

HEAVEN IS OUR GOAL

by Cougan Collins Lone Grove church of Christ Lone Grove, OK

Getting to heaven should be our main goal in life because no one should desire to spend eternity with the devil and his angels (Mt. 25:41). Unfortunately, many do not have their priorities straight.

As Jesus said:

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it (Mt. 7:13-14).

Living the Christian life and keeping your priorities straight is not easy, which is why Jesus said only a few will make it. Since only a few get to heaven, it should cause us to take a serious look at ourselves to see if we are traveling down the difficult road that leads to heaven or the broad road that leads to destruction.

It is easy to get distracted from our goal of heaven because our society is driven by the pursuit of money and possessions.

As Jesus said:

“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful” (Mt. 13:22).

There is nothing wrong with having riches; they only become a problem when we start loving them more than we love God (1 Tim. 6:10). When our priorities are in order, we will use what God has blessed us with to further the kingdom of God.

As Jesus said:

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Mt. 6:33).

There is nothing the world can offer that is worth losing our soul to the devil (Mt. 16:26).

As Jesus said:

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mt. 6:19-21).

We should remind ourselves daily that God must be first in our life (Mt. 10:37-38), and we should keep our thoughts on heaven (Col. 3:2). After all, heaven is a prepared place for prepared people (Jn. 14:2-3). The comfort and beauty of heaven cannot be described by mere words because it is more majestic than we can imagine (1 Cor. 2:9).

So, I encourage you to make heaven your goal by fighting the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12) and by obeying the commands of God.

As Jesus said:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Mt. 7:21).

Getting to heaven requires endurance, patience, and persistence but the eternal rewards are worth it all.

The writer of Hebrews tells us how to achieve our goal of heaven:

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:1-2).

NEWSLETTER

Dec. 22, 2019

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Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Study 9:45 AM
Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM
No Sunday PM Service
Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study 10:00 AM
Wednesday PM Bible Study 7:00 PM
(Canceled for Wed. Dec. 25, 2019)

La Salle
church of Christ

A place of worship and healing.

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
(716) 283-1214

lasallechurchofchrist.org



We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are not expected to give money but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent during Bible study and worship.



Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries
2350 Nashville Rd.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
270 843-3038
potterministries.org

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course



Speaker: Phil Sanders www.searchtv.org
Spectrum Cable Dish Network Direct TV
Check local listing.



Prayers *In our prayers, let's praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

Maria Swindlehurst is asking for prayers as she deals with ongoing health issues.

Pat Hazlett has been dealing with bronchitis.

Ruth Knepp Let's keep her in our prayers as she deals with some issues.

Cyndi Paden Lewis, a former member here, had her usual checkup Dec. 17th with her oncologist. After an X-Ray review the Dr. said there is a small change in the upper left lung but not enough to freak out about yet but she is asking for prayers at this time that the chemo meds will continue to work and that this finding doesn't mean the cancer is getting worse. The Dr. will revisit things again in February. She appreciates our prayers.

Bryan, Denise Garlitz' son in law, is having health issues. He will have ear surgery some time this month.

Georgia Smith, a neighbor of Maria Swindlehurst, is dealing with breast cancer.

Dennis Phillips Sr., Louella Hopkins former spouse who now lives in Florida, is under hospice care because his health has declined and it isn't looking good for him.

Nick, Bruce Brink's cousin is having a problem dealing with the loss of his father in Sept. Let's pray for God to help him and his family and loved ones. Let's also pray for Bruce to be able to say the right things to help them.

Laura, a friend of Nancy Schul, has undergone a new treatment at Roswell with much improved results and was able to have lung surgery this past Wednesday Dec. 18th.

Louise, Anna Brink's sister, is dealing with some health issues.

Let's pray for children, families, and the staff at **Potter Children's Home and Family Ministries**.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	<i>Weekly Budget</i>	\$1,843
Dec. 25	No Wednesday night Bible study tonight.	Contribution Last Sunday	\$1,493
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve	Attendance Last Sunday	49
Jan. 01, 2020	New Year's Day	—————>	

Ladies Bible Class

The Tuesday morning Ladies Bible Class will not be meeting over the holidays. Classes will resume on January 7th at 10 AM. Edie Sumner will facilitate our study on being at peace with our families (Lesson 4).

Power for Today

Make sure you pick up the latest issue of *Power for Today*. The daily devotional magazine is a great tool to help encourage and inspire you throughout the week.



SMILE PRETTY!



Lisa Hansen and Erin Orton will be continuing to take photographs over the next several weeks to update the board in the back of the auditorium. Your help is appreciated.

Classes and Sermon

Sun. AM Adult Bible Class Matthew

Sermon Topic Today: Part 2 Getting Ready For 2020

Scripture Reading: Numbers 13:30 thru 14:4

No Sun. PM Service

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class will resume Jan 7, 2020

Wed. PM Bible Class No class on Dec. 25th



Serving Today

Announcements Bruce Brink

Song Leader Rodney Jones

Direct Communion Mark Dailey

Serve Bruce Brink

Serve Ron Cameron

Serve Zach Hansen

Clean Trays Linda Stine

ATTENTION

New Year's Day – New Year's Challenge

“20 Minutes in 2020”

Starting January 1st we will begin working towards our goal of spending 20 minutes each day in Bible reading and prayer. Here's how we start:

- Before your feet hit the floor – spend 2 minutes in prayer
- Read the Bible 10 minutes during the day (suggested schedules are on the table, or follow your own)
- When you go to bed – spend 2 minutes in prayer
- At selected intervals we will increase our daily reading/prayer time until we reach our goal

To kick off our “20 in 2020 Challenge” we will be having a Pancake Breakfast starting at 10 AM on January 1, 2020. Following our breakfast and fellowship time we will have a devotional period (we will not have Wednesday night services that day – we will continue with our regular schedule starting Wednesday, January 8th).

Please sign up if you are coming to the breakfast so that we can make meal preparations.

There will be no Wednesday night Bible Class this coming Wednesday Dec. 25, 2019.

There will be no Wednesday night Bible Class Wednesday January 1, 2020.

Starting the first Sunday in January, (Jan. 5), the entrance doors will be locked right after Bible Class begins.

The minutes of last Sunday's Business Meeting are on the back table.

The *2020 Budget Proposal* to the congregation was posted last Sunday in the back of the auditorium. It remains the same as last year \$95,812 yearly - \$1,843 weekly. It will be posted for two weeks.