



**Today's Sermons**

Morning: TBA  
Evening: TBA

Visit Us At:  
[www.wjchurchofchrist.org](http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org)  
For Audio Lessons,  
Past Bulletins, Bible Studies  
& More  
Wireless Internet Password:  
94615548

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	32
Sunday AM Worship	45
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wed. Bible Study	38
Offering	\$1605



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 X November 5, 2017 Number 45

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 WSKS  
93.5 FM

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

**HOW MUCH DO YOU AND I BELIEVE WITHOUT  
HAVING ANY EVIDENCE?**

Roger D. Campbell

"Daddy, why do we believe that Jesus is God's Son? And, Daddy, how come all of our elders are men instead of women?" If our answer is, "Honey, that's just the way we believe," such an answer is not going to get the job done! It may "work" when the child is seven years old, but it sure enough will not work when he is seventeen or twenty-seven! Kids need proof, proof, and more proof. Parents, grandparents, and Bible class teachers need to get with it and give kids real evidence for what we believe and practice, or else somewhere down the road we will be weeping together over their choices!

What Christians believe to be true has nothing to do with their personal feelings. To declare to my cousin that I believe in God because I can *feel* Him at work in my life may just cause him to respond by saying, "That's funny. The reason that I do *not* believe in God is because I *cannot* feel Him at work in my life." In this case, whose feeling would be more convincing? The truth is, my feeling would not prove that God exists, and at the same time, my cousin's feeling of God's non-existence would not be evidence that there is no God. God's people need to learn this truth, and learn it well: convictions that are based merely on feelings do not jive with what the Bible says about genuine faith. Faith and feelings are not the same.

*Continued Inside*



See if the following concept does not sound familiar: "Faith is when you believe in something when you do not have any proof for it. If there is evidence, then it is not faith." This distorted idea about faith and evidence is that when you have one, you cannot have the other. Thus, faith and proof are supposedly mutually exclusive. The Bible says, "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*" (Hebrews 11:1). Did you notice "faith" and "evidence" used together, and that evidence is the basis of faith?! The Book of John was written that its readers might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30,31). Is that faith without evidence? Not at all. Rather, it is faith *produced by the proof* of Jesus' Deity that is provided in John's account.

"If you can know something is true, then there is no faith. Faith means you believe even though you are not really sure it is right." Again, the false notion is that knowledge and faith are mutually exclusive: you supposedly cannot have knowledge and faith at the same time for the same subject. Wait a minute. Some Samaritans said this about Jesus: "*Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ . . .*" (John 4:42; emphasis in all quotes mine, *rdc*). Did those folks *believe* in Jesus, or *know* that He was the Christ? Both! Later, Jesus prayed for believers to be united in order that "*the world may believe*" that the Father sent Him, then He turned around and prayed for unity in order that "*the world may know*" that the Father sent Him (John 17:21,23). It is clear, is it not, that in Bible language, one can both believe and know at the same time? In fact, as we have emphasized, genuine faith is based on proof or evidence.

"If you can see it, then it's not faith. Faith is believing in something when you can't see it." Some folks need to stop parroting what they have heard others say and investigate what the Bible says. Some of Jesus' earliest disciples accompanied Him to a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee, where He performed His first earthly miracle. When His disciples, who already believed in Him, saw His water-to-wine miracle, they "*believed on Him*" (John 2:11), meaning that their faith was strengthened. Did those disciples (1) see Jesus, (2) see Jesus' miracle, or (3) "believe" on Him? They did all three, proving that "seeing it" and "believing it" can go hand in hand. There were also Samaritans who came to where Jesus was, they saw Him, heard Him teach, and saw His action. Then, based on what they saw and heard, they said, "*Now we believe . . .*" (John 4:40-42). Did they *see* our Lord, or did they *believe* in Him? Again, they did both. Later, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, "*Then many of the Jews which came to Mary,*

*and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him*" (John 11:45). The fact that they saw Him did not eliminate the possibility of believing in Him, and, as always, their true faith was based on the evidence that they were presented.

"Okay. But if those people did not believe until they saw Jesus, how can a person really believe in heaven if he has not seen it?" Great question. First, consider this. Not every first-century believer in the Christ saw him with his/her own eyes. In 1 Peter 1:8, we read of Christians that had not seen Jesus, yet they believed in Him and loved Him. If they did it then, then we can do it in our generation also. How? Our faith is based on the evidence that the Bible provides (John 20:30,31).

Believing in heaven is really an evidence question. Here is our reasoning. We may not always say it or think it through like this in every instance, but proper reasoning goes like this: (1) The evidence proves that God exists (Psalm 19:1-3); (2) The evidence proves that the Bible is the word of God (2 Timothy 3:16,17); (3) Because the Bible is from the always-truthful God (Titus 1:2), then everything God tells us in His word, including what He says about heaven, is true. Why do we believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Because of the Bible *reliability* and the *evidence* that it provides.

"How much do you and I believe without having any evidence?" The answer is, biblically speaking, we accept and believe only those things for which there is adequate evidence. Genuine faith is always based on reliable proof.

---

*"Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself" (II Timothy 2:10-13).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nov 5 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Nov 13 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 pm Worship
- Nov 26 – Song Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell