



Today's Sermons

Morning: The Baptism of Jesus
 Afternoon: A Father's Chastisement

Visit Us At:
www.wjchurchofchrist.org
 For Audio Lessons,
 Past Bulletins, Bible Studies
 & More
 Wireless Internet Password:
 94615548

FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	40
Sunday AM Worship	56
Sunday PM Worship	36
Wed. Bible Study	37
Offering	\$1867

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED ?

Both Jesus and the apostles (guided by the Holy Spirit) taught that to be saved, it is necessary that one:

Hear	Romans 10:13-17 John 6:45 Revelation 1:3
Believe	John 2:30-31 Hebrews 11:6 Acts 16:31
Repent	Luke 13:3-5 Acts 2:38 Acts 17:30-31
Confess	Matthew 10:32-33 Romans 10:9-10
Be Baptized	Mark 16:15-16 1 Peter 3:21 Acts 2:38 Acts 22:16
Live Godly	Titus 2:11-14 Romans 12:1-2 2 Peter 1:5-11



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
 Volume X December 10, 2017 Number 50

Minister:
Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

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 WSKS
 93.5 FM

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

WHY WON'T GOD LET MORE PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN? Roger D. Campbell

Out of all the masses of people that have lived on the earth, few have chosen the path that leads to life, while many have traveled the way that leads to destruction. The Master said so (Matthew 7:13,14). What that means, of course, is that the majority of people will miss heaven. According to the Bible, those that do not go to heaven will suffer the eternal punishment of hell (Matthew 25:46).

"Why won't God let more people go to heaven?"

This is a response that we occasionally hear from those who are either surprised by what Jesus taught, or else are not ready to accept the truth that most people will be lost. What about it? Why is it that God did not arrange matters in such a way that more people could go to heaven? Consider some relevant questions with me.

Which people deserve to go to heaven? None do. Anyone that lives eternally in heaven will not do so because of his goodness or because he has somehow earned it. There is not one human being that can say God owes it to him to let him into heaven. By God's grace, Jesus tasted of death for every person (Hebrews 2:9).

Continued Inside

Were it not for God's grace – His undeserved kindness, not one of us would be afforded the chance to go to heaven. The wages of sin is death, but God's gift is eternal life through His Son (Romans 6:23). God saves people only when they comply with the conditions that He has set forth in the gospel, yet even when one obeys God's will, he is still an unprofitable servant rather than a deserving heir of heaven (Luke 17:10).

How many people does God want to go to heaven? If someone wonders why God does not want more people to go to heaven, we need to point out that the Bible says that, in fact, He wants "all men to be saved" (1 Timothy 2:4). Our God does not want any to perish, but instead desires that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). If a person does not live forever in heaven, it is not because God did not want it to happen.

Who has the authority to decide which people can go to heaven? Who gets to decide, God or men? As much as some people would like to be "the judge and jury" on setting the criteria for who makes it to heaven, the reality is that God, and God alone, has the right to determine what folks will hear, "Well done thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21), and which ones will hear, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:23). God needs no team of counselors, advisers, or consultants.

According to God's plan of redemption, which people have the possibility to go to heaven? Jesus came to be "the Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14). "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11). Jesus charged His disciples to preach the message of salvation to every person in the whole world (Mark 16:15,16). These facts make it plain that each person has the chance to be saved and go to heaven. Sadly, great numbers of people have no interest in God's gracious invitation of salvation, and many others have bought into some kind of manmade-unable-to-save-the-soul religious message.

What is wrong with God's plan? Nothing! God's preparation of heaven was perfect. Jesus offered the perfect sacrifice for our sins. The gospel is the perfect message to save sinners, and what the New Testament says about the conditions of being saved and going to heaven is, as we would expect, perfect. God knew just what He was doing in formulating a plan for man's redemption, and He got it right! "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" (Romans 11:33).

What if God were to alter His plan in such a way that 10,000 more people would end up going to heaven? Would people be satisfied? No. What if He changed His plan, and by so doing 1 million more people could make it to heaven? What about 1 billion more? Same answer. Some folks would never be satisfied with God's plan unless He let every person go to heaven, which is not going to happen. For some, it all boils down to one thing: they want to be the ones who determine who gets into heaven, and who does not. With them, if God's criteria is different from theirs, then God is just being unreasonable.

How many people will go to heaven? Only God knows the answer to that question. There is nothing in the Bible that supports any notion that God has set a quota or predetermined number, meaning that no more and no less people will be allowed into heaven. God has not placed a limit on the population of heaven: there is neither a minimum nor maximum number of people that will be granted entrance therein. As we have noted, the Lord's invitation for salvation is open to all folks of all races and nationalities (Matthew 11:28-30).

We would be better off using less time punching a calculator to add up the number of people that we think might be saved, and using more time trying to teach the gospel to lost souls and strengthening those that have already become God's children! If I could somehow come up with an accurate number for how many people obeyed the gospel last month or last year, how would that figure change my responsibility to serve the Lord faithfully and teach His word to others? It would not alter my duty to my God and my fellow man in the least.

The entrance into heaven is open to each person that submits to the will of God. If one does not go to heaven, it certainly will not be the fault of the One Who is "the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:9). God's plan is not lacking. God's plan is not flawed. God's plan is neither too loose nor too strict. It is just right, because it came from the One Who knows all things. Those that miss out on heaven can only shine the spotlight on themselves. They, and they alone, will be to blame for their failure to go to heaven. Now, let's get busy and go teach lost people what the Bible says about how to be saved!

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself" (Galatians 6:1-3).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We will return to scheduled building cleaning on a voluntary basis. We encourage two (or more) families to team up. We will only be cleaning the building every 1st & 3rd Sunday. See sign-up sheet in foyer.
- Dec 10 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Dec 16 – Holiday Get-Together at the Powers' Home
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell