regarding religious education and prayers in school, the fact remains, there would be no schools at all but for the pioneering work of the faith communities. Among the Jews, the synagogue was a school during the week. In the West, the first schools were formed by the church; parish churches and monasteries. Some developed into universities, others seminaries for training ministers. Elementary schools were provided by the local churches. In England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries where universities were only for members of the Church of England, the Dissenting churches (Baptist, Congregational, Quaker, Methodist etc.) established Academies providing the best education available.

Of course, all this goes back to Jesus. He was known as "The Teacher". In the early part of his ministry Jesus taught the crowds who came to hear him. He would sit in a boat a little way out from the land and teach the crowd thronging the beach. He taught on the hillside. He taught in the synagogue. The verdict of those who heard him was:

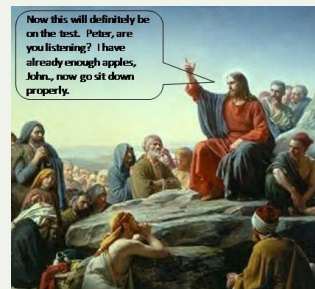
Mark 1:27 ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

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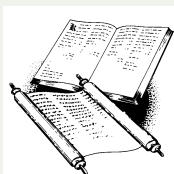
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In Jerusalem, Jesus taught in the temple. The great outer courtyard known as the Court of the Gentiles was the only part of the temple to which non-Jews could go. Along one side was a covered portico in which rabbis would hold classes to teach the Torah to any who would come. Here, Jesus taught. We are told that when Jesus was in Jerusalem he taught daily in the temple.

Jesus was a superb teacher. We have his teaching in passages such as the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and what is sometimes called the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6). In his teaching, Jesus covers such subjects as the law of love, judging others, prayer, attitudes towards possessions, the right use of money. The teaching for which Jesus is best known comes in his parables. Those wonderful stories, taken from everyday life and current affairs contain a wealth of knowledge and wisdom about God and human life. Some are quite short, but get to the point: the lost sheep, the lost coin, the pearl of great price. Others are quite long with such details that when you read them it is like having a movie showing in your head! Let's read them, again and again and again: The lost son and the loving Father, the good Samaritan, the wicked tenants, the wedding banquet, the friend at midnight and many, many more. When did you last read them? Why not check them out for yourself now? In October I'm planning a sermon series called, "Great things He has taught us; great things He has done". Make sure you're there (though, of course, you don't have to wait until October)!



Jesus also taught his disciples and then sent them out to teach. When we turn to the letters in the New Testament we find teaching of Christian doctrine and the practical application of it. We'll be checking out some that that this month. See the sermon program.



This leads me to the next commercial. This month we begin the third of our Christ Community School of Theology. This will run for six sessions each one on a Tuesday evening. This time we are looking at "Heresies and Cults". There is so much wrong teaching around. Sadly, some of it comes from churches. Whether we like it or not, we are part of a multi-faith society. We need to make sure we know what is true Christianity. Jesus once said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." We need to know all three and be able to answer our non-Christian friends and neighbors. You will also find the program for the School of Theology in this Newsletter. So don't let the kids beat you. Let's all go back to school.

COUNCIL NEWS & NOTES



During our annual August Congregational Meeting, we traditionally vote in new council members. Please welcome Mary Wallace and Beryl Tattersall as they begin serving new terms on our church council. Barbara Sheridan and Nadine Pasquot have completed their three year terms of service on the Council—kindly take a moment to thank them for their support. They have given unselfishly of their time, talent and advice as council members. Barbara and Nadine, we truly appreciate all that you have done for our church!

In addition to council position elections, we reviewed many of the activities we've sponsored through the church during the past year, and we announced upcoming events:

- The **CCC School of Theology** is back for the third installment. Tuesday, **September 20th**, is the first evening of this enriching interactive study and more details are on the back page of this newsletter.
- On Saturday, **November 5th**, the **Annual Stewardship Dinner** will be held. A musical variety of entertainment will round out the evening. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for preparing and providing the delicious lunch following the congregational meeting. The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **September 6 at 6:30 PM**. All are welcome to attend.

*Missions Committee Continuing Effort...*a basket is set up in the church Narthex for your donations of non-perishable food items for those in need. Also, thank you to everyone for contributing to the **Macy's Shop For a Cause** event.



Diane Reaves
Church Council Chairperson



SEPTEMBER SERMONS—ILLUSTRATED LETTERS

- Sunday, September 4 - Illustrated Letters
 - 1. No Place Like Home: Phillipians 2:25-30
- Sunday, September 11 - Illustrated Letters
 - 2. Freed to Serve: Philemon
- Sunday, September 18—Illustrated Letters
 - 3. Letters to a Friend: 2 Timothy 1:3-10; 3:14-17
- Sunday, September 25—Illustrated Letters
 - 4. Warning and Command: Colossians 2:16-23

Something to Ponder...



A man was sleeping one night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might...

So, this the man did, day after day. For many years he toiled from sunup to sundown, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might! Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Since the man was showing discouragement, the Adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the man's weary mind. (He will do it every time!) "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time and it hasn't moved." Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. Satan said, "Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort, and that will be good enough."

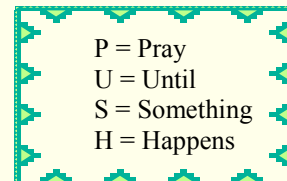


That's what the weary man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord. "Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in Your Service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?" The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to

Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back shiny and brown; your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. That you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock.."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God Who moves the mountains.

- When everything seems to go wrong..... Just P.U.S.H.
- When the job gets you down..... Just P.U.S.H.
- When people don't do as you think they should..... Just P.U.S.H.
- When your money is "gone" and the bills are due..... Just P.U.S.H.
- When people just don't understand you..... Just P.U.S.H.



Church Office — Notary Public State of Florida



For your convenience, you are now able to have documents notarized by the Church Administrator. There is no cost to you for this useful aid. Please call or email ahead if you should require this service.



September 2011 Newsletter

VISIT US ON THE WEB www.orlandoccc.org

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Janell Newton, Church Administrator
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Debbie Pinto, Director of Music
deborahpinto@comcast.net

Charlie Steele, Church Treasurer
csteele1@cfl.rr.com



Sundays

10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Our 'School' is back ...
This may be for you

CHRIST COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The aim of CCST is to provide an opportunity to study Biblical topics, theology and church history in greater depth than is possible in our regular church Bible studies.

HERESIES AND CULTS

Each session will be on Tuesday evening
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Tuesday September 20 – Defining orthodoxy

Tuesday September 27 – Gnostics and Arians

Tuesday October 4 – Medieval "Protestants"

Tuesday October 11 – Unitarians

Tuesday October 18 – Present day cults
(1) Jehovah's Witnesses

Tuesday October 25 – Present day cults
(2) Mormons

*The format will give opportunity for interaction
or you can just listen!*

The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from his word



Labor Day
Monday, September 5
Church Office Closed

Sunday, September 11
Day of Remembrance
& Grandparents' Day