



Today's Sermons

Morning: Then Christ Died in Vain
Evening: TBA

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	36
Sunday AM Worship	45
Sunday PM Worship	33
Wed. Bible Study	31
Offering	\$1451

What Will Happen When Christ Comes Again?

- THE TRUMPET OF GOD WILL SOUND
1 Thessalonians 4:16
- A GREAT SHOUT WILL BE HEARD FROM THE ARCHANGEL
1 Thessalonians 4:14
- CHRIST WILL APPEAR IN THE CLOUDS AND EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM
Revelation 1:7
- THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD WILL BE RESURRECTED AND STAND WITH CHRIST IN THE AIR
1 Thessalonians 4:14



"EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS."

Revelation 22:20



- FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS ON THE EARTH WILL RISE INTO THE AIR TO BE WITH CHRIST
1 Thessalonians 4:17
- VENGEANCE WILL BE TAKEN ON "THEM THAT KNOW NOT GOD"
1 Thessalonians 1:7-9
- THE HEAVENS WILL PASS AWAY WITH A GREAT NOISE
2 Peter 3:10
- THE ELEMENTS AND THE EARTH WILL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT
1 Thessalonians 4:14



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 December 1, 2019 Number 48

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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!**

ELDERS – MEN OF SPIRITUAL CHARACTER
Bill Jackson, deceased

If one reads in Acts 2, with the establishment of the church, and reads the New Testament in order, he will learn of the existence of the leadership, of their work and responsibilities, and of their being over the saints in the work of the Lord. He will be missing the details as to the life and character qualities God expects, until he comes to the epistles of Timothy and Titus. It is not our purpose to examine each qualification and give a treatment of it [see 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 for the specific qualifications, *rdc*]. Rather, we want to see the character God envisions, in the overall. Regarding the qualifications:

(1) There is but one Christian character. All who belong to God are to be of that character, whether male or female, young or old. We have stated the express words, in 1 Timothy and Titus, and when men notice that the 1 Timothy list is slightly longer, they dare not assume "*contradiction*." In fact, in the fullest defining of some of the character qualities, there would be an overlapping. But since there is the one Christian character, we can know that the men who are vigilant, of good behavior, patient, controlled, with proper view of this world's goods, experienced in the faith and with a good report from non-members (1 Timothy), would also be the men who are just, holy, temperate, loving good, not self-willed and not soon angry (Titus). Our point is further made in

Continued Inside

realizing that in the definitions of some of the words, as "*vigilant*" (1 Timothy), we find the word "*temperate*," which is also used in Titus 1.

Likewise, when one reads the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5), and then the graces for the Christian's life (2 Peter 1), there is some variance in the wording between the two, but there is no contradiction. One who has the graces of 2 Peter 1 will bear the fruit of Galatians 5, and vice versa.

(2) Focusing on the men, the elements of Christian character stated for an elder are to be in all Christian men. Notice we said, "*elements of character*," for it is clear that a faithful Christian man may be single, may be a new convert, and, due to his newness in the faith, have as yet no skills in teaching. There is one point of emphasis here: A man in the church may not possess the elements of Christian character due to his just beginning in the faith, or due to carelessness and neglect, or due to outright sin in his life – but an elder MUST have these qualities in life, else he cannot serve as an elder!

(3) Blamelessness – Clearly, the Lord is not stating that, for one to become an elder, he must be some kind of "*super-human*," never making a mistake. Whoever is selected has made mistakes, and will make some in the future. The word refers to the examining of one's life, and finding no cause for reproach, there being no glaring character defect. Surely most of God's children are blameless in life, and indeed, it is required of each and every child of God (Philippians 2:15). Once more, any member of the church, through their own fault, might not be blameless, but an elder MUST be!

(4) A word on "desire" – Actually, to "*reach for, try to gain*" something. No man should be appointed who has no desire to serve, but that's true concerning an elder, deacons, preacher, or Bible class teacher. We should have a desire to serve in whatever capacity we undertake. We hasten to point out that through growth, understanding of the work of the kingdom and the eldership, encouragement given to men, etc., proper desire is developed within one. It is far, far better to have that desire thus developed by growth, encouragement and urging of faithful brethren, than for a man to have "*desire*" on his own and then begin "running for the office."

(5) The "faithful" children – Remember, as we have seen, that an elder is one who is older, has been in the faith for such time as to have manifest Christian character in all of its qualities, and has such abilities as to teach through exhorting the flock and convicting the gainsayer of his sin. The word "*faithful*" in Titus 1:6 ["*faithful children*," *rdc*] is used throughout the New Testament to refer to those "*faithful in Christ*." There is no doubt, in view of the above, that God desired men who had demonstrated in their own homes, and in their own children, the ability to teach and lead them into the Christ, and thus the "*faithful children*" are those who are obedient to the gospel.

(6) Wives and children – We do not believe that it is an accident that, in the context wherein elders and deacons are mentioned, a word is given concerning "*wives*" [1 Timothy 3:11, *rdc*]. A point has already been made concerning elders' children. The Bible does not teach a double-standard – indeed, there is but one Christian character. However, wives and children should live their lives with an awareness of their husband/father's position, and not desiring to adversely reflect upon the husband and/or father should help motivate one in godly living. Would we not expect the same, even in secular matters? The mayor's wife and children have the same citizenship standard before them as does everyone else, but I would expect them mayor's family of all people, to understand what is involved and to conduct themselves respectful of his position. The chief of police's family come under the same obligation to be law-abiding as does everyone else, but I would expect his family, of all people, to live in accord with the law, being mindful of his position. Should we expect less in God's Kingdom, of the families of elders and deacons?

One other word: there is no New Testament office of "*elder's wife*." He must have a wife, but she remains just that: his wife. The godly woman recognizes this, and would neither have an "*officious*" [meddlesome, *rdc*] air, nor would she find herself speaking "*for*" her husband. Her role remains that of an helpmeet to him, and especially supportive in view of the added responsibility he now has. [*Elders – Those Who Watch over Souls*, pp. 13-17].

“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears” (Acts 20:27-31).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dec 1 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Dec 6 – Holiday Get-Together at the Powers' @ 5ish
- Dec 8 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship (Song Service)
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Jim Winters