



**Today's Sermons**  
 Morning: "...With Christ"  
 Afternoon: Pure Religion

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	41
Sunday AM Worship	50
Sunday PM Worship	31
Wed. Bible Study	37
Offering	\$1727

## Christians Growing in Christ's Will

Christians growing in Christ will . . .

**ADD THE CHRISTIAN GRACES**  
2 Peter 2:5-8

**PRAY REGULARLY**  
1 Thessalonians 5:17

**READ, STUDY, & MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD**  
2 Timothy 2:15

**BE FAITHFUL IN ATTENDING THE SERVICES**  
Hebrews 10:25

**PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER EVERY SUNDAY**  
Acts 20:7

**GO ABOUT DOING GOOD FOR OTHERS**  
Acts 10:38

**VISIT THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED**  
James 1:27

**GIVE OF HIS MEANS TO SUPPORT THE WORK**  
1 Corinthians 16:1-2

**BE ACTIVE IN WORK OF LOCAL CONGREGATION**  
Titus 3:1

**ENDEAVOR TO BRING OTHERS TO CHRIST**  
Matthew 28:19-20

Barner Bible Charts



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 XII      September 8, 2019      Number 36

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!**

**DENOMINATIONS DO NOT MAKE UP THE CHURCH**  
 Ivie Powell

By turning to the Bible, can you find the Baptist Church, Methodist Church, Episcopalian Church, Jehovah Witness Church, Mormon Church, Presbyterian Church or any other denomination?

One would think as often as people use the word "church" they would know its meaning, but that is not necessarily the case. Many think the church is the building. Still others think in terms of entertainment and recreation. Probably the great majority believe the church is a denomination among denominations. The reason there is so much confusion regarding the church can be attributed to many factors, such as prejudice, pride, laziness and ignorance. So imbedded is denominationalism in the hearts of people that it has blinded them to the simplicity of un-denominational, pre-denominational, New Testament Christianity.

What then is the church? The word "church" appears in the Bible eighty-one times and "churches" thirty-seven times. As stated, the vast majority of religious people think in terms of a denomination when the word church is mentioned. So entrenched is the concept that it is extremely

*Continued Inside*

difficult to disassociate the two in their thinking. Guy N. Woods well defined the word church when he wrote:

The word “church” in our English translations is the rendering of the Greek word ecclesia (pronounced ek-la-sia), from ek, signifying “out of” and kaleo, “to call” thus, literally, “to call out.” It is used in the New Testament to designate the body of people which, in full and free response to the preaching of Jesus as Lord believed his word and obeyed his will. The steps, particularly taken in this response to him are faith (Jno. 8:24); repentance (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38); confession (Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37); and baptism in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). (Guy N. Woods, “What Is The Church?,” The Spiritual Sword, Vol. 1, No.4, July 1970).

The term “denomination” when applied to religious groups has reference to division. Thus the concept of “choosing the church of your choice.” Of course, such a choice is totally against the prayer of our Lord when He prayed for the unity of believers (John 17:20-21). Religious division was also condemned by Paul in First Corinthians 1:10, “Now I beseech you, brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” Therefore, denominationalism is inherently sinful and exists in direct opposition to the teaching of Christ and His apostles!

The view that the church is made up of all denominations is totally without any scriptural support! As pointed out by Guy N. Woods:

All denominational bodies have arisen centuries this side of the apostolic age and thus sustain no relation to the body of Christ. ... This simple historic fact should not be overlooked that all religious denominations, having originated since the close of the apostolic age, are too recent to be the church of which our Lord spoke when he said, “Upon this rock I will build my church (Matt. 16:18).” Questions and Answers, Guy N. Woods, pp. 205,206).

The religious world has for years advocated “unity in diversity” which is not only a contradiction of terms, but without biblical support! The facts are that denominationalism creates division; promotes agnosticism, and in many cases atheism!

Pause and give careful consideration to the following questions: By turning to the Bible, can you find the Baptist Church, Methodist Church, Episcopalian Church, Jehovah Witness Church, Mormon Church, Presbyterian Church or any other denomination? On the other hand, by turning to the Bible, can one find the church of Christ (Rom. 16:16)?

Every diligent student of the Bible knows that none of the apostles were members of any denomination. It takes something more than the Bible or less than the Bible to be a member of a denomination (divided, division)! However, to become a Christian, one must simply follow the Bible!

The church of our Lord came into existence on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ as recorded in Acts 2. On that day about 3,000 were baptized “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), and the Lord added them to the church (Acts 2:47, all the saved are in the church). Observe, carefully, please, that their obedience to the gospel did NOT produce one single denomination! They simply became Christians, members of the body of Christ.

Beloved, if responsible people today will do exactly as they did on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), they will become Christians, members of the church of Christ, the body of Christ, and not a denomination!

---

*“O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” (Psalm 8).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 8 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Sept 29 – Song Service
- Oct 6 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell