

“...strengthen thy brethren”

Luke 22:32

2 Timothy 2:15 “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

CHURCH OF CHRIST
of Genesee County

March 24, 2019

Schedule of Services

Worship...	Sunday	11:00 a.m.
	Sunday	6:00 p.m.
Bible Study...	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.

5284 Fenton Road, Flint MI 48507

Website: www.coc-gc.org

SERMONS

AM: Felix's Problem

PM: Hated But Loved

REQUESTED PRAYERS

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Cindy Atkinson—health. (knee)
Al Haskell - kidney problems.
Marty Stearns— health.
Vivian Golwitzer-McLaren Hospital
Dan Goddard-serious health issues
Joe Wilkerson-health
Joan's brother Hurley and Opal, sister Christena
Apostolico in Ohio—health problems
Chere'— Pryia Vannoy (daughter) and Adam Vannoy (son)
Edith Taylor-Bill's mother is getting better.
Katherine Brooks - prayers for her niece and great-niece.
Cody Cantrell-coma-Bill's friend.
Rachel Hall—health problems
Cindy's friends-Ireland Family, Wayne Hamilton, Kathy
and Misty Davis, Jody Rynca-cancer, Marie Hall,
Mitchell Larson and Walt and Ilene Davenport— health
Betty requests prayers for Earlene Currier-health-Betty's
Aunt, Betty's daughters: Donna, Carrie, Susan Wills,
Debra, also, Lauren Weidner-grand-daughter.
Ted Millwood—Grand Rapids Hospital Spectrum Health
Bud Gruno—lymphoma

Food closet: baby food, diapers

Ladies Bible Class March 26th (10 am)

SUNDAY 3/24/2019

Morning Worship:

Announcements: Al Haskell

Song Leader: Al Haskell

Opening Prayer: Todd Penoyer

Lord's Supper: Lead: Todd Penoyer

Assist: Bill Alldaffer, Al Haskell

Preaching: Michael Golwitzer

Closing Prayer: Al Haskell

Bible Class:

Song Lead: Bill Alldaffer

Teacher: Michael Golwitzer

Opening Prayer: Al Haskell

Evening Worship:

Announcements: Todd Penoyer

Song Leader: Al Haskell

Opening Prayer: Al Haskell

Preaching: Michael Golwitzer

Lord's Supper: Michael Golwitzer

Closing Prayer: Todd Penoyer

WEDNESDAY 3/27/2019

Song Leader: Bill Alldaffer

Opening Prayer: Todd Penoyer

Bible Teacher: Michael Golwitzer

"Christ—the Firstfruits"

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. by Eric Lyons, Apologetics Press

REFERENCES

Kistemaker, Simon J. (1993), Exposition of the First Epistle to the Corinthians (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker).

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism 1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work James 2:24
Christian's Hope Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance Revelation 2:10



1 Corinthians 11:24 *"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."*

