

**Today's Sermons:**

AM TBA

PM Singing Service

**Those Privileged To Serve:**

Announcements: Matthew Winters  
 AM Song Leader: Bill Powers  
 AM Prayer: Lindy Hiatt  
 Lord's Supper: Mark Miller, Leroy Kennell,  
 Matthew Winters  
 PM Song Leader: Various Men  
 PM Prayer: Willard Ellison  
 Lord's Supper: Jim Miller  
 Wed Song Leader: Bill Powers  
 Wed Invitation: David Turnmire

**Records For Last Week:**

Contribution: \$822  
 Daily Bible Readers: 5  
 Sunday Bible Study: 9  
 AM Worship: 11  
 PM Worship: 9  
 Wednesday Bible Study: 19

**Building Fund:**

\$80,410

**Prepare Communion For January 2010**

Minnie Kennell



## Bible Questions

(answers Next Week)

61. Could some of God's laws be broken while sitting in an easy chair, doing nothing?
62. What was "the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees"?
63. Are there members of the church "worse than an infidel"?
64. What holy person was called a glutton and winebibber?
65. Who thought Jesus was John Baptist?
66. What exalts a nation?
67. Should a Christian go to law with his brother?
68. On the Mount of Transfiguration what did God say about Jesus?
69. Do we meet God's forgiveness before we meet God's terms?
70. If we sin against someone what should we do?

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**<http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org>**



# Back to the Bible

A Weekly Publication of the West Jefferson Church of Christ

Volume II

December 27, 2009

Issue #52

## Preach the Cross, Not the Manger

By

Conclusion



### Away from the Manger to the Realities of Sin

It is wonderful that we can see at times the goodness of the human spirit. Christmas time has the power to infuse us with a charitable disposition and a concern for our fellow man. I admit that this is a Christlike attribute; however, it should not be limited to December. It is also at this time of year that we long for world peace and prosperity. Many think that this is what was announced when the angels said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" ([Luke 2:14](#)). Men become so overwhelmed with feelings of brotherhood and yearnings for peace that the "Christmas Story" is construed as a platform for saving the world.

While benevolence is a part of the work Christians do ([1 John 3:17](#)), it is not the principal work. What men need is not more food, better housing, less intolerance or greater education, but the gospel of peace ([Romans 10:15](#); [Ephesians 6:15](#); [Matthew 5:6](#); [11:28-30](#); [John 14:6](#)). Not until men are converted to Christ will they change. What many have forgotten is that the whole world lieth under the power of the wicked one ([1 John 5:19](#)). Satan is the God of this world ([2 Corinthians 4:4](#); [Ephesians 2:2](#)), and as long as men serve him wars, murders, thefts and all manner of wickedness will continue ([2 Timothy 3:13](#); [Matthew 24:6](#); [26:11](#)).

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Times of Services:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

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

Radio Program

Sunday:.....9:35am  
 "Back to the Bible"  
 AM 580 WSKS

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Lectureship

*Thought Provoking Questions From  
 the New Testament*  
 September 24-26, 2010

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

**Continued Inside**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- TODAY – FELLOWSHIP MEAL – AFTER MORNING WORSHIP
- TONIGHT – SINGING SERVICE – EVENING WORSHIP
- DECEMBER 31 – NEW YEAR’S EVE GET-TOGETHER – 7 PM – MARK & LINDA MILLER’S
- JANUARY 3 – MEN’S BUSINESS MEETING – AFTER EVENING SERVICE
- JANUARY 3 – LADIES’ BIBLE CLASS – AFTER EVENING SERVICE

## Those Needing Our Prayers:

*“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).*

The Kennells (Travel)  
Clayton Winters  
Steven Winters  
Christy Grogan & Kids  
Amanda Winters  
Esther Pennington  
Bill Lewis Family

Tom & Della Jones  
Mike & Joy Osborne  
Eugene Kidder  
Jim Winters  
Carlos Pennington  
Joe & Mable Turner  
Larry & Wanda Pless

Bubba Cannon  
Velma McMillan  
Savannah Bedenbaugh  
Steven Winters  
Ray Poe  
Everett & Sandy Adams  
Pete Pless

### Our Shut- Ins

Mary Turner – Margate Health & Rehab; Room #415A, 540 Waugh St., Jefferson, NC 28640

1. Pray  
2. Plan  
3. Prepare  
4. Pray

## Answers to Last Week’s Bible Questions

51. **Lord.** 1 Samuel 16:7.
52. **Solomon.** Ecclesiastes 12:13.
53. **No.**
54. **Revelation 1:11.**
55. **Philip.** Acts 8:30.
56. **Balaam.** 2 Peter 2:15.
57. **Noah.** 2 Peter 2:5.
58. **Sodom and Gomorrah.** 2 Peter 2:6.
59. **Lot.** 2 Peter 2:7-8.
60. **Peter.** Acts 10:34.

How did you do? Did you get them all?

The serene picture of a mother and her child rejoicing in the love of family, hearth and friends does not represent the means by which this world will be transformed. Rather, that is the picture of those transformed by the power of the word of God. Joseph and Mary were chosen as the parents of Jesus on account of their righteous character. The shepherds were men of faith who looked for the coming Christ. The wise men were seekers of truth who upon viewing the star went in search of Him whose coming it announced. The baby in the manger did not transform Herod, Archelas or their Herodian cronies ([Matthew 2:16](#)). It was the Jesus who went to the cross and revealed His gospel that freed men from wickedness. Christ crucified is our peace ([Ephesians 2:14-17](#); [Colossians 1:20](#); [3:15](#); [Philippians 4:7](#)). He is the only hope of the world.

### The Cross of Calvary

When Jehovah wanted to present the great prophet Isaiah with a picture of the coming Messiah He gave him glimpses of His birth ([Isaiah 7:14](#); [9:6](#); [Micah 5:2](#)). But, in order to give him fullness of understanding, He took the prophet in the spirit and set him at the foot of the cross, as it were, to see the whole ordeal of bearing the sins of the world (Isaiah 53).

Dear friend, if you would reverence Christ as your Lord you need to see what Isaiah saw on Calvary, the sinless Son of God rejected of men and forsaken of God bearing your sins. This is the Jesus in whom you must trust to be saved. Yes, He is the child in the manger, but He is much, much more. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).

In order for you to have this Jesus you must repent of your sins ([Luke 13:3,5](#)), confess Christ ([Matthew 10:32](#)) and be baptized into Christ ([Mark 16:16](#)). Then you are a new creature in Christ whom the Lord has added to His church ([John 10:15,16](#)). My friend come away from the manger to the cross of Calvary.

Let us resolve to be more faithful to God in our attendance and our service to Him.

