

Church Street church of Christ Newsletter

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“COME, FOR ALL THINGS ARE NOW READY”

Jesus started His “Parable of the Great Supper” with these words:

A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready’ (Luke 14:16,17).

It is pleasant to be invited to a special occasion. In fact, it can be downright exciting. In our Lord’s story, though, those who initially were invited rejected the invitation. Following that, an invitation was extended to those in the highways and hedges, a reference to the gospel call going to the Gentiles. The “certain man” who hosted the great supper symbolizes God. His appeal to the invited guests was, “*Come, for all things are now ready.*” What is the spiritual application?

“*Come, for all things are now ready*” – Prepared and waiting. God’s arrangement for man’s salvation was ready for man to come and accept it. In the big picture of things, when was that? Before creation, God already had the plan for man’s redemption (Ephesians 3:9-11), and He revealed it partially during the Old Testament era via promises and the prophecies of His messengers. When did it come to fulfillment? When was it that God sent His Son into the world? The Bible says it was “*when the fullness of the time had come*” (Galatians 4:4). In God’s plan, per His wisdom, when “*Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king*” (Matthew 2:1), preached the gospel of the Kingdom (Mark 1:14,15), and “*bore our sins in His own body on the tree*” (1 Peter 2:24), all of that was the optimum time for “the feast.”

“*Come, for all things are now ready*” – At the center of “all things” was the Lamb of God, who came to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). He came that man might have true life (John 10:10) and to make us free from the penalty of sin (John 8:36). He alone is “*the way, the truth, and the life*” through which we can come to the Father (John 14:6). In Jesus alone can sinners have redemption (Romans 3:23,24).

A second aspect of “all things” is the great gospel of Jesus, a message that is God’s power to salvation (Romans 1:16). It is the message that our Lord wants every person in the world to hear, believe, and obey for his/her personal salvation (Mark 16:15,16).

A third part of “all things” is Jesus’ church, the spiritual body over which He rules as Head (Colossians 1:24). He willingly purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Through His blood, His church is washed and prepared for eternal glory (Ephesians 5:23-27).

So, the great news for all mankind is, “All things are now ready.” Who said so? God did. Does He know what He is talking about? You know He does! If He said it, then we can count on it.

“*Come, for all things are now ready*” – The call is for the invited guests to come and enjoy the wonderful spiritual blessings/feast which by God’s grace have been arranged in the Christ (Ephesians 1:3, 7).

The appeal to “come” to the feast calls for man to take action. God did wonderful things to bring about salvation for lost people, but we cannot sit passively and expect God to carry us to His blessed feast. The Son invites us to come to Him for rest (Matthew 11:28-30), the Father calls and draws us to Jesus via the gospel message (2 Thessalonians 2:14), and the Spirit revealed the whole plan of redemption in the truth (John 16:13, 14).

In order for a person to “come” to the prepared feast of God, he must hear, understand, and receive the invitation. That is what happened on the first Pentecost after Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. Peter preached the gospel that day, proclaiming the way of salvation. In response, humble hearers submitted to it by repenting and being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:36-41).

One who comes to Jesus for salvation must come on the Lord’s terms (Hebrews 5:9). He must come with a noble, honest, and good heart (Luke 8:15). He must come with a heart that is assured completely of Jesus’ Deity (Acts 2:36). He must come with the courage to deny himself, and he must come with the understanding that following Jesus is a daily (Luke 9:23), to-the-end commitment (Hebrews 3:6,14).

Thanks be to God for His grace that prepared a way for us out of darkness and into His loving arms. Have *you* accepted God’s call to come to His feast? If not, why not decide to do that very thing today?!

-- Roger D. Campbell

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.”

Psalm 145: 8 - 16

Attendance 09/07/17: AM – 66; PM – 23

Contribution: \$1678.85

If you are visiting with us today, we wish you a warm welcome and thank you for being with us to share in our worship to God. If you have any questions, or would like any further information, please ask one of our members or feel free to take any of the tracts and leaflets that are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS	UPCOMING EVENTS
05/07: Ruth – Birthday.	16/07: New start times commence for morning services.
12/07: Jo Anne – Birthday.	17/07: Ladies Devotional Night, 7:30pm at building.
14/07: Raymond – Birthday.	
26/07: Heng – Birthday.	

TRAVELLING/SICK – Please keep in your prayers:

- Continue to pray for Abigail Williams and her family in Adelaide.
- For Sis Sharon Chan in Singapore. We thank God for the good news regarding her condition.
- For Joshua Stokes in Hobart. His cancer has recurred, so please pray for him and his family. He is now in a 12-month ongoing period of chemotherapy (1 week of treatment, 3 weeks off).
- Brett Rutherford in Tasmania.
- Wally Crous from the Central North congregation in WA. Please pray for him as he recovers from a stroke.
- Ray French, one of the elders from the congregation that oversees the support of Charlie and Mary. He has had further surgery to ease his back pain.
- Greg Shea in Launceston. He is looking to raise funds to work full-time with the brethren at Launceston.
- Please pray for Charlie and his eyes and the PMR he is being treated for.
- Please pray that Robyn remains well enough to maintain full time community work. In recent years, several positions have been terminated due to health issues.
- For Augustine as he continues to recover from his recent surgery.
- For Bro Ron Gilbert in the US. He is suffering from a rare condition that has caused him severe pain in his arms and legs. He is recovering at home and continuing to undergo treatment as an outpatient. He has for many years conducted regular mission trips to Asia and Africa.
- Please pray for Mabel McPherson from Devonport as she continues to recover from her recent surgery.
- For the Tang family who are away on holiday in Hong Kong and Taiwan.
- For Mary and that her new medication will assist her.

BUILDING PLANS:

The men are considering building works as we are blessed to be growing in number. Han has kindly drawn up a proposed plan to increase the seating capacity and have additional class room space. A proposed plan has been placed on the notice-board, please feel free to examine this and make any suggestions or comments about this. Any questions are also welcome as we seek to cater for our increasing numbers.

NEW CLASS AND WORSHIP TIMES:

The men have decided to change our Sunday morning bible class and worship times. As of today, Sunday 16th July, the children’s song time and bible classes will commence at 9:30am and conclude at 10:15am. There will then be a short break of 15 minutes and our morning worship will commence at 10:30am, concluding at 11:30am. Please note these new times.

LADIES DEVOTIONAL NIGHT:

All the ladies are invited to attend their monthly devotional night tomorrow evening at the building. The night will commence at 7:30pm.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDIES:

Please continue to remember and act on our goal for every member to be able to set up 1 personal bible study with someone they know this year. If needed, there are several members who are willing to conduct the actual study as required. Please also keep in your prayers those that are currently doing bible studies at this time.