



Today's Sermons
 Morning: The Purposes of Calvary
 Afternoon: A Barren Fig Tree

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	43
Sunday AM Worship	60
Sunday PM Worship	40
Wed. Bible Study	27
Offering	\$2080

JESUS SAID TO HER,
**“I AM THE
 RESURRECTION
 AND THE LIFE.
 THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME
 WILL LIVE
 EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE;”**
 JOHN 11:25



A Weekly Publication of the
West Jefferson Church of Christ
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 West Jefferson NC 28694
 Phone: (336) 846-5615 | Email: info@wjchurchofchrist.org
 Volume X September 10, 2017 Number 37

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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship...11:00am
 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!**

“I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY”
 Roger D. Campbell

What is “the story” that Christians should love to tell more than any other? It is the message of salvation – salvation brought about by the grace of God (Titus 2:11) and made available through Jesus (Ephesians 1:7) to all sinners that obey His gospel (Hebrews 5:9). For this, we say, “*Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift*” (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Long before most, if not all, who read this article were ever born, a spiritual hymn was written that Christians of many generations have enjoyed singing: “I Love to Tell the Story.” Do you recall the first stanza of that old-time favorite?

I love to tell the story
 Of unseen things above,
 Of Jesus and His glory,
 Of Jesus and His love,
 I love to tell the story,
 Because I know ‘tis true,
 It satisfies my longings
 As nothing else can do.

Continued Inside

And what about the chorus? “I love to tell the story, ‘Twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.” In a world that clamors for something new, fast-moving, colorful, and exciting, the message of Jesus and His blood-stained cross may sound drab, but the preaching of the cross is the power of God. The Bible says so (1 Corinthians 1:18). Even some congregations and members of God’s church seem to prefer a brief Bible reading followed by a lot of feel-good or funny stories. To them, that is just more appealing than “the old Jerusalem gospel,” as some of the faithful old-timers fondly called the new-covenant word of the living God.

Jesus loved to tell the story. Study His life and follow His footsteps as He traveled throughout all Galilee, “*teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom . . .*” (Matthew 4:23). According to Josephus, a 1st-century Jewish historian, at the time the Christ lived on the earth, there were some 240 villages in Galilee, so “hitting” every location there was no small undertaking. Watch Him cover that same territory a 2nd time (Luke 8:1). Read again as He made a 3rd preaching journey throughout all Galilee (Matthew 9:35). Jesus loved to tell the story as He worked to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

The 1st-century disciples of Jesus loved to tell the story. Read about how they proclaimed God’s glad tidings, even in the face of threats, imprisonments, and beatings: “*And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ*” (Acts 5:42). Watch the disciples that were scattered due to intense persecution, as they “*went everywhere preaching the word*” (Acts 8:4). Try to keep up with Paul, Barnabas and others as they spread the gospel of God’s Son throughout the world (Acts 13-28). Those brethren loved to tell the story! How else could you account for the way that they kept on living and telling that great message, despite the dangers and difficulties that they encountered?

We love to tell the story, too. We raise our voices together, teaching and exhorting one another as we sing, “I love to tell the story.” Do we? Do we really have an I-can’t-wait-to-tell-others-the-message-of-salvation attitude? Lord willing, in a few days we will hit the ¾ mark for the year 2009. How many times in the first nine months of this year have you and I tried to teach the gospel to lost and perdition-bound people? How often during that time period have we engaged intentionally in discussions about spiritual topics with folks that are outside of the Lord and thus living without hope?

God willing, one week from today we will begin our fall gospel meeting. Our shepherds have decided that it is in the best interest of our congregation to conduct a four-day meeting. Before that first lesson, and even after the meeting has begun, will you and I love the Lord enough, will we love the church enough, will we love lost souls enough “to tell the old, old story, of Jesus and His love?” It may be that not one person whom you and I approach with the gospel and invite to the meeting will show up. But, then again, we will never know until we give it a try, will we?!

I AM THE ANSWER

Author Unknown

- * Who is going to stand with me when my life falls apart? I AM.
- * Who is going to make sure that, one day, good will prevail over evil? I AM.
- * Who is going to help me when I need it? I AM.
- * Who is smart enough to figure everything out in my life? I AM.
- * Who is going to give me the assurance that everything always works out in the end? I AM.
- * Who is going to be with me now that I am all alone? I AM.
- * Who is going to help me out of my pits of despair? I AM.
- * Who is going to make sense of this world and give my life real meaning? I AM.
- * No one is on my side. I AM.
- * No one is listening. I AM.
- * This world is falling apart at the seams. What is going to last? I AM.

I AM. I always have been, I always will be, and this is My name forever.

“Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’” (John 8:58)

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” (John 14:6).

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*"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:9-13).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 10 – Preach-n-Eat & 1:30 Service
- Sept 16 – Cookout – beginning about 4:00 pm
- Sept 24 – Song Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell