

## Whose Voice do we Follow?

by Doy Moyer Vestavia church of Christ Vestavia Hills, AL

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” (John 10:1-5)

In Scripture, listening to someone’s voice is often equivalent to following what that person says as being authoritative. Adam got into trouble because he “listened to the voice” of Eve when she gave him the fruit (Gen 3:17). Moses was concerned that the people would not listen to his voice when he went to bring them out of Egypt (Exod 4:1). When Moses and Aaron appeared before Pharaoh, Pharaoh’s question was, “Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice...?” (Exod 5:2). Then when Israel crossed the sea, God told them, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God...” then they would not be plagued with diseases that came on Egypt (Exod 15:26). The idea of hearing and listening to the voice of another is found all throughout the Old Testament Scriptures. To listen to the voice of another means we are following what they say. Of course, there is no more authoritative voice than God’s.

Everyone follows a “voice” of some kind. Everyone has a final point of reference for authority. We all listen to someone, whether it be just ourselves, another human authority, or God as revealed through His word. We’re not talking about a psychological “hearing voices in my head” issue. Rather, we are talking about the ultimate “voice” of authority that people follow. Whose voice do we follow, and do we truly know the voice of our Lord?

Christians follow the “voice” of Jesus because “they know His voice.” He is the final reference point of authority. No other voice can match His or carry His power. Christians understand that following after other “voices” is following after strangers and thieves who, if followed, will steal, kill, and destroy souls. Jesus came to give abundant life. He came with divine authority and purpose. He is the door to salvation; He is the good shepherd who gave His life for the sheep.

People will ask, as those in the text of John 10, “Why do you listen to Him?” Is He out of His mind? Is He demon-possessed? Neither. There are no more sober words than those expressed by Jesus. “I and the Father are one.” He claimed (vs. 30). The people understood what He was claiming, so they picked up stones to throw at Him. Why? “For blasphemy, and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God” (vs. 33).

Jesus’ authority is indeed divine, and the key to our acceptance of this is found in the text:

“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father” (vv. 17-18).

Jesus references not only His death, but also His resurrection. Note, in this, His authority over both death and life. Ultimately, the resurrection is what seals the authority issue. If He hadn’t risen, the discussion would be over. Yet He was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection (Rom 1:4). The resurrection shouts the truth loud and clear that Jesus is the divine Son and needs to be heard.

This coincides well with what the Hebrews writer said: “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.” (Heb 1:1-3)

We are the sheep who have gone astray (Isa 53:6). If we listen to the voice of others, we die in that condition. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, laid down His own life to redeem the sheep, and only by listening to Him can we properly enter through the door (again, Him) and find our safety.

Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:37). Whose voice is your final reference point of authority? To whom are you listening?

## NEWSLETTER

Feb. 23, 2020

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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

## 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.**



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2350 Nashville Rd.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
270 843-3038  
potterministries.org

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course



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**Condolences** to family, friends, and loved ones of Gage Kelly in the passing of his father. Gage is Jim Mellott's grandson.

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

**Bill Flanagan** Bill has a heart valve problem and at his age has decided not to have any procedures done. Let's keep him in our prayers as he deals with this situation.

**Louella Hopkins** had x-rays Tues. Feb. 18. She goes back in two weeks for more x-rays. She does not need surgery. She thanks everyone for the prayers on her behalf.

**Bill Kinney** Let's keep him in our prayers.

**Pat Hazlett** Let's keep her in our prayers.

**Logan Bennett** recently sprained his wrist.

**Sharron Gantt** Her eyes are still healing.

**Tony & Eglia Grana** Let's keep them in our prayers.

**Lula Elder** is dealing with health issues.

**Kim Graves**, friend of Mark & Audrey Dailey, had surgery Feb. 11 and will begin radiation treatments soon.

**Chad Szymanski**, Louella Hopkins' 12 year old nephew, is going through more tests and may be facing brain surgery soon.

**Billy Stine**, son of Sonny & Linda Stine, is facing heart surgery soon.

**Michael R.**, a relative of Anna & Bruce Brink, will be deployed to Afghanistan for a year.

Anna Brink's sister is now two years cancer free.

**Georgia Smith**, a neighbor of Maria Swindlehurst and Yolanda Davis, has one more treatment to go.

**Dorothy**, mother of Jim who cleans the building for us, is dealing with breast cancer.

**Amber**, a co-worker of Bruce Brink, is dealing with family issues.

**Ann Stroock**, Wayne Carter's sister in NC, is scheduled for surgery Tuesday Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Emily Sestack**, Sherry Carter's cousin, recently had a CAT scan and since things did not get worse they decided to give her a break from chemo for now. She has to go back to see the doctor in May.

**Jo Grubbs**, Carter's daughter's mother-in-law, fell recently and fractured her knee.

**Let's pray as we continue our preacher search process.**

**Let's pray for the congregation in Fenwick, ONT as they do the same.**

**Upcoming Events** (Lord willing)

**Mar. 01** Great Lakes Christian High School Chorus  
6 PM here at LaSalle

**Mar. 01** Leadership Summit Southside church of Christ  
Calkins Rd. Pittsford, NY See Posting.

☆ **Men**

There will be a quick meeting concerning authorization to renew advertisement for minister search in the Gospel Advocate to run for three months .... April, May, June 2020.

*Weekly Budget* \$1,843.00  
*Contribution Last Sunday* \$3,126.36  
*Attendance Last Sunday* 60

Minutes of last Sundays  
Men's Business Meeting  
are on the back table.

**Classes and Sermon**

Sun. AM Adult Bible Class Matthew

**Sermon Topic Today:** The Odd Story of The Jailer

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 16:23-28

No Sun. PM Service

Tuesday Ladies' Bible Class 10 AM

Wed. PM Bible Class 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings



*Next Sunday*

**Great Lakes  
Christian High School  
Chorus**

Here at LaSalle 6 PM



**March Birthdays**

04 Kent Blakelock 13 Kassandra Kern  
04 Marjorie Reed 22 Sonny Stine  
07 Edie Sumner 22 Sharon Wheeler  
11 Logan Bennett 27 David Alcorn



**March Anniversaries**

09 Kent & Phyllis Blakelock  
17 Sonny & Linda Stine



**Serving Today**

**Announcements** Bruce Brink  
**Song Leader** Rodney Jones  
**Direct Communion** Ray McArthur  
**Serve** Bruce Brink  
**Serve** Richard Wheeler  
**Serve** Doug Flanagan  
**Clean Trays** Erin Orton