

**Today's Sermons**  
 Morning: Noah: A Preacher of Righteousness  
 Evening: Be Not Deceived

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**FOR THE RECORD**

Sunday Bible Study	9
Sunday AM Worship	19
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wed. Bible Study	25
Offering	\$1015



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**West Jefferson Church of Christ**  
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**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 WSKS  
 93.5 FM

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

**BEING A CHRISTIAN IS COSTLY**  
 Marvin Weir

The devil would like nothing more than for one to believe that it does not cost to be a Christian. Some well-meaning folks will even declare that after one becomes a child of God, his troubles are over. Those who expect their problems and sorrows to disappear after obeying the Gospel are then discouraged when the devil attacks with all his fury. One must remember that the word of God warns: "be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). When Satan loses a soul because of one's obedience to the Gospel, he will unleash his fury in seeking to tempt the new convert to apostatize from the faith.

If people are taught and realize that Christianity is costly, it will be more difficult for Satan to sow seeds of discouragement. Let us consider some of the costs of becoming a Christian.

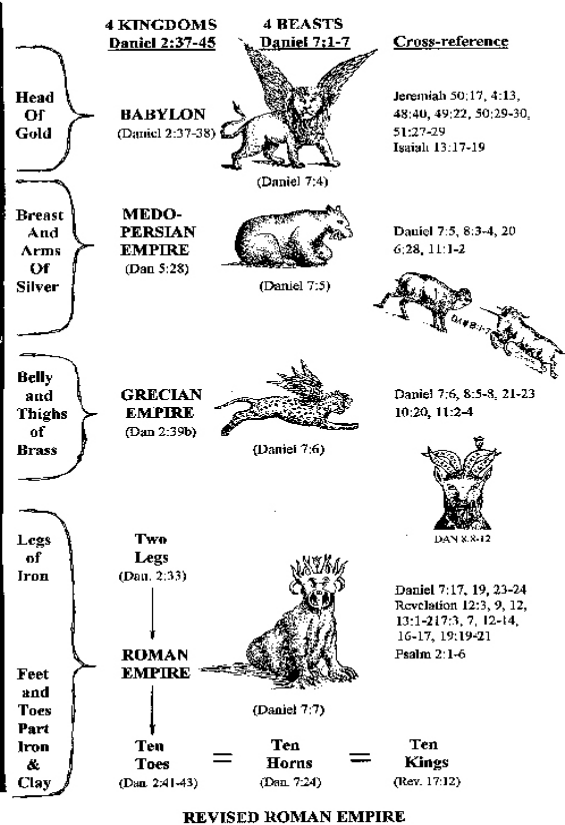
First, one must be willing to give up the pleasures of sin. Not all are willing to turn from certain sins. The devil will do all in his power to convince one to continue the wickedness that brings temporary pleasure. This is why many folks continue to live in and enjoy an adulterous relationship. They do not desire to forsake that which is pleasurable! The Bible, however, encourages all to imitate Moses. God's Word says, "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 10:24-25).

*Continued Inside*

"These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. (Daniel 7:17-18).



The Vision  
 Daniel 2:31-33



**REVISED ROMAN EMPIRE**

"And in the days of these kings (10) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed" (Daniel 2:44).

People need to see sin for the bad investment it is. God makes it clear that those who live in or practice sin will not inherit the kingdom of heaven (1 Cor. 6:9-10). The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

Second, one must be willing to surrender to the will of God. Even the majority of the “religious world” has no desire to turn from their man-made doctrines and surrender to God’s plan of salvation. Jesus said, “If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Countless thousands say they love Christ, but their actions speak louder than their words! So many claim to believe in and accept Christ but reject the command to be baptized for remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

The truth is that many people today are related to the Pharisees of Jesus’ day. John stated, “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42-43). One must be a “doer” of the word and not a “hearer only” (James 1:22).

Third, one must be willing to be separate from the world. The apostle Paul said, “But far be it from me to glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal. 6:14; cf. Gal. 2:20). Paul taught the brethren at Corinth: “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (2 Cor. 6:14-17). If a man is in love with the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1 John 2:15-17).

Fourth, one must pay the cost of self-denial. Many determine this is too high a price to pay as they will not say “No” to themselves. The Lord taught, “...If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23).

It is true that it costs to be a faithful Christian. But the costs are greater when one rejects Christianity. Can you afford to live your life in such a way that it costs you your soul, heaven, and eternal fellowship with God and those of like precious faith? The cost is great to be a Christian, but the cost is far greater to be a servant of Satan.

## How Christ’s Blood Washes Us From Our Sins

By Ron Boatwright

God’s word says concerning Christ, "Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Revelation 1:5). Jesus shed His blood in His death on the cross (John 19:32-34). How do we get into the death of Christ so we can contact the blood of Christ to have our sins washed away? "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death" (Romans 6:3-4). When we are baptized into Christ, we are also baptized into His death. It is when we are buried with Christ in baptism into His death, that we contact His blood, which washes away our sins. It is because of this that Saul of Tarsus was told by Ananias, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). According to the Bible, our sins are washed away, when we are baptized.

In instituting the Lord’s Supper on the night before His crucifixion, Jesus said, "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). Since Jesus shed His blood for the remission of sins, how do we obtain remission of sins? When the people asked Peter, "What shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins’" (Acts 2:37-38). When we repent and are baptized the shed blood of Christ remits our sins.

Don’t let Satan tell you that baptism is not necessary for the forgiveness of sins and for salvation. Jesus says, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). One may as well say that one can be saved without the shed blood of Christ as to say that one can be saved without being baptized into Christ’s death, because it is only in being baptized into Christ’s death that one reaches Christ’s blood and can be saved.

If one "accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour" and said the "sinner’s prayer" so he could be saved and his sins forgiven, but was later baptized to join a denomination, then in his baptism his sins were not forgiven and he was not saved. He is still lost and still has all of his sins since he believed a lie of Satan.

.....  
*“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life”  
(Jude 20-21).*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jan 29 – Song Service
- Feb 5 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell