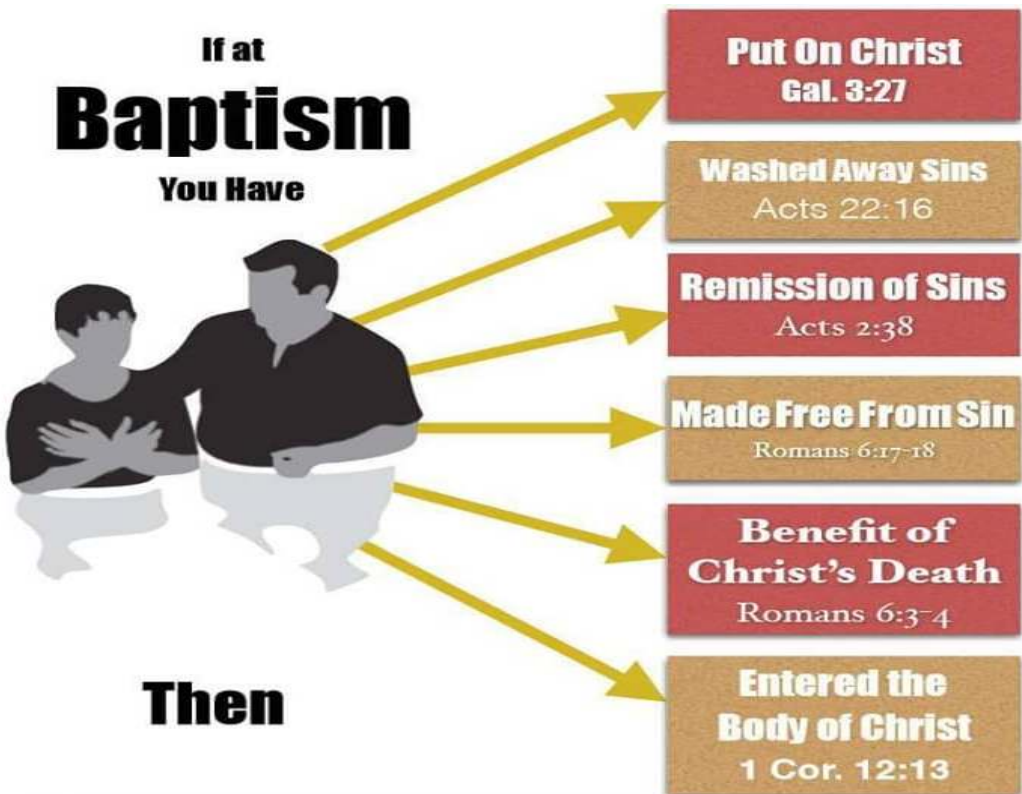


**Today's Sermons**  
 Morning: Have Mercy on Us!  
 Evening: TBA

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	35
Sunday AM Worship	42
Sunday PM Worship	20
Wed. Bible Study	6
Offering	\$1762



**What is Your Condition *WITHOUT* Baptism?**

Romans 6:23	James 1:22	1 John 3:21-22
Romans 10:16	Mark 16:16	1 Peter 4:17-18



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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!**

**THE COST OF OUR SALVATION**  
 Roger D. Campbell

The Bible is a message about "*the salvation which is in Christ Jesus*" (2 Timothy 2:10). By sin, man becomes lost and separated from God (Isaiah 59:1,2). Thanks to the Lord's grace, man can be saved from his lost and helpless state by means of Jesus, Who came into the world "*that the world through him might be saved*" (John 3:17).

Yes, the grace of God brings salvation, and that salvation is available to all people of all races (Titus 2:11). Jesus is the provider of salvation to all those that obey Him (Hebrews 5:9). The Bible even says that eternal life is "*the gift of God*" (Romans 6:23). Though salvation is a gift, a gift which a person can receive only by complying with the Lord's conditions, it certainly was a costly gift. Just what costs are involved in God's scheme to save you and me from sin?

First of all, salvation was costly to **God the Father**. He gave up His only Begotten Son in order that sinners might be saved. "*For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son . . .*" (John 3:16). It is also written of the Father, "*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things*" (Romans 8:32). Make no mistake about it, God's love for you and me, and His desire to see us saved, was costly to Him – it cost Him His Son.

*Continued Inside*

Our salvation was also costly to **Jesus, God the Son**. "*For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich*" (2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus, by giving up the glory that He had shared in heaven with the Father from eternity (John 17:5), forfeited spiritual wealth in order to provide and secure our salvation. Jesus Himself said, "*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep . . . and I lay down my life for the sheep . . . I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself . . .*" (John 10:11,15,17,18). Only because of the willing sacrifice of the Christ, is salvation available to mankind. Our salvation cost Jesus His life. If you and I are truly grateful for what Jesus did, then we will be willing to commit ourselves to Him and to do His will, regardless of what that might involve.

Salvation was costly to a number of the **Early Saints**, too. The Christians of the first century were neither the source nor the means of our salvation. Yet, many of them lost some things due to their commitment to the Lord and His salvation. Their devotion to Jesus cost them dearly. For some, like Stephen (Acts 7), it cost them their lives. The salvation of others cost them their close association with friends (1 Peter 4:3,4). For others, their enemies were those of their own family (Matthew 10:36). The attitude that the apostle Paul exemplified was truly a commendable one. Before his conversion, Paul was in a high position in the Jewish religion (Judaism), but once he became a member of the Lord's church, in order to be true to the Lord that saved him, he gave up a lot. "*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ*" (Philippians 3:8). Paul's outlook was that, though he may have "lost" some things by becoming a Christian, his faithful service to Jesus would make him "a winner."

The salvation that is available in God's Son is also costly to another group of people. Whom might that be? **Any faithful child of God living today** also lives with the reality that following the Master is costly. Jesus said that following Him requires denying self and taking up one's cross daily (Luke 9:23). Our Lord further declared, "*So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple*" (Luke 14:33). The "forsaking" of which the Lord spoke in this case points to a proper arrangement of priorities. When God's children make His affairs the most important ones in their lives, this may cost them some friends (even in the church!) or close association with family members. The salvation of God and our commitment to it might cost some

members of God's church their jobs, their favorite recreational activity, their indecent clothing, or other matters or material things that they give up for His Cause. For sure, being a devoted disciple of Jesus will cost us time, energy, and money. Indeed, salvation has its costs.

Thanks be to the Godhead for all that the Father, Son, and Spirit have done in order to make our salvation from sin possible. We do not deserve such kindness, nor can we merit or earn it. However, we sure can enjoy it, be grateful for it, be devoted to the Giver of it, and joyfully tell others about it! Let us never let a day pass without expressing to our heavenly Father just how much we truly appreciate the sacrifices which were made to bring about our salvation.

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*“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?  
by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With  
my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not  
wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I  
hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.  
Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.  
With my lips have I declared all the judgments of  
thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy  
testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate  
in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I  
will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget  
thy word” (Psalm 119:9-16).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Family Game Night indefinitely postponed.
- April 5 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- April 12 - Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Service (Song Service)
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Jim Winters