



Today's Sermons

Morning: Jesus Christ: Our Advocate & Propitiation
Evening: Song Service

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

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	43
Sunday AM Worship	51
Sunday PM Worship	37
Wed. Bible Study	34
Offering	\$1429

West Jefferson Church of Christ
Invites YOU to Our 7th Annual

Old-Fashioned Gospel Tent Meeting

August 1-3, 2019

Thursday-Saturday:.....7:00 pm

Thursday: "The Promises of God" Bill Powers
Friday: "The Church Jesus Built" Tim Canup
Saturday: "The Holy Spirit in Conversion" Tim Canup

Behind Lansing Vol. Fire Dept.

NOTE: NO Collections Will Be Taken!



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 XII July 28, 2019 Number 30

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!**

HOW BEAUTIFUL HEAVEN MUST BE

Bill Boyd

It is fitting that the last book of the Bible humbles us. The message of God's triumph in the book of Revelation is clear, but the further we look into the text, the more difficult the book becomes. The repeated emphasis of these things happening "shortly," (Rev. 22:6), "quickly" (Rev. 22:7), and "the time is at hand" (Rev. 22:10), puts the vision of Revelation 21 and 22 in the context of the early church overcoming its then impending trials. However, the exaggerated apocalyptic language used to describe this triumph carries us beyond the then impending victory to the ultimate heavenly glory. This is a vision of heaven. It cannot be taken as literal, for gold is not transparent (Rev. 21:21), but clearly, our eternal home is beautiful.

It is beautiful because it is new: "A new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1); "new Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:2); "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5). The Greeks had a word for "new" in respect to "time," but the word here is "new" in respect of "kind." This is a new kind of heaven and earth, a new kind of Jerusalem. There is also a word for "renew" in the New Testament, but that is not the word used here.

It is beautiful because it is a city: "The holy city, new Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:2); "the great city, holy Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:10); a city of "twelve gates" (Rev. 21:12), and "twelve

Continued Inside

foundations” (Rev. 21:14); a city that “lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breath... twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal” (Rev. 21:16). Abraham was looking for such a city. “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God... a better country, that is, an heavenly... for God hath prepared for them a city” (Heb. 11:8-16). Israel of old gloried in the beauty of old Jerusalem as the “city of God” (Psalm 48; Psalm 84; Psalm 87), but the glory of “new Jerusalem” exceeds the glory of the old. In context, this beautiful new city is in contrast to “Babylon, the mother of harlots, and abominations of the earth” (Rev. 17:5).

The city is “prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev. 21:2); “Come hither, and I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife” (Rev. 21:9). There are few things so beautiful that they are worthy to be compared to a bride adorned for her husband. We read in Revelation 19:7-8, “His wife hath made herself ready, And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.” We are reminded of Ephesians 5:25-27 where Paul wrote, “Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

This beauty, this new city, is as the beauty of precious stones. It is made of “pure gold” (Rev. 21:18). Even “the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass” (Rev. 21:21). And it is “garnished with all manner of precious stones” (jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprasus, jacinth, and amethyst) (Rev. 21:19-20), “and the twelve gates were twelve pearls” (Rev. 21:21). Such stones have been emblems of glory and beauty from the beginning. In Eden we read of gold, bdellium, and onyx stone (Gen. 2:11-12). As “a river went out of Eden” (Gen. 2:10), so also out of this city is “a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Rev. 22:1). Jesus said, “I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely” (Rev. 21:6). As in Eden there was “the tree of life” (Gen. 2:9), so also by this heavenly river is “the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” (Rev. 22:2).

This city is beautiful, above all, because God is there, and because there we will be with God. “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God” (Rev. 21:3); “the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof” (Rev. 21:22-23); “and they shall see his face” (Rev. 22:4). To see the face of God? How beautiful heaven must be!



Hear

• Romans 10:17



Believe

• Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16



Repent

• Acts 17:30



Confess

• Matthew 16:16



Be Baptized

• Acts 2:38

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 28 – Song Service
- Aug 1-3 – Tent Meeting in Lansing
- Aug 4 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell