

Port Orchard Church of Christ

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers." Psalm 24:1-2



Are We in the "Last Days"?

There is a national preoccupation among the religious today with "end times" and the things that are going to happen within the "last days." This national hype has been fueled by the "Left Behind" book series which is a **fictional** account of how those who believe the doctrine of pre-millennialism think the "end of the world" is going to occur. Many read these books, assuming that the doctrine within them is biblical and end up believing something which has no biblical support at all. One of the big questions that the proponents of the doctrine of pre-millennialism want us to believe is that we are in the "last days" before Jesus will return. In fact, someone recently asked me the question, "Don't you think we are in the 'last days'?" Let's look at the biblical answer to this question.

First, let me state that there is most definitely a sense in which we are in the last days. The Bible was written over a period of two thousand years and deals with several different ages in which God communicated with man. The first age was the patriarchal age. This is the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when God dealt directly with the fathers of the families. Through them God communicated His will to the rest of the family and it was their responsibility to ensure that the family learned God's word. God said concerning Abraham,

"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall, keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Genesis 18:19).

The second age of which we read in the Bible was the Mosaic age. During this time, God communicated to the nations both through written law and through inspired prophets (Jeremiah 7:25; Daniel 9:6). This was a period of national leadership as opposed to family leadership. Moses, Joshua, the judges, the kings, and the prophets were all leaders that God used to communicate with nations. The third age within the Bible is the age of Christ. In this age, God communicates to the whole world through his Son, Jesus. Hebrews 1:1,2 says, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." In Matthew 17:5, God says, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Today, in the Christian age, God communicates to man solely through the written word of His Son, Jesus. There is no other way in which God reveals His word today. This is the third and final age of God's communication with man. There is no future age (on the earth) in which God is going to speak to man in some other way. In this sense, we are in the "last days."

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Church Staff:

Kelli Keagle..... 757.389.1382

Deacons:

Gary Chasteen 360.895.4143
Gene Gerard 360.876.4612
Troy Hill 360.674.7181
Brad Orser.....360.874.8184

Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to visit Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, we would like to extend to you a warm welcome. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, we pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek to worship God like the first century church did, with a sense of awe and with a fear

of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of your abilities. If you have any specific needs, we have a ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for

names of the ministry staff and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

Port Orchard Church of Christ

Save the Dates!

Saturday 9/30 Deacons' Meeting

Sunday 10/1 Children's Worship
Teachers, Helpers, & Interested Parties Meeting

Sunday 10/1 Congregational Meeting

Friday 10/6-Sunday 10/8 Apple Cider Press

Sunday 10/8 Senior Saints Potluck

Friday 10/13 Kids' Movie Night

Port Orchard News and Events

Pulpit Preview

Dale Sanders will be preaching this upcoming Sunday. Worship Service begins at 10:45. We hope to see you here!

Happy Birthday!

It's October. If you see any of these brothers and sisters wish them a good one: Ari Esquivel-01, Andrea Hanson-02, Darren Hanson-02, Tim Duffy-04, Kristi Hall-04, Lisa Bratcher-13, Len Lewis-13, Cindy Snead-17, Brittany Pringle-19, Paula Hill-20, Gene Cartwright-24, Laura Fry-24, Sandi Warner-25, Ron Nystrom-26, Amanda O'Dell-28.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dale Sanders

Dale Sanders shared a sermon with us last Sunday. If you missed his message and would like to hear it, please visit the church website at pococ.weebly.com

Sunday Morning Bible Class

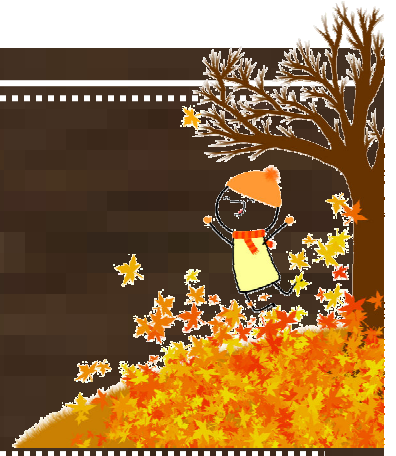
We need a teacher for this class. Contact Jim Snead, a deacon, or Kelli Keagle if you would like to supply this service.

Apple Cider Press Driver Needed Oct. 6th/8th

If you can provide, contact Kelli Keagle.

Serving October 1, 2017 :

Prayer Leader:	Jim Snead	Communion Prep:	Kelli Keagle
Scripture Reader:	Brandon Zepf	Communion Cleanup:	Wilson Family
Offering Thoughts:	Darrell Fry	Praise Leader:	Gene Gerard
Communion Meditation:	Dave Snypf		
Servers:	Tim Duffy & Greg Warner		
Ushers:	Wayne H. & Brandon Zepf	Children's 9:30 Helper:	Karen Taylor
Greeters:	Sarah Hill & Lori Sanders	Children's Church:	Jennifer Delay
Prayer Partners:	Dale & Lori Sanders	Preaching:	Dale Sanders
Sound:	Forest Gerard		
Slides/Lighting:	Dale Sanders		



Deacons' Meeting

When: Saturday, September 30 at 8 am

Where: POCOC

Children's Classes Meeting

When: Sunday, October 1 at 9 am

Where: POCOC, Downstairs, Room 4

Who: Teachers, Helpers, and Anyone interested in our children's learning

What: Curriculum, the Good of the Order, etc.

Congregational Meeting

Please join us after services in the Auditorium Overflow, Sunday, Oct. 1.

New Directories

When: October 1st, Lord willing

Apple Cider Press

When: October 6th-8th

Where: Central Washington

Contact Info: (509) 720-TRUE

Email: registration@acpyouthrally.org Forms and info available at <http://www.acpyouthrally.org>

W.O.W. 2017

Who: Women of the Word

When: Saturday, November 4th, 9:00am-3:00pm

Where: Valley church of Christ

17221 E Broadway

Spokane Valley, WA 99016

What: The ladies of the Valley church of Christ invite you for a day of fellowship and spiritual renewal. They are asking that registration forms are returned by October 14th to get an approximate count! They hope to see you in November! Registration forms are available on the News & Events board in the foyer.

Theme: "What's in *Your* Toolbox?": 2 Corinthians 9:8

Guest Speaker: Nancy Banister of Wenatchee, WA

Cost: \$15.00

For scholarship, call (509)928-4084.

(See back for more.)

Our Prayer List

Healing:

Delores Brun

DJ Magneson

Delores Lawler's daughter Elaine

Delores Lawler's friend Linda

Runell Mason

David Latham

Chris Kalac

Connie Greer

Wayne Hammock's friends Lewis & Rick

Kelli Keagle's mom Deena

Encouragement:

Our loved ones' caregivers.

John & Rachelle Gardner & family travelling to Honduras

Vonceal Oliver, sister-unknown-to-us living in FL, has sent us a letter requesting prayer for her mental and spiritual health.

Other:

All those who are dealing with loss and recovery due to the fires, floods, and hurricanes.

Our children going back to school, church, nation, President Trump and ministries.

That God will bless our deacons with wisdom in reaching the many decisions they are entrusted with.

September 24, 2017

Worship: 93

Class: 45

Offering: \$2,879.21

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Background Checks

The Volunteer Application that allows us to perform background checks are available on the Secretary's Board in the hallway in front of same office. Forms are also available via PDF also. Email the Secretary at churchpococ@gmail.com to obtain an electronic form and instruction on how to fill it out in your own Adobe program on your device. Also, check the listing on the Secretary Board to see your current status.

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There is a second understanding of the phrase "last days." In this sense, we do not know whether we are in the last days or not. And it is this sense of the phrase, "last days" to which most people refer today. These "last days" are the days imminently prior to the second coming of Jesus. Those who teach and preach this believe that within their lifetime, Jesus is going to return to the earth and this is what they mean by "last days." Let me clearly state that I do not know if we are in the "last days" or not because the Bible teaches that no man can know this. Jesus himself said that no man knows the day or the hour when he will return. In Matthew 24:36 we read, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." If Jesus Himself did not know the time of His second coming, then far be it from me to say that I know the time of His coming. It could be tomorrow, but it could be 2000 years from now. We just do not know. So for us to say definitely that we are in the "last days" is to claim to know something that we cannot possibly

know. We may be in the last days, but then again, we may not.

What is the important lesson that we need to draw from Jesus' teaching regarding His second coming? It is that we must be ready at all times whether we are in the last days or not. It may be true that Jesus comes again before we die in which case we need to be prepared to accept His judgment of our life. However, it may be that we die before Jesus comes again. If that happens, we will still need to be ready to accept His judgment of our life. Either way, we will all be brought before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account of our deeds done in our bodies (2 Corinthians 5:10). While we should let the second coming of Christ motivate us to faithful living, focusing upon determining when the "last days" will be is a distraction from our daily responsibilities to God (2 Thessalonians 2:2). Let us not focus upon whether we are in the "last days" or not, but rather, let us focus upon living the daily Christian life as our Lord, Jesus would want us to live it. One way or the other He will judge us. Prepare for THAT day.

-Kevin Cauley

Port Orchard Church of Christ
4135 Carr Lane SE
Port Orchard, WA 98366
360.876.2604
churchpococ@gmail.com
www.pococ.weebly.com