

Today's Sermons
 Morning: "A Christ Centered Church"
 Evening: Singing Service

Welcome!

**YOU ARE OUR HONORED GUEST.
 PLEASE KNOW THAT WE
 APPRECIATE YOUR PRESENCE.**

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	23
Sunday AM Worship	31
Sunday PM Worship	23
Wednesday Bible Study	24
Daily Bible Readers	9
Offering	\$ 1424
Building Fund	\$95,000

Please Remember in Prayer

Jason Bundy
 Mable Vannoy
 Kiana Miller
 Khela Domanque
 Tim Winters (travel)
 Calyton & Vivian Winters
 Jean Miller
 Everette & Louise Morefield
 Linda Powers
 Cleo Jones Family

Doris Black
 Lindy Hiatt
 Rusty Darnell
 Richard Shepherd
 Lee Roy & Nell Shepherd
 Savannah Bedenbaugh
 Gladys Holden
 Junior & Ina Anderson
 Gene Phillips
 Kaleb Davis

Mary Nell Osborne
 Mark Miller
 Robin Brown
 Steven & Jessica Winters
 Jim & Amanda Winters
 Karen & Tulsa Adams
 Heather Green
 Linda Calhoun
 Steve Norris



For Audio Lessons, Past Bulletins, Bible Studies and More
<http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org>



Back to the Bible

Minister:

Tim Canup
preacher@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday
 Bible Study:..... 10:00am
 AM Worship:....11:00am
 PM Worship:.....6:00pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:..... 7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSK

15th Annual Lectureship
*Jesus Christ: What He
 Called Himself*
 September 28-30, 2012

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our Visitors!**

**A Weekly Publication of the
 West Jefferson Church of Christ**

221 Barnett Street
 West Jefferson NC 28694
 Phone (336) 846-5615 / Email info@wjchurchofchrist.org

Volume V January 29, 2012 Number 5

**OF SUPER BOWLS,
 COCA-COLA, AND
 SALVATION**

Daniel F. Cates



As I pen these lines the Denver Broncos are celebrating another NFL championship (sad isn't it?). At least the Falcons will be able to enjoy their Super Bowl championship as well. You didn't hear? Apparently in the age in which we live what team you're on doesn't matter. Even I, a die-hard Seahawks fan, can enjoy having seen my favorite team win that Lombardi trophy last night. Alright, I know that all of the above is wrong (except the part about the Broncos), and any one who has any knowledge of football knows that it is wrong. Even people in the denominational world would think this is wrong. Even false teachers in the Lord's church know this is wrong. Yet while all would agree the above is as ridiculous as believing that Doctor Seuss stories are accurate histories there are many who think that one can be in a church that is not the Lord's church and still be on the Lord's side. How is that different from a Cowboys player thinking that he won the Super Bowl last night? How is that different from a Jets player going today to get measured for his Super Bowl ring? It is no different!

Picture another illustration: You are a loyal employ of Coca-Cola. You have worked there for twenty-three years and have given your all to see that Coca-Cola is as strong a company as they can possibly be. Each morning you wake up, have your breakfast and then drive off to your office where you make Pepsi. When your paycheck arrives each week Coca-Cola has written it to the order of you. This sounds as ridiculous, or more so, then the football illustration.

Continued Inside

Are There Devout Christians In Denominations? John 10:16

Patrick Morrison

Sadly, many in our brotherhood would answer “yes” to this question. Denominations have for years taught that it does not matter what church you attend, as long as a person is sincere and honest. Many in the Lord’s church have swallowed this idea. They cry long and hard that there are sincere, devout Christians in any given denomination. It is no wonder, then, that many congregations of the Lord’s church have joined hands with denominational churches to promote or to participate in any number of things. Of course, they consider their actions to have Biblical backing. They proclaim the words of Jesus in defense of their endeavors: “other sheep I have, which are not of this fold” (Jn.10:16). To them, “this fold” represents the Church of Christ (denominational concept of the Lord’s church), and the other sheep outside of “this fold” represent God’s children scattered among the denominations. Does this interpretation have credence? Is it the case that there are devout Christians in denominations? The answer is no to both questions.

The passage under consideration does not support the idea that there are devout Christians in denominations. To the dismay of those who would espouse this soul-damning doctrine, this passage destroys their convoluted thinking. There is no hint of such a doctrine taught in this passage, nor is it even possible that this passage could teach such. The New Testament knows nothing of denominationalism. In the first century, there was one church and only one church (Eph.4:4). Although the seeds of denominationalism were being planted during the first century, these seeds did not bloom until after the close of New Testament times. To claim that John 10:16 deals in any respect with denominationalism is to force a 21st century interpretation on a 1st century passage.

The latter half of the verse under consideration inflicts even more damage upon the idea that there are devout Christians in denominations. Christ proclaimed that the “other sheep” would be brought into “one fold” under the care of “one shepherd.” This one fold is the one church! And this one church is under the care of the Great Shepherd Jesus Christ! Those in denominations follow the voice of Luther, or Calvin, or Wesley, or Pope John Paul II, but they are not following the voice of the Great Shepherd! The other sheep to whom Jesus was referring were the Gentiles. Though there were some Gentiles who sought God, and anticipated the coming of the Messiah, the Jews and Gentiles remained separated. Through Christ’s death, he would bring both Jew and Gentile together in one body, one fold (Eph.2:14)! The Lord’s church today is a fulfillment of John 10:16—both Jew and Gentile in one body under the care of the Great Shepherd.

Are there devout Christians in denominations? No. Are there children of God in denominations? Yes, but only because they chose to leave the safety of the one fold, the Lord’s church, to follow the doctrines and commandments of men. Those who have done so must repent and return to the church of our Lord before it is eternally too late!

Continued From Front Cover

Is this so ridiculous compared to the many that are expecting to be paid by God for working in someone else’s office? As we noticed a couple of Wednesday nights previous God has pitched his tabernacle (Hebrews 8:2) and only that tabernacle is Gods. If the saved are only in that tabernacle, where do some get the idea that being in tabernacles pitched by men is safe? It certainly is not a Bible idea. In fact salvation in the Bible is very exclusive. Let us spend a minute looking at the exclusiveness of salvation in the Bible.

Where were Noah and his family saved? The Bible teaches that they were saved in the ark that was designed by God (Genesis 7:1; 8:1), and only those in that ark were saved. Was it enough just to see the ark?

Where were the children of Israel saved during the tenth plague? The Bible teaches that they were saved in the houses that were marked by blood (Exodus 12:22,23), and only those in such houses were saved. Was it enough to be in a house?

Where were Rahab and her family saved? The Bible teaches that they were saved in the house that was marked by the scarlet thread (Joshua 2:18,19), and only those in that house were saved. Was it enough just to be in Jericho?

By whom will people be saved today? The Bible teaches that they are only saved by Christ (Acts 4:12), and only those who are Christians will be saved. Is it enough to claim to have a savior?

How will people be saved today? The Bible teaches that they are saved by being baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21), and only those who are so baptized will be saved. Is it enough to believe in God?

Where will people be saved today? The Bible teaches that they are saved by being in the one body (Ephesians 4:4; 5:23), and only those in that one body will be saved. Is it enough to be in any body?

The harmony throughout the Bible concerning the exclusiveness of salvation is evident by looking at the above passages, and many more could be brought to he front and studied even more closely. The point is that the Bible shows us who is going to be saved, and how to be the who.

It is my hope that this understanding will do two things: I hope that this will inspire us to be cognizant and confident of the fact that we are in the one body that will be saved, and that this will inspire us to be more active about trying to bring our loved ones, friends, and acquaintances into the same relationship that we enjoy with our Savior. If all that are outside the Lord’s body are lost then we who are saved MUST extend our efforts to reach them.

