

"The churches of Christ salute you" Rom. 16:16

Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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Preacher: Kevin V. Rutherford

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

APRIL 15, 2018

WITH THEM AND ALL

The Lord Jesus Christ will judge us in the last day (Acts 17:30-31). The standard by which He shall judge us will be His Word (John 12:48). His word includes commands regarding benevolence (Acts 20:35). But, there is much more to faithful Christian living than benevolence (Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 3; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 4:11-16, etc.). So, when Jesus Christ uses benevolence to illustrate Christian faithfulness in Matthew 25, He is by no means saying our benevolent actions are the only requirements for faithful living. Having said that, we must not miss the fact that because he used benevolence to illustrate who will be considered righteous on the day of judgement, benevolent good works are very important (Matthew 25:31-46).

There is no doubt that God requires congregations of the body of Christ to be benevolent, just as He expects individual members of the body of Christ will be benevolent. Consider the command instituting the collection that is to take place when Christians assemble on the first day of the week. Paul wrote, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). The purpose of this collection was to help the Jerusalem saints in need (1 Corinthians 16:3-4).

1 Corinthians 16:1, tells us this collection was "for the saints." This has led some to a doctrine which states that money from the church treasury can only be used for helping those who are saints. Some have gone to the point of saying it is a sin for churches to use money from their treasury/collection/bank-account to help people in need who are not Christians. To their credit, some of these brethren will help non-saints out of their own pockets in a generous fashion, so we are not accusing them of being greedy for denying use of the church funds for benevolence that benefits those who are not Christians. However, their doctrine is wrong. It is false and flawed. It amounts to binding where God has not. Worse than that, it is a doctrine that actually prevents churches from doing what God wants them to do.

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Paul did use the expression, "the collection for the saints" (1 Corinthians 16:1). But does this term expressly forbid the use of that collection for helping people in need in Jerusalem who were not Christians? Can we say this means "saints only?" If it does mean "saints only" then any family in Jerusalem where one spouse was a Christian and the other was not would be told the food purchased with money from the church could only be used for the Christian spouse while the non-saint in the family would have to starve. Or, if the children were not Christians then they would have to starve also. The logical consequence of this doctrine in a time of great famine exemplifies a lack of wisdom.

Now, let's go ahead to the second letter Paul wrote to the church at Corinth and see how that money was used. In the context of 2 Corinthians 8 & 9, Paul is encouraging the church at Corinth to give more, and to give more generously. As he does so he reminds them of how the money previously collected by the church had been used (1 Corinthians 16:10-15). Beginning in verse twelve Paul says, "For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing ("contribution" - ASV) with them and all men." If the contribution for the saints was for the saints only, then why did Paul say it was used for "them and all men?" "Them" refers to the saints, so who does, "and all," refer to? It must refer to those who are not saints.

Galatians 6:10 is a similar context, and one which helps us to understand the language used in 2 Corinthians 9:13. Paul wrote, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). The expression "to all" is used in contrast to "those who are of the "household of faith," therefore the "all" is a different group from the "household of faith." The church is to help those who are saints, and it is to help those who are not saints. The collection stored in the church treasury for the saints was used in helping them (the saints) and all (non-saints).

The emphasis will always be on the saints. Paul said, "especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). Thus, the collection was for the saints (1 Corinthians 16:1). But the collection was never for the saints only (2 Corinthians 9:13). Therefore, it is not a sin to use money from the church treasury to help someone who is not a Christian.

~Kevin V. Rutherford



READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2018

April 16 - Luke 13:1-22 April 17 - Luke 13:23-35

April 18 - Luke 14:1-24

April 19 - Luke 14:25-35



April 20 - Luke 15:1-10 April 21 - Luke 15:11-32

April 22 - Luke 16



OUR SICK Please Remember in Your Prayers

Prayers are requested for **Randy Blevins**, a retired coworker of Randy Warner. He had his hand get stuck in a log splitter.

Please continue to pray for **Nita Kirkland.** She continues to have hip problems.

SHUT-INS

Mildred Barker Ernestine Martin

Kim Matthews Di-Ann Moser

It was reported that Mildred Barker's health is in decline at this time.

Please keep the shut-ins in your prayers

~IN SYMPATHY~

Our sympathy goes out to Charlie Belch and family in the death of his mother, Lillian Belch. Her funeral was held this past Saturday in West Virginia.

THANK YOU

"We want to thank the members of the congregation that celebrated RJ's 60th birthday with us. You really made his night and he had a great time because of you! Thank you."

THE PRAYER LIST IS AVAILABLE ON THE CREDENZA IN THE FOYER.



SOUTHWEST FOOD PANTRY

173 items were delivered to the SW Food Pantry this past week. Thank you!

The suggested items for the month of **April** are: **Laundry detergent**, **hand dishwashing liquid**, **soap**

2018 Nicaragua Medical Mission June 15-23

Currently, we have ten members from Warners Chapel planning to participate in the campaign in Granada, Nicaragua. Each member has already contributed \$500 to commit to the trip. The ladies will also be sewing dresses for the team to distribute. Please continue to pray for this effort.

PLEASE NOTE;

The latest Peru Newsletter is on the credenza in the foyer for those who do not have internet access.



WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A COVERED DISH CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP MEAL TODAY IN THE ANNEX NEXT DOOR FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE. YOU WILL BE OUR HONORED GUEST!

WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS:

<u>Apr. 15</u> - Congregational Fellowship Meal following morning worship service in the Annex.

April 17 - Sewing for Nicaragua at 9 a.m. in Annex. April 19 - The 50 and Over Class will meet at 11 a.m. in the Annex.

<u>Apr. 21</u> - 1st Lamb Group Mtg. in Annex beginning at 2 p.m. Sign-up sheet on Youth Board.

Apr. 28 - Youth Outing to Carowinds Amusement Park. Although this is a youth outing, all in the congregation are invited to come as well. There is a sign-up sheet on the Youth Board, so please sign-up and indicate how many tickets you will need. You MUST sign up by Sunday, April 22nd if you want to come. It is imperative that you write a check made out to Warners Chapel by Sunday, April 22nd and give it to Caleb so the order form for the tickets can be sent in

<u>May 19-20</u> - Senior Rally. The Speaker will be Rod Rutherford.

AREA EVENTS:

<u>Apr. 13-15</u> - Youth Rally at the Lake Norman church of Christ.

<u>Apr. 15-19</u> - Spring Gospel Mtg. at West Jefferson church of Christ. Guest Speaker: Chuck Stewart.

Apr. 22-25 - Gospel Mtg. at Liledoun church of Christ Speaker: Derek H. Franklin - Crawford church of Christ in Rock Hill, SC.

<u>May 5</u> - Ladies Day at Northwest church of Christ Theme: "Soothe Your Soul" Speaker: Jonee' Lewis from WXII News. 8:30-1:00.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD FOR DETAILS

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study - April 8, 2018	136
Sunday Worship Service	183
Contribution for April 8, 2018	\$8,566
Daily Adult Bible Readers:	41
Chapters Read:	659
Sunday Evening Worship Service	128
Wed. Evening Bible Study - April 11, 2018	105

Lord's Day Appointments For April, 2018

Serving the Lord's Table For April:

Clayton Workman

Gene Southern Dwight Barringer

Shawn Thomason Laura Cooper Todd Hinson Caleb Rutherford

Preparing Communion for April: Making Announcements on Sunday: Making Announcements on Wednesday:

Lord's Day Appointments - April 22, 2018

DEVOTIONS: OPENING PRAYER: SONG LEADER SCRIPTURE READERS

Scripture - Robby Landry Morning - Jim Harrison A.M. - Charlie Belch A.M. - Clayton Workman P.M. - Gene Southern P.M. - Dwight Barringer

Prayer - Al Lawson Wed. - Song Req. Service Gene S. & Tim A.

Greeters for April:

Mike & Laura Cooper

Opening and Closing Building

Sunday: - April 22 ~ Mark Roy Wednesday: - April 25 ~ Mark Roy

Lord's Day Appointments - April 15, 2018

DEVOTIONS: OPENING PRAYER: SONG LEADER SCRIPTURE READERS

Scripture - Mark Minor Morning - Tim Harper A.M. - Gene Southern Song Leader - Tommy Rose Evening - Robby Landry P.M. - Wayne Allen Prayer - Andy Santiago Wed. - Don Minor

Opening and Closing Building

Sunday:- April 15~Brad HootsGreeters for April:Wednesday:- April 11~Brad HootsMike & Laura Cooper

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - Nursery open for small children during all services.

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 10:50 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY: Mid-Week Service 7:00 PM

"GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE" at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8 SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68

WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST 8999 LASATER ROAD CLEMMONS, NC 27012

ELDERS DEACONS

Tim Allen
Joe Everett
Todd Hinson
Steve Tesh
Mark Minor
Jason Allen
Mike Cooper

Randy Warner
Gene Southern
Shawn Thomason
Mark Roy
Adam Warner
Jacob Woodbury