

And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

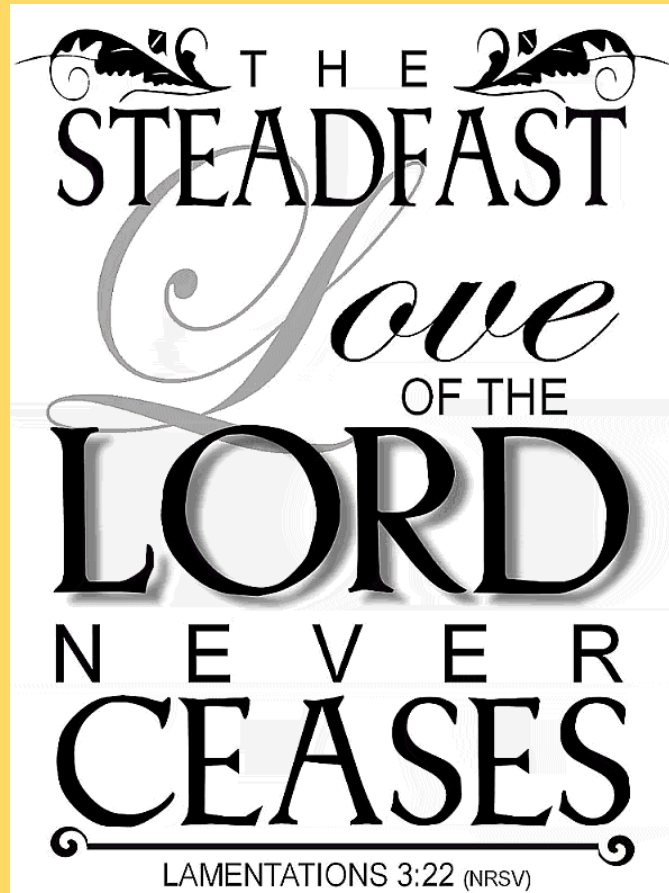
James 5:16

Remember those who have spiritual needs or health issues; also those who are traveling; Don't forget our deployed military.

Pick up a copy of the latest prayer list from the foyer.

Keep South Anchorage congregation in your prayers.

- **Carolyn Carter and family:** Peace, health, and well-being
- **Cheryl Henderson** that her eye heals quickly and successfully
- **Cathy DiMaria:** eye concern
- **Judy Mitchell** is facing many health challenges and has not been able to go to work
- **Ruth Hollingsworth:** Health concerns and well-being
- **Dennis Ford:** In assisted care
- **Helen Ford:** Health concerns and life struggles; Helen's daughter, **Sherry**, injury
- **Carolyn Ray's daughter, Kim Robinson:** Health concerns
- **Sheilla Munger,** prayer and strength to help her family, Chris (health), Scott (well-being), her brother Waymon (health); prayer of thanksgiving that Chris has employment!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fortify Your Faith: Friday, September 20. Potluck and a movie with discussion afterward.

Ladies' Outreach: Saturday September 21, 10:00 a.m. at the building.

Area Wide Sing: Scheduled for November 9.

SEPTEMBER ~ Birthdates & Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 8 Lisa Hansen | 8 Andy Laux | 10 Ezra Swayne |
| 11 Rowan Henderson | 13 Anya McLaughlin | 24 Cheryl Henderson |
| 25 Linda Harris | | 26 Ezekiel Swayne |

♥23 Willie & Ciel Green♥

SOUTH ANCHORAGE CHURCH of CHRIST

7800 Stanley Dr., Anchorage, Alaska 99518-2645 907-344-3931
www.soanchoragechurchofchrist.org sacoc@gci.net

Welcome visitors! We at the South Anchorage church of Christ seek to be sharing Jesus Christ and growing in His likeness. If you would like to find out more about this church, please just ask.

WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY
Bible Class: 10 a.m.
Worship: 11 a.m.
6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Class: 7 p.m.
Evangelist:
Patrick Swayne
242-7471 cell
344-6715 home
Quarterly Chairman:
Curt Harris

Fellow helpers with:
East Homer church of Christ, AK
Seward church of Christ, AK
Eric Lyons, preacher
Truth in Love
In Search of The Lord's Way
Lighting the Fire (Mike Glenn)
Russell Bowers
Junior Cole, Jamaica India Church
Leadership Training
Philologus School of Preaching
Srikakulum India
Two preachers in India

FACEBOOK
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SEPTEMBER 15, 2019
Why Do the Churches of Christ Rely on Freewill Giving?

By Louis Rushmore

It is important to emphasize biblical fundamentals, especially when they differ from contemporary religion. The churches of Christ belong to Jesus Christ, and consequently, they are obligated to conduct themselves according to what Jesus **authorizes** (Romans 16:16; Colossians 3:17). People living in the Gospel Age must heed the words of Jesus Christ rather than Moses or the Old Testament prophets (Matthew 17:1-5; John 12:48). Jesus Christ is the Lawgiver and Mediator of the New Testament, to which people living today must turn for religious instruction (James 4:12; Hebrews 9:15). Jesus Christ condemns alteration of the Gospel with "the commandments of men," and the apostle Paul condemns false Gospels and the human will (when substituted for divine will) (Matthew 15:9; Galatians 1:6-9; Colossians 2:23). One must turn **exclusively** to the New Testament to learn what God has authorized respecting Christianity.

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE -- SEPT. 15, 2019

SUNDAY A.M.		SUNDAY P.M.	
Greeter: Matthew Brotherton		Greeter: Matthew Brotherton	
Song Leader: Mike Schultz		Song Leader: Mike Schultz	
Opening Prayer: Brian Hedrick		Opening Prayer: Brian Hedrick	
Lord's Table Leader: Curt Harris		Lord's Table Leader: Curt Harris	
1st Assist: Bruce Kling		Assist: Matthew Brotherton	
2nd Assist: Matthew Brotherton		Closing Prayer: Mike Schultz	
Sermon – Matthew Brotherton		Announcements	
Scripture Reading: Mike Schultz			
Matthew 13:1-9			
Closing Prayer: Kevin Henderson			
Announcements			

WEDNESDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 18, 2019
Announcements
Invitation: Matthew Brotherton
Songs: Curt Harris
Closing Prayer: Steven Church

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The contemporary religious world funds itself in a variety of ways. The manner in which the religious world funds itself is entirely owing to preferences of the human will. Gambling is one popular way that some denominational churches finance their religious activities (e.g., bingo, raffles). Food sales is another popular way that some manmade churches fund themselves (e.g., pancake suppers, steak dinners, bake sales, etc.). Car washes, carnivals and various sales help fund some churches. Some churches rely on commercial enterprises to raise money (e.g., investments in sugar or insurance, owning distilleries and bottling companies, operating tourist attractions, etc.). In addition, most contemporary churches adopt tithing from the Old Testament as a part of how they finance themselves, but the Old Testament is no longer the religious law governing mankind, and tithing has not been reinstated in the New Testament (Romans 7:6-7; Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14).

Contemporary religions completely ignore the divine will respecting the funding of religious activity. If contemporary churches were interested in seeking biblical authority for the way they finance themselves, they would not raise money in any of the ways just mentioned. However, if contemporary churches were truly interested in biblical authority, they would not wear names and adopt doctrines, etc. that are foreign to the Bible. Clearly, few in the religious world make the least pretensions of interest in biblical authority for the way they conduct themselves.

The churches of Christ, though, are obligated to follow the divine will for funding religious activity. There are a number of religious activities indicated in the New Testament that may require the church to spend money. The New Testament authorizes the Lord's church to financially support preachers of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:4-14, **direct statement**). The New Testament authorizes the Lord's church to financially support elders (1 Timothy 5:17-18, **direct statement**). The New Testament authorizes the Lord's church to financially support widows who have no other recourse for their livelihood (1 Timothy 5:3-16, **direct statement**). The New Testament authorizes the Lord's church to financially support evangelism in its own community or other communities (2 Corinthians 11:8; Philippians 4:14-16, **direct statement**). The New Testament authorizes the Lord's church to financially provide for its own edification (1 Corinthians 14:12, 26, **divine implication**). The New Testament authorizes the Lord's church to financially assist Christians and non-Christians who need benevolent relief (Galatians 6:10; 2 Corinthians 9:13; Matthew 5:43-48, **direct statement**). Anything not specifically stated in the New Testament, not a part of

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evangelism, edification or benevolence and not otherwise authorized by direct statements, approved examples or divine implication is not something on which the Lord's money may be spent.

Freewill giving is the only means authorized in the New Testament for funding religious activity. In addition, only the religious activity authorized in the New Testament for the church to perform can avail itself of the money collected by the Lord's church. Any activity that does not relate to one of the three missions of the Lord's church or that is not otherwise specified in the New Testament is not an appropriate expenditure for church funds. Generally, the Lord's church requires funds for evangelism, edification and benevolence (Mark 16:15-16; 2 Corinthians 11:8; 1 Corinthians 14:12, 26; Galatians 6:10; 2 Corinthians 9:13; Matthew 5:43-48).

There are two related ways in which Christians are **authorized** to practice freewill giving. The **primary** New Testament prescription for funding the Lord's church is weekly freewill giving on the Lord's Day as a part of worship (1 Corinthians 16:1-2, a **command**). Freewill offering is characterized by purposeful giving according to one's prosperity or commensurate with one's resources (2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2). An **additional** New Testament prescription for funding the Lord's church is through spontaneous freewill giving (Acts 4:34-37, an **example**). There is no stipulation in Scripture that the freewill giving of Acts 4-5 was during Lord's Day worship, in view of the coming and going of Christians as well as presenting the money to the apostles in Acts 5:1-10.

Since the churches of Christ belong to Jesus Christ, they are obligated to finance themselves only in the way the New Testament authorizes. Further, the churches of Christ may only spend money on things that are authorized in the New Testament (i.e., through direct statements, approved examples and divine implication). No church is authorized to fund religious activities through any means other than freewill giving. Further, no church is authorized to spend money on things not indicated in Scripture. Incidentally, many churches exist in direct opposition to what God through the New Testament has authorized in virtually every aspect of Christianity.

Penitent souls also must turn exclusively to the New Testament to learn what God has authorized respecting human redemption. Unbaptized believers need to be baptized for the remission of their sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). Erring Christians need to repent and pray (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

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Children's Corner -The Seedling

Have you ever seen a baby plant break through the soil? Maybe you saw a film that showed the tiny plant pushing its way up through the soil. It is very interesting to watch.

The seed is planted and needs time to sprout. It first grows a small root downward. Then, as it grows, the seed slowly pushes its way toward the surface of the ground. A great deal of energy is needed for the tiny seedling to force its way through the soil. Finally, it reaches the surface and in a very quick motion it almost jumps through the surface.

The seed must be planted at the right time. And the tiny seedling that has just broken the surface must do so at the right time. If it is too hot or too cold, the seedling will die. But if it breaks through at the right time, it will grow right.

The Greeks had a word to describe this jumping by the seedling through the top of the soil. It is the same word we discussed last time. In Hebrews 7:14 we read, "For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood." The word is "sprang". And you remember that this word is used to describe Jesus.

God knew from the very beginning that He would send Jesus to save the world. But he needed to prepare man to be ready to accept Him. And Jesus needed to come at just the right time. The long process of getting man ready to accept Jesus was like the tiny seedling working its way to the surface. Then at the right time, Jesus "sprang" from the tribe of Judah and lived on earth as a man. He grew to be an adult and preached that He was sent to save man.

You need to read and study your Bible. God wants you to follow His teachings. God revealed His plan to us in just the right way and at the right time. If any of this is hard to understand, ask an adult to help you. Until next time, keep getting God's wisdom.

Mark McWhorter

