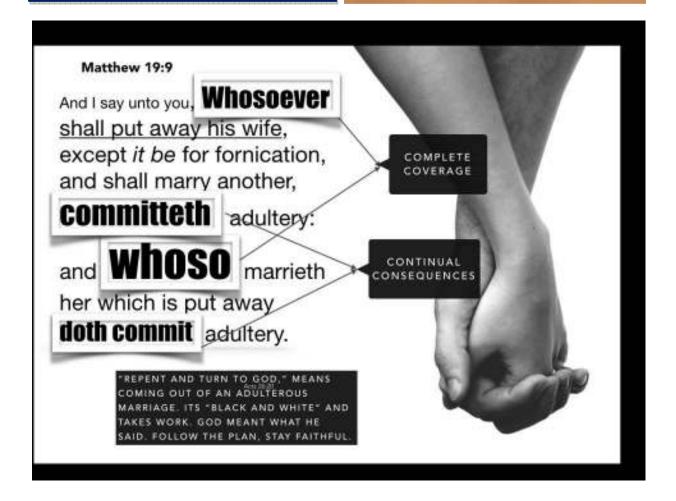
#### **Today's Sermons**

Morning: A Firm Conviction
Afternoon: "For To Me To Live Is..."

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# **West Jefferson Church of Christ**

130 Robert Street West Jefferson NC 28694

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#### Minister:

Tim Canup tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

### **Times of Services:**

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am AM Worship:...1:00am PM Worship:...6:00pm 2nd Sunday:....1:30pm

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

Radio Program
Sunday:......7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WKSK
93.5 FM

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

## The Urgency of Our Work

**David Courington** 

If you are like me, you tend to procrastinate about many things. Around the house, it is easy to put off painting the bedroom, or replacing a porch rail- these come under the heading of maintenance. Then there is the grass to be mowed and it can be put off for a while, but there comes a point when it must be done or you can't find the walkway. Then there are those household emergencies like a broken water pipe that must be tended to immediately or there will be serious consequences.

In the church, there are things that must be tended to and it is easy to put some of them off. There are other things that can be put off for a while, but if no attention is paid to them, they will call attention to themselves pretty soon. Then there are those emergencies that call for immediate action.

The question I want to raise for your consideration is, "Do we see the real urgency in evangelizing the lost and restoring the erring, or are we often putting these off-waiting until they become emergencies to deal with them?" There are serious consequences to putting these on the back burner.

Continued Inside

Opportunities to convert the lost can quickly go away. Jesus knew the urgency of his work. He said in John\_9:4, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." He knew his life was going to be short and so is ours. James speaks to this in James\_4:14, "Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." Not only will our life be short, but the life of others is limited too. Are there those gone on to meet the Lord that you wish you had taught the gospel or urged to be restored?

While we must exercise patience (perseverance) in these matters and not try to force the gospel on those who are not ready to hear, it seems to me the greater caution should be taken in failing to put this as a matter of high priority.

The Lord made the main mission of the church clear to his disciples. They heard him with their own ears say, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark\_16:15-16). Not only did he tell them to do this work, but he made it clear that souls were at stake. Men will either be saved or condemned based on their response to the gospel message.

The response that men make to the gospel is up to them, but the job of getting the message to them and doing it with a sense of urgency and importance is up to us.

Yes, you and I are busy. There is much to do. But we must not let this most important work be a low priority on our list of things to do. "Let's be about the Father's business.

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" (|| Corinthians 4:7-11).

#### The Sin of Doing Nothing

Frank L. Cox

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). The meaning of this passage is clarified and enforced by some of Jesus' wonderful lessons.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN (Luke 10:25–37). The sin of the priest and Levite was that of passing by on the other side. The Samaritan commends himself to us because of his compassion and kindness—love in action.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS (Luke 16:19–31). The fault of the rich man consisted not in cruelty but in neglect to minister to the man who had been "laid at his gate." He did not do the good that was in his power to do (Proverbs 3:27).

THE TEN VIRGINS (Matthew 25:1–13). Though listed among the friends of the bridegroom, the five foolish virgins were barred because they had not prepared themselves for the occasion. The person who does not prepare his heart and life, in harmony with divine direction, will be confined to the darkness of the outside.

THE TALENTS (Matthew 25:14–30). The third servant was not a criminal. He had not been wasteful. He had buried (preserved) that which had been given to him. His sin was the failure to put into circulation the sum that had been en-trusted to him.

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS (Matthew 25:31–46). The people on the right side of the throne were blessed because of the deeds of love they had done; the people on the left were lost because they had not rendered service. No man should entertain the idea that the Lord will bless him merely because he does no evil. Positive goodness, as well as negative, is divinely required.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ➤ Feb 14 Preach & Eat 1:30 Afternoon Service
- ➤ March 6 Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- April 10-14 Spring Gospel Meeting with Tracy Dugger
- ➤ Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell
- Wireless Internet Password: 94615548