



### Today's Sermons

Morning: A Christ Centered Church

Evening: Song Service

Visit Us At:  
[www.wjchurchofchrist.org](http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org)  
For Audio Lessons,  
Past Bulletins,  
Bible Studies  
& More

FOR THE RECORD

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Sunday Bible Study | 30     |
| Sunday AM Worship  | 44     |
| Sunday PM Worship  | 28     |
| Wed. Bible Study   | 29     |
| Offering           | \$1507 |

## Why so many different churches today?

*"The seed is the Word of God" (Luke 8:11)*

- The Bible Alone  → Christian
- Bible + Methodist Discipline → Methodist
- Bible + Baptist Manual → Baptist
- Bible + Book of Mormon → Mormon

*Denominationalism necessitates different seeds!*

Answer: **Men have tampered with the seed!!**



A Weekly Publication of the  
**West Jefferson Church of Christ**  
130 Robert Street  
West Jefferson NC 28694  
Phone: (336) 846-5615 | Email: [info@wjchurchofchrist.org](mailto:info@wjchurchofchrist.org)  
Volume IX                      April 24, 2016                      Number 17

Minister:  
**Tim Canup**  
[tim@wjchurchofchrist.org](mailto:tim@wjchurchofchrist.org)

**Times of Services:**  
Sunday  
Bible Study:.... 10:00am  
AM Worship:..11:00am  
PM Worship:....6:00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

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!**

### Tactics Of The Opposition

by Bobby K. Thompson

The book of Nehemiah reveals the noble work of Nehemiah and his co-workers in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. While exiled in Babylon, Nehemiah learned of the devastation of the walls and received permission of the king, Artaxerxes, to return to Jerusalem and undertake the patriotic task of rebuilding the walls to their original strength and grandeur. As in practically all endeavors, the work was not free of opposition. No sooner was the work known to the Samaritans and other surrounding tribes, it met with united opposition. Their opposition represents the typical tactics of those in all ages and circumstances who would oppose the Lord's work and the progress of truth. We observe the tactics that were used:

They began with ridicule and sarcasm. "But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? Will ye rebel against the king?" (Nehemiah 2:19). They sharpened the shafts of their ridicule, and hurled them at Nehemiah and the work with fiendish delight. As an example of their bitter sarcasm, Tobiah said: "Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall." (Nehemiah 4:3) Ridicule and sarcasm didn't stop the work! In fact, it accelerated the noble activity. "So built we the wall...for the people had a mind to work." (Nehemiah 4:6). Brethren today, who are interested in building the walls according to the

*Continued Inside*

pattern in all things that God has given, are referred to by the opposition as “antis”, “do nothings” and that what they will do “will die on the vine and come to naught”. Such ridicule and sarcasm should not deter us from doing the Lord’s will and continually contending for the faith. If our faith will not endure such ridicule and sarcasm, we had best check to see if we really have faith.

Then came concerted attack. The enemies of the work “..conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it”. (Nehemiah 4:8). When they saw that the walls were going to be built, and that a fox would not be likely to push them down, then the Arabians and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites, were exceedingly wroth, and conspired all of them together to fight against Jerusalem, and to prevent the accomplishment of the work. “Nevertheless we made our prayer unto God, and set our watch against them day and night, because of them.” (Nehemiah 4:9). Nehemiah arranged that half of the servants would work and the other half of them hold weapons. The builders also had their sword girded at their side and where a breach was made in the wall by the enemy, there a trumpet was sounded and the men resorted thither with the assurance, “our God shall fight for us”. Such opposition was not successful and the work continued on the walls. The workers of God today are to take the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, and go on in the work of building the spiritual walls of the pattern of truth that God has given for all ages. Spears of hatred and ostracism may be hurled, but the work must continue. We must continue possessing a mind to work as they did in the days of Nehemiah. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

What else could the enemy try? Of all things, they want to have a meeting with reference to the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. Listen: “..Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.” (Nehemiah 6:2). This is the coolest specimen of impudence in the inspired record. The devil himself never surpassed it! Sanballat and Geshem had opposed the work from the beginning: first by ridicule, then by force of arms. But now, seeing it is successful, they want to hold a form of council suggesting a spirit of compromise or “smoothing things over”. Nehemiah knew their purpose and he responded in these wonderful words: “..I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?” (Nehemiah 6:3-4). We are not implying that it is wrong for brethren to discuss their differences and meet with those with whom we might differ. However, in so doing, we need to beware of any tendency to compromise the truth. Here lies our greatest danger! We should abhor any tendency to compromise the truth of the word of God. The day we take counsel with the enemies of the truth and compromise with them, truth will suffer! Our danger is from within! The true soldier of Christ must be awake to all tactics of the opposition. “be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10:16).

## THE ALL POWERFUL GOSPEL

Thomas F. Eaves, Sr., deceased

God’s word was given to man by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16). First Corinthians 2:10-13 tells us how. Paul says that the inspired word furnishes man completely unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:17), while Peter informs us that God’s divine power hath granted unto us all things which pertain unto life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). This inspired word is all powerful (Heb. 4:12) and when obeyed, will save man from his sins (Rom. 1:16; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:22-23). To obtain salvation, man must be obedient to the word (Heb. 5:8-9). When sinful man rejects the Gospel, the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), there is nothing else to offer.

On one occasion a rich (Mark 10:22), young (Matt. 19:20), ruler (Luke 18:18) came to Jesus asking him the greatest question man can ask, “Good teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life” (Mark 10:17)? Because the young man lived under the law of Moses the Master referred him to the teaching of Moses (Mark 10:19). The ruler replied, “Teacher, all these things have I observed from my youth” (Mark 10:20). Jesus did not challenge or deny the statement, but loving him (Mark 10:21) told him, “One thing thou lackest: go sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me” (Mark 10:21). Upon receiving the answer to his question (Mark 10:17) the rich young ruler’s “countenance fell...and he went away sorrowful: for he was one that had great possessions” (Mark 10:22).

The great lesson from this incident (in the life of our Lord) is that when the question had been asked, the answer given and rejected, Jesus stood and watched the young man walk away lost! Jesus did not call him back and change his instructions so the terms would be acceptable. After the terms of divine inspiration had been given, the choice was the ruler’s: obey and be saved, reject and be lost.

The word given by inspiration cannot be changed by man or for man (1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9; Rev. 22:18-19). Whether it concerns the way of salvation, discipline, marriage, divorce and remarriage, instrumental music in worship, purity of life, etc. God’s word will be THE standard of judgment (John 12:48-49).

When men reject the word of God there is nothing else to offer. To change God’s word or make man’s word authority in religion is to lead man into perdition (Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12; Matt. 15:7-9). It is the word of God only, and only the word of God that can lead man unto salvation.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 1 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- May 15 – Preach & Eat – 1:30 Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell