

Today's Sermons
 Morning: "To's & From's"
 Evening: The Parable of the Soils



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

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	42
Sunday AM Worship	53
Sunday PM Worship	43
Wed. Bible Study	34
Offering	\$1755

Pointing Toward Pentecost

KINGDOM IN PROMISE		KINGDOM IN EXISTENCE
Future		Present
Zechariah 1:16 →	P	← Acts 2:29-31
Matthew 4:17 →	E	← Acts 14:22
Luke 10:9 →	N	← Acts 28:23
Matthew 16:18 →	T	← Romans 14:17
Luke 22:16 →	E	← 1 Corinthians 4:20
Mark 9:1 →	C	← 1 Corinthians 15:24-25
Matthew 6:10 →	O	← Colossians 1:13
Matthew 3:2 →	S	← Hebrews 12:28
Isaiah 2:2 →	T	← Revelation 1:9

Bible Church



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 24, 2017 Number 52

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!**

SHALL WE "PUT CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS?"
 Ivie Powell

Every year about this time we hear the slogan, "Put Christ back in Christmas." This same slogan will appear on various advertisements. Even some uninformed members of the church will echo the same sentiment. Well, the truth is, it is impossible to "Put Christ back in Christmas," since He has never been in Christmas! One will search the Scriptures in vain in an attempt to find December 25 as the birth date of Christ or any other date as far as that is concerned! Scriptures nowhere assigns the exact date of our Lord's birth. The Encyclopedia Britannica (Vol.5, p.641) states: "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church, and before the 5th century there was no general consensus of opinion as to when it should come in the calendar, whether on January 6, March 25, or December 25."

Observe also that the Bible gives no instructions as to HOW to celebrate Christ's birth, even if the date were known! Now, if someone says, "The three wise men conferred gifts on His birthday and this is our example to follow." First, it cannot be proved that there were three wise men. Yes, three gifts (gold, frankincense, myrrh), but the number of men is not mentioned. As far as that goes, one man could have brought more than one gift. Second, one must prove that the wise men came the day

Continued Inside

of Christ's birth. It is purely fictional that the wise men came to the manger as most "Christmas scenes" are presented. Jesus was born in a stable (Luke 2:1-7), but Mary, Joseph and Jesus were in a house when the wise men visited them (Matt. 2:11).

It is often stated, even by some brethren, "Well, what you say is true, but what is wrong with setting aside December 25 as the birth date of Christ?" The wrong is in establishing a religious observance without divine approval! Take note of the following passage of Scripture: "And whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17). Question: Where is the biblical authority for setting aside any date to observe the birth date of Christ?

Furthermore, the Bible condemns the setting aside of special days in the following passage: "Ye observe days, and months, and times, I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (Gal. 4:10-11). The only day Christians are to observe with God's approval is the first day of the week. At which time we remember the Lord's death (1 Cor. 11:23-30; Acts 20:7).

While we are discussing the subject of: "Putting Christ back in Christmas," it is really amazing the number of people (including brethren) who will make their "annual pilgrimage" to the meeting house on so-called "Christmas Sunday" and yes, "Easter Sunday," but any other time seldom assemble with the saints! Not only that, many will spend more on gifts during this season than they give to God all year! Could it be that many will allow "Santa" to rob God of their obligation to give as they have been prospered?! The Lord did not say to give as one has prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2) only on "Christmas" and/or "Easter!"

How then, if at all, should Christians celebrate December 25? The same as they do Labor Day or Memorial Day — as just another holiday without any religious attachment! To observe this time of the year as purely social is left to the discretion of the individual. Let us always remember it is through Christ's death, burial and resurrection that true blessings have come!

Shall we "Put Christ back in Christmas?" How can this be done, since Christ was never in Christmas!

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 31 – Song Service
- Jan 7 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Jan 14 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 pm Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

Does It Really Make A Difference What You Believe?

Garland M. Robinson

When it comes right down to it, there's not a great many things that really do matter in this world. However, one's soul salvation is not one of them; it matters more than all the world! Jesus said, "*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell*" (Matthew 10:28). IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE what one believes and practices in religion!

Jesus only promised to **build** one church (Matthew 16:18). He only **died** for one church (Acts 20:28). He only promised to **save** one church (Ephesians 5:23). Does it make any difference, then, to which church you belong? If you are in the wrong church, you'll not be saved! Men may say we have a choice, but God did not give us a choice. Accordingly, only one way is right, all other ways are wrong (Proverbs 14:12; John 14:6; Matthew 7:21-23). If you get on the wrong bus you will end up at the wrong destination.

Only the **Truth** can make you free (John 8:32). Error is everywhere and those who believe it will be lost (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12). The difference between truth and error is heaven and hell (Matthew 25:46). The only way to know the difference is to read and study the Bible. The Bible is right! It is God's Word to man (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Everything else is false!

If there is more than one church which will be saved, the only way you can prove it is from the Bible. But don't hold your breath, no one can take the Bible and show authority for the existence of any denominational church. Furthermore, **not even one denominational church can tell a person from the Bible what to do to be saved!** This is the most basic and fundamental teaching of the whole Bible! And, if these churches cannot teach you what to do to be saved, how can you expect them to show you how to live a faithful Christian life so you can go to heaven when you die? Don't take my word for it; see for yourself. Does the church you attend teach what Jesus taught: "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" (Mark 16:16)? What else would have to be said before people believe it? Denominations won't teach it. Believe (John 3:16); Repent (Acts 17:30); Confess (Romans 10:9-10); and be Baptized today (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:2-6).