



**Today's Sermons**

Morning: "Seek Ye First"

Evening: Faithful Disciples at the Close of Paul's Journeys

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**FOR THE RECORD**

Sunday Bible Study	32
Sunday AM Worship	49
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wed. Bible Study	27
Offering	\$1923



A Weekly Publication of the  
**West Jefferson Church of Christ**  
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 Volume VIII      December 6, 2015      Number 49

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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:.....7:30am  
 "Back to the Bible"  
 AM 580 WSKK  
 93.5 FM

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

**THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT MONEY**  
 Roger D. Campbell

Tiny children are often fascinated with money because it is shiny and small enough to go into their mouth. Then, kids reach the point when they understand that money has the power to buy things. That is a new reason for them to like money. Later, in their teenage years their thinking can be dominated by a desire to possess money in order to impress others or to buy things that dad and mom won't buy for them. As adults, well, a lot of adults are still fond of money.

Money, in and of itself, possesses no moral qualities. Money is neither righteous nor unrighteous. Money is an inanimate object, a means or tool to help humans obtain something else. It is one's attitude toward money or riches that counts. In order to help us keep a handle on our attitude, we offer the following six truthful statements about money. May they serve as a reminder and/or warning to all of us.

(1) Money cannot buy love. Way back in the 1960's the Beatles were singing, "I don't care too much for money, 'cause money can't buy me love." It was true then, and it is still true now. Money may impress folks and attract them to a money-possessing person, but money cannot buy genuine love. Young people, are you listening?

*Continued Inside*



(2) Money doesn't grow on trees. How many times did we hear our parents tell us that when we wanted something that we could not afford? Because it is true that money does not grow on trees, and we cannot have it at the snap of our finger, then we need to be good stewards with the funds that God has placed in our hands (1 Corinthians 4:2). Our Lord says, "Owe no man anything" (Romans 13:8). Christians ought not to use credit cards to the extent that they get themselves into debt that they cannot pay off.

(3) Money is not the root of all evil, but the love of money is (1 Timothy 6:10). The love of money is covetousness, and covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Such a love affair with material riches has ruined friendships, marriages, and even congregations. How sad.

(4) Money never has and never will save a soul. Money can be used to help support the preaching of the gospel (2 Corinthians 11:8,9). It is also an instrument that assists us in edifying the faithful, but still, money cannot save souls.

(5) Money will not accompany us when we leave this world. Regardless of how much money one has, the money stays behind – you can't take it with you. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Tim. 6:7).

(6) Money is not success, and success is not possessing money. Oh, if we could only help folks, including ourselves, see this point! Some rich people will go to hell. And, some poor folks will go to heaven. One's eternal destiny is not determined by his/her financial status. You want success, you say? Then listen carefully to what the Lord once told Joshua: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:8). THAT is true success.

Let each of us resolve to accept the truth about money, and in the process beware of "the deceitfulness of riches" (Mark 4:19).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dec 6 – Men's Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Dec 13 – Preach & Eat – 1:30 Service.
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell
- Wireless Internet Password: 94615548

## FORGETTING THE PAST

David McCain

It is amazing how some "Christians" can think they are righteous, while blatantly holding grudges against fellow Christians, who have supposedly wronged them. Where is the spirit of Christ, who said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do?" In our secular associations, we often find it convenient to overlook the slights of others, giving them the benefit of the doubt, that they were just out of sorts and did not really intend to hurt our feelings. However, I care not to number the times I have witnessed just the opposite when a grudge-bearing "Christian" is offended by another Christian, and seemingly the offense is locked away in their mental memory banks with a "do not erase" notation beside it.

In his inspired dissertation on striving for perfection, the Apostle Paul implied that it is detrimental for Christians to live in the past. He wrote, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:13-14). Paul's own life is a perfect example of why we must learn to forget the past. To either browbeat himself for his original persecution of the church, or to rest on his accomplishments as a church planter, would have destroyed his continuing efforts to seek the high calling of God. So, he put the past behind him, and thought only of how he could more fully be like Jesus in accomplishing the Father's will.

An unhealthy regard for the past, can destroy individual Christians, or even entire congregations. Some brethren become complacent because of past spiritual accomplishments. They become self-satisfied with the status quo, and are happy to just keep house for the Lord. Others let occurrences from weeks, months, or even years ago, taint the way they feel right now about certain members, or even the entire congregation. Grudges are sometimes held for years by some folk, who can't even remember what it was that made them mad in the first place. Sadly our anger with our brethren is most often taken out on our perfectly innocent Lord, when we allow hurt feelings to cause us to quit working, quit giving, or quit attending.

The simple truth is, a petty regard for the past is going to cause lots of brethren to lose their soul. The Lord clearly warns us of the dangers of clinging to the past, whether it be positive or negative (Lk. 9:62; Jms. 5:9; Rev. 2 & 3). The congregation which clings to the past in an unwholesome way is in danger of having the Lord remove His presence from them (Rev. 2:5; 3:14-20). Likewise the individual who spiritually stagnates by living in the past is in danger of losing his soul. A lot of sour, surly, spiteful "Christians" are going to be surprised come Judgement Day, to find out that just being conservative doctrinally did not give them the right to be mean-spirited and unforgiving. Grudges won't fit through the pearly gates.

Brother or sister, if you've been living in the past, today is the day through repentance and prayer to put the past behind you. A new year is on the horizon. May God help us all to forget the past and press on toward "the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus!"