



Today's Sermons

Morning: Unity in Christ

Afternoon: "The Burden Against Nineveh"

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

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	41
Sunday AM Worship	48
Sunday PM Worship	36
Wed. Bible Study	32
Offering	\$1937

Blessings Man Receives From God - Part 1

- The blessing of **BECOMING HIS CHILDREN** _____ Romans 8:16, 21
- The blessing of **ENTERING HIS KINGDOM** _____ John 3:5
- The blessing of **BECOMING A MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY** _____ Hebrews 3:6
- The blessing of **RECEIVING HIS GRACE** _____ Romans 3:34
- The blessing of **RECEIVING HIS FORGIVENESS** _____ Ephesians 4:32
- The blessing of **BEING SUSTAINED BY HIM** _____ 1 Peter 5:7
- The blessing of **HAVING SPIRITUAL UNION WITH GOD & CHRIST**
 _____ John 17:21
- The blessing of **HAVING ACCESS TO GOD** _____ Ephesians 3:11-12
- The blessing of **RECEIVING GOD'S PROMISES** _____ 2 Corinthians 7:1
- The blessing of **HAVING PROTECTIVE CARE** _____ Psalm 62:2

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Ephesians 1:3



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 XI March 11, 2018 Number 10

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!**

**GOD COMMANDS ALL PEOPLE
 IN ALL PLACES TO REPENT**
 Roger D. Campbell

Is that not the message that the apostle Paul preached to the people in ancient Athens? As he preached to them about the one, great, true God of heaven, Paul told them, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). It is upon this last statement that we now want to focus our attention.

Yes, God commands all men in all places to repent. What does that show us about God? First of all, it shows us God's authority. He, as the Creator and Giver of life (Acts 17:24,25), has the right to command people what to do. You know as well as I do that some people strongly dislike authority. They despise the idea of anyone ever telling them what to do. For some, they carry that same attitude from other areas of life into the realm of religion. They make no secret about it: they do not care one bit for God "trying to run" their lives, and they do not want any "self-righteous do-gooders" telling them that they need to repent. Men can laugh at God's command to repent, they can try to ignore it, and they can even raise their voice and say that you will never find them accepting God's authority. All of those tactics change nothing: God's command to repent stands. It changes not.

Continued Inside

In addition, the fact that God “*commandeth all men everywhere to repent*” not only shows God’s authority to issue commands, but it also shows the universality of His authority. His rule is over all people of all races, of all tribes, of all nations, and of all locations. There is nowhere to run in this world to escape God’s authority!

Third, God’s command for all men everywhere to repent also shows God’s universal knowledge. He knows what is going on in all places. He sees the need for all people to repent. Remember, “*Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do*” (Hebrews 4:13).

We also conclude that since God commands all men everywhere to repent, then this shows that God cares for all people in all places. If the Lord did not care, then He would just allow people to do their own thing and continue their march toward hell without a word on His part. The Bible tells us that God is “*not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9).

Let us now look at the human side of things. God commands people of all locales to repent. What does that show us about mankind? First, there is something about man that makes him stand in need of repentance. If there were no need for people to repent, then the Lord would not command such, right? The problem is sin. All people have sinned (Romans 3:23), and that of which people must repent is sin (Acts 2:38; 8:22). The command to repent does not apply to newborn babies and toddlers. Why? Because they have never sinned. They have never violated the will or law of God (1 John 3:4; 5:17). The command to repent is for those that have sinned, and sin is the one and only thing that separate a human from the God of heaven (Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 2:1).

Furthermore, the fact that God commands all men everywhere to repent proves that all men are amenable to God’s law. That is, all people are obligated to obey God’s will because it applies to them. If God’s law did not apply to a lost sinner, then God’s command to repent would have no punch. In fact, if God’s law did not apply to sinners, then He would not even command them to obey Him in the first place! Jesus charged His apostles to go preach the gospel to every person in order that every person might be saved (Mark 16:15,16). Saved from what? Saved from sin. But, what is sin? Breaking God’s law, or lawlessness (1 John 3:4). So, those outside of the Christ sin when they violate God’s law, which brings us back to our point: all men in all places are amenable to God’s law.

Now, here is a thought. Do you suppose that the Lord wants all people in all places to know that He wants them to repent? Jesus told His followers that “*repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem*” (Luke

24:47). So, yes, since the Lord wants the message of repentance and remission of sins preached to all, then He wants every person to know His will about these topics.

That raises another question. How do you suppose people are going to learn about their need to repent? Does our God have a plan for people to hear about His command to repent? He does, indeed. There are certain people upon whom God has placed the responsibility to teach the gospel, including what it says about repentance. Those people are called “C-h-r-i-s-t-i-a-n-s.” Yes, brothers and sisters, you and I, *we are the ones* in whom God has entrusted the task of telling the world of His salvation and their need to submit to His will, including the necessity of their repentance.

Like the apostle Paul, we must tell folks “*that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance*” (Acts 26:20). Like the apostle Peter, we must tell lost people, “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*” (Acts 2:38). “But people won’t like it if we tell them that they need to repent.” What does that have to do with it?! God commands them to repent, and He expects you and me to tell them about that command!

.....
"Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, 'Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?' He answered and said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do. He said to them, All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition'" (Mark 7:5-9).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 11 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 pm Worship
- March 25 – Song Service
- April 1 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- April 15-19 – Annual Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Chuck Stewart
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell