

*According to the
eternal purpose which he
purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord*

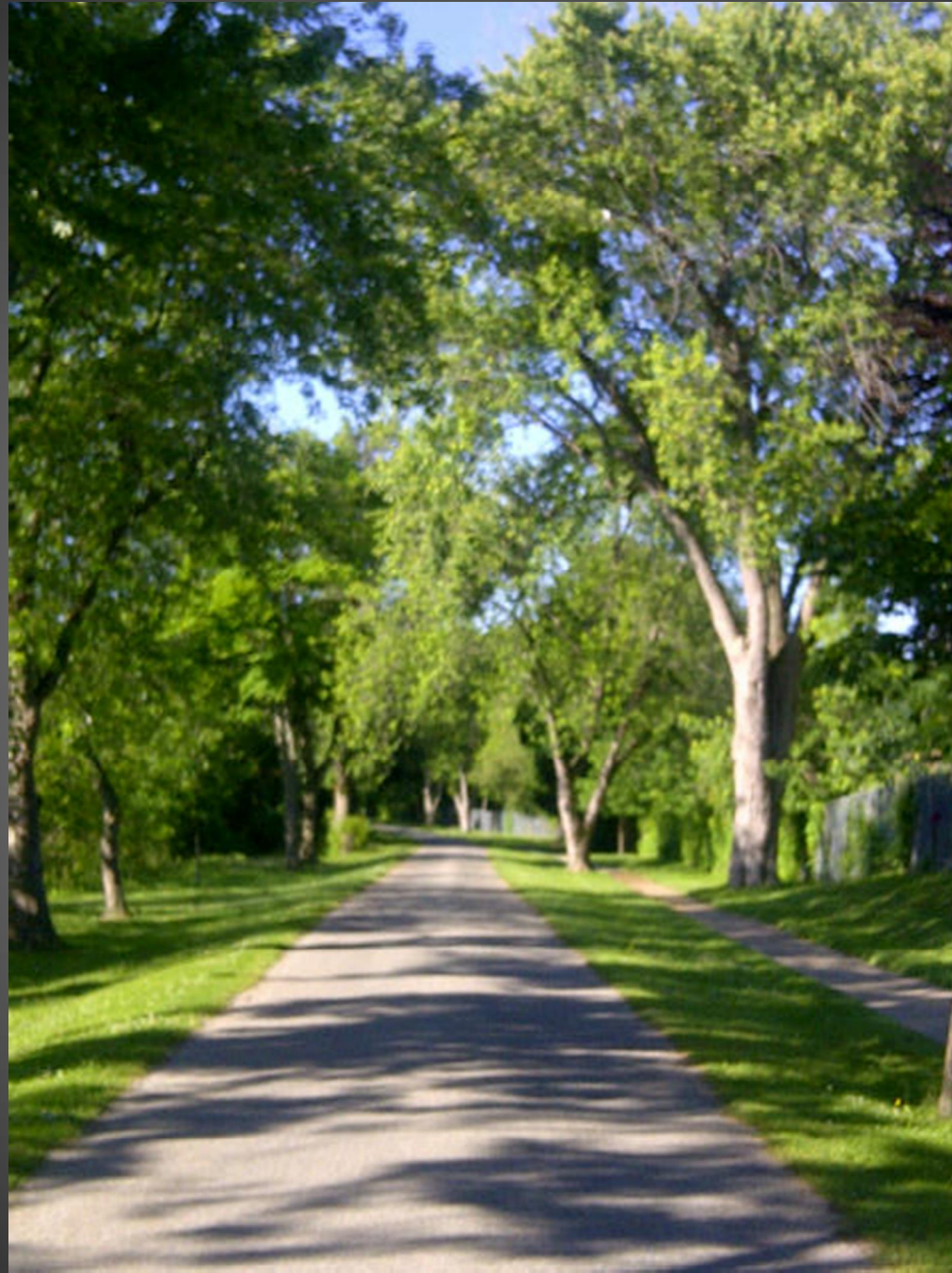
Kentucky Christadelphian

Bible School

June 28 – July 4, 2014

Five classes, God willing

1. Introduction – where will Christadelphians be in five years' time?
2. **God's Purpose** With The World
3. **God's Purpose** With The Nations
4. **God's Purpose** With Israel
5. **God's Purpose** In Christ.







The heart of the matter

Those who are religious see the performance of their faith here on earth as bearing on their destiny in the hereafter.

Religious imperatives are not intermittent, do not suffer exceptions, may not be quarantined from any aspect of a religiously engaged life.

Adapted from Rex Murphy, *National Post*,
June 21, 2014, p. A23

Where will Christadelphians be
in **five** to **ten** years' time?

Our desire is to witness
“the consummation devoutly to be wished”
but if it is not God's will
to grant deliverance within this interval...

Our personal needs

- “ Am I doing enough to teach others and when reproof is necessary, do I give it in a Christ-like way?
- “ Is my service to God sufficient?
- “ Worshipping in spirit and in truth
- “ Being discouraged by controversies and not reacting to them appropriately
- “ More time devoted to God and His word

I don't feel that I will ever be “ready” but I long for his return.

Challenges from within

- “ Marriage outside the faith
- “ Compromise over doctrine, false doctrine
- “ Dogmatism especially on prophecy
- “ Fractionating of our ecclesias
- “ Keeping out young people
- “ Apathy
- “ Treating each other appropriately
- “ Power struggles
- “ Disagreement on fellowship
- “ Retrieving the lost

Are we more concerned about our own salvation than the salvation of others in our ecclesial community?

Challenges from without

- “ Functioning in the world but not being overtaken by the world
- “ Distractions posed by smart phones, video games, TV, sports – entertainment and amusement, Internet, movies, trashy books, and media
- “ Ecumenism, world doctrine and ways of thinking, humanism, acceptance of gay marriage
- “ Life outside the truth appealing as easier, guilt free
- “ Our ties with the world, worldly status
- “ Desire for immediate pleasure, fun and fulfillment
- “ Materialism, hedonism taking time from Bible study and ecclesial association

Trends of concern within the Body

1. Our ecclesias are aging – for the first time in our history, older members often form the majority of the congregation
2. The younger generation has far more access to a vast mart of ideas at an early age than any generation that preceded it.
 - Christadelphian doctrine is only one of many offerings at the mart
 - As consumers at the mart, the coming generation is taught to seek out and challenge all the ideas, being open-minded to many and committing to none
3. Traditional relationships in which there is respect for authority are undermined by contemporary methods of gaining and passing along information and by examples of many worldly role models
4. Inconsistent attendance at and participation in the ecclesia
5. Highly disruptive behaviours without prior efforts to understand and reconcile

Observations

1. The older generation has a different service ethic in terms of commitment of time and other resources to the Lord's work.
2. The time-honoured system in which a master imparts a skill to an apprentice is no longer observed to the same extent – there is a presumption that young people are more savvy about skills than their elders.
3. Traditional (i.e. Bible-based) values are not only not esteemed but openly despised by the society in which we live.
4. Young people expect quick satisfaction with products and relationships or they move on – there is not a lot of patience for situations that are not ideal.

Key doctrines for us to defend and confirm

God's creation is
witness to His
power and Deity

For in six days the LORD
made heaven and earth, the
sea, and all that in them is.
Exodus 20:11

The Universe was
created with great
purpose, to give
glory to God

Therefore shall a
man leave his
father and his
mother, and shall
cleave unto his
wife: and they
shall be one flesh.

God's marriage law

as by one man
sin entered into
the world, and
death by sin; and
so death passed
upon all men –
Romans 5:12

The death-stricken state
of man before God

Salvation is of the
Jews... That the
blessing of
Abraham might
come on the
Gentiles through
Jesus Christ

The role of the Jews and
Israel in God's purpose

Giving glory to God

- “ Scripture-based worship together
- “ To have love for one another
- “ To raise our children in God’s way
- “ To be an example to our young people
- “ Breaking of bread
- “ Baptism
- “ Study, looking for signs of the Lord’s coming
- “ Engaged in service and work for the Lord
- “ Preaching to an unwilling world
- “ Hosting a gathering
- “ Hymns of praise
- “ Restoring the lost

Solutions For Us

1. Be **Word-absorbed** – study the Bible with enthusiasm and desire – and thereby be aligned with the Father and the Son
2. Be **balanced** in attending to the needs of the Body, having a conscience void of offence towards God and man
3. Be a **joyous bearer of the gospel news** – what an opportunity! There are seven billion people who have never heard about the hope of the gospel as it was preached to Abraham
4. Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with **good**.