

Today's Sermons

Morning: "What Think Ye of the Christ?"

Evening: "A Practical Philosophy for Life"

Welcome!

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

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	30
Sunday AM Worship	37
Sunday PM Worship	NA
Wednesday Bible Study	20
Daily Bible Readers	9
Offering	\$ 1422
Building Fund	\$96,422

Please Remember in Prayer

Khela Domanque
Kiana Miller
Gene Phillips
Everett & Louise Morefield
Steven & Jessica Winters
Heather Green
Angie Holman
Lynn Winters
Allen
J C Woods (cancer)

Mable Vannoy
Tosha Miller
Clayton & Vivian Winters
Daniel Bright
Jim & Amanda Winters
Tom Russell
Rob & Bobbie Black Family
Jerry Lewis
Eula Osborne
Ethan Goodman

Lindy Hiatt
Mark Miller
Savannah Bedenbaugh
Steve Norris
Richard Shepherd
Michael Hohlman
Doris Black
Crissy Darrell
Karissa Stanley



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



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 WSKS

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

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Volume V

February 5, 2012

Number 6

"Things That Can Cripple A Church"

Gary L. Hutchens



What do you expect from the church? Most people have some image in their minds as to what they want the church to be and do. But everyone needs to understand that their personal actions and inaction have a great deal of impact upon the strength, vitality, effectiveness and growth of the church. With that in mind, what are some things that can cripple a church?

Absenteeism can cripple a church. Being together when the church gathers to worship is imperative to developing personal spiritual maturity and to being able to encourage the spiritual growth of your fellow members (**Heb. 10:23-25**). When you purposely miss services, you will naturally get weaker. Your absence tends to discourage your brothers and sisters in Christ who are present. As your spiritual effectiveness suffers, the overall effectiveness of the church suffers.

Unfaithfulness can cripple a church. When members of the church are unfaithful, the church's influence with the world is potentially weakened (**Phlp. 2:15-16**). Such unfaithfulness can also have a detrimental effect on weaker Christians within the church (**1 Cor. 8:12**).

Continued Inside

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING
Tonight Following Evening Worship

LADIES' BIBLE CLASS
Tonight Following Evening Worship

PREACH & EAT
Postponed Until February 12 Following Morning Worship

Special Announcement

**CLOSING ON OUR NEW FACILITY WILL BE WEDNESDAY.
OUR FIRST SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT THE NEW BUILDING
NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12.**

**THERE ARE MATERIALS, TABLES, CHAIRS, CABINETS, ETC.
THAT WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED. TEACHERS ARE ENCOURAGED
TO MOVE TO THEIR NEW CLASSROOMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

THERE IS MUCH TO DO. IF YOU CAN HELP OUT, PLEASE DO SO.

A Holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, 'Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.'

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table....In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful.

But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, 'You have seen Hell.'

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The holy man said, 'I don't understand.' 'It is simple,' said the Lord. 'It requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other. The greedy think only of themselves.'

When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you.

Continued From Front Cover

Worldliness within the lives of Christians can cripple a church (**1 Jn. 2:15**). A worldly lifestyle is counterproductive to developing spiritual strength.

Indifference can cripple a church. Apathy, an uncaring attitude will keep a congregation from doing the works that it needs to do as the church and can ultimately lead to its demise (**Rev. 3:15-16**).

Neglect can cripple a church. We need to be acutely aware of our special identity as the Lord's body and be on guard to never neglect our blessings, or responsibilities, pertaining to that identity (**Heb. 2:3**). Such realization should motivate us to actively serve God.

Doctrinal compromise can cripple a church. Our distinctiveness is inseparably tied to our stand on what is right. It makes an eternal difference what we believe and teach and practice. We must always and unashamedly stand on, and for, the truth of God's word (**1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 4:1-4**).

Contention and gossip can cripple a church (**1 Cor. 1:10-11**). Of course, gossip is often the stimulus for contention (**Ps. 64:1-4**). Words have potential power, both for good and evil (**Jas. 3:5**). The world should see the love of Christ exhibited between Christians (**Jn. 13:34-35**).

Ignorance of God's word can cripple a church (**Acts 17:30**). When the members of a congregation don't know what the Bible teaches, the opportunity for error to enter in and take hold is greater (**Acts 20:28-30**).

A tendency on the part of the member to be hot and cold can cripple a church. The church needs to be persistent and continual in its teaching, work and service. It needs to be dedicated to being the church and not slip back into complacency and worldliness (**2 Pet. 2:20-22**).

As a Christian you need to be aware that your strength will strengthen the church, and your weakness can cripple it...