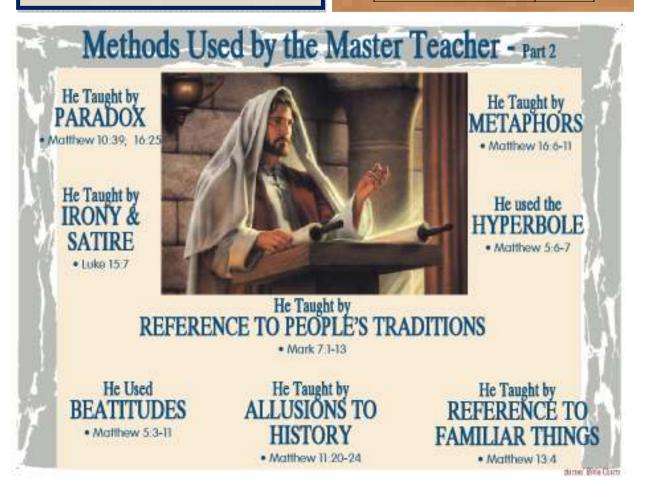
Today's Sermons

Morning: Facing the Facts Evening: No Services

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4	FOR THE RECOR	RD
	Sunday Bible Study	17
	Sunday AM Worship	20
	Sunday PM Worship	n/s
	Wed. Bible Study	4
	Offering	\$1206





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West Jefferson Church of Christ

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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 WKSK
93.5 FM

We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!

ETERNAL LIFE

Bill Boyd

Man was made for eternal life. This life was his in the beginning, but when man chose sin, the life he had in Eden was taken from him and spiritually, he was dead (Gen. 2-3). The life that was lost in the garden is restored in Christ. "In him was life" John said (John 1:4), and Jesus said "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

There is a sense in which eternal life is spoken of as a future reward for "the righteous" (Matt. 25:46) that they will receive "in the world to come" (Mark 10:30), and therefore "he that soweth of the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Gal. 6:8). In this sense the righteous have eternal life in promise. Jesus died that "they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15). "This is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life" (1 John 2:25). Therefore we have eternal life in hope. Paul wrote to Titus "in hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2) and told him that being justified by grace we are made "heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7).

Continued Inside

But there is more to eternal life than eternal existence. Having been made spiritual beings in the image of God we will all exist eternally, but for some, this will be "eternal punishment" (Matt. 25:46). The eternal life Christ brings to us is not just eternal in duration, but it is also eternal in its qualities. The eternal qualities of eternal life are the qualities of the spiritual life we now have in Christ. That is why some passages speak of eternal life as a present possession. "God hath given to us eternal life," John wrote, "and this life is in his Son" (John 5:11). "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36). Jesus himself said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

God hath blessed us with "All spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). These spiritual blessings include the fellowship we have with God (1 John 1:3), the love of God that is shed abroad in our hearts (Rom. 5:5), the joy unspeakable and full of glory that comes by love and faith (1 Peter 1:8), the peace of God which passeth understanding (Phil. 4:7), the love of the brethren (1 John 3:14), and all the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). These blessings are eternal in nature and they constitute the eternal qualities of our spiritual life in Christ.

Someday we will physically die and leave all our temporal earthly blessings behind, but the eternal spiritual blessings we have in Christ will remain ours in eternity. This is what Jesus was speaking of when he said to Martha, "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:26); and, this is what Paul was writing about when he wrote in 1 Timothy 4:8, "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

How does one become a member of the church of Christ?

In the salvation of man's soul there are 2 necessary parts: God's part and man's part. God's part is the big part, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift if God; not of works, that no man should glory" (Ephesians 2:8-9). The love which God felt for man led him to send Christ into the world to redeem man. The life and teaching of Jesus, the sacrifice on the cross, and the proclaiming of the gospel to men constitute God's part in salvation.

Though God's part is the big part, man's part is also necessary if man is to reach heaven. Man must comply with the conditions of pardon which the Lord has announced. Man's part can clearly set forth in the following steps:

Hear the Gospel "How shall they call on him whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14).

Believe "And without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Repent of past sins "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent" (Acts 17:30).

Confess Jesus as Lord "Behold here is water; What doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, if thou believeth with all thy heart thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:36-37).

Be baptized for the remission of sins "And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Live a Christian life "Ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you" (Philippians 3:12-15).

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