

### Today's Sermons

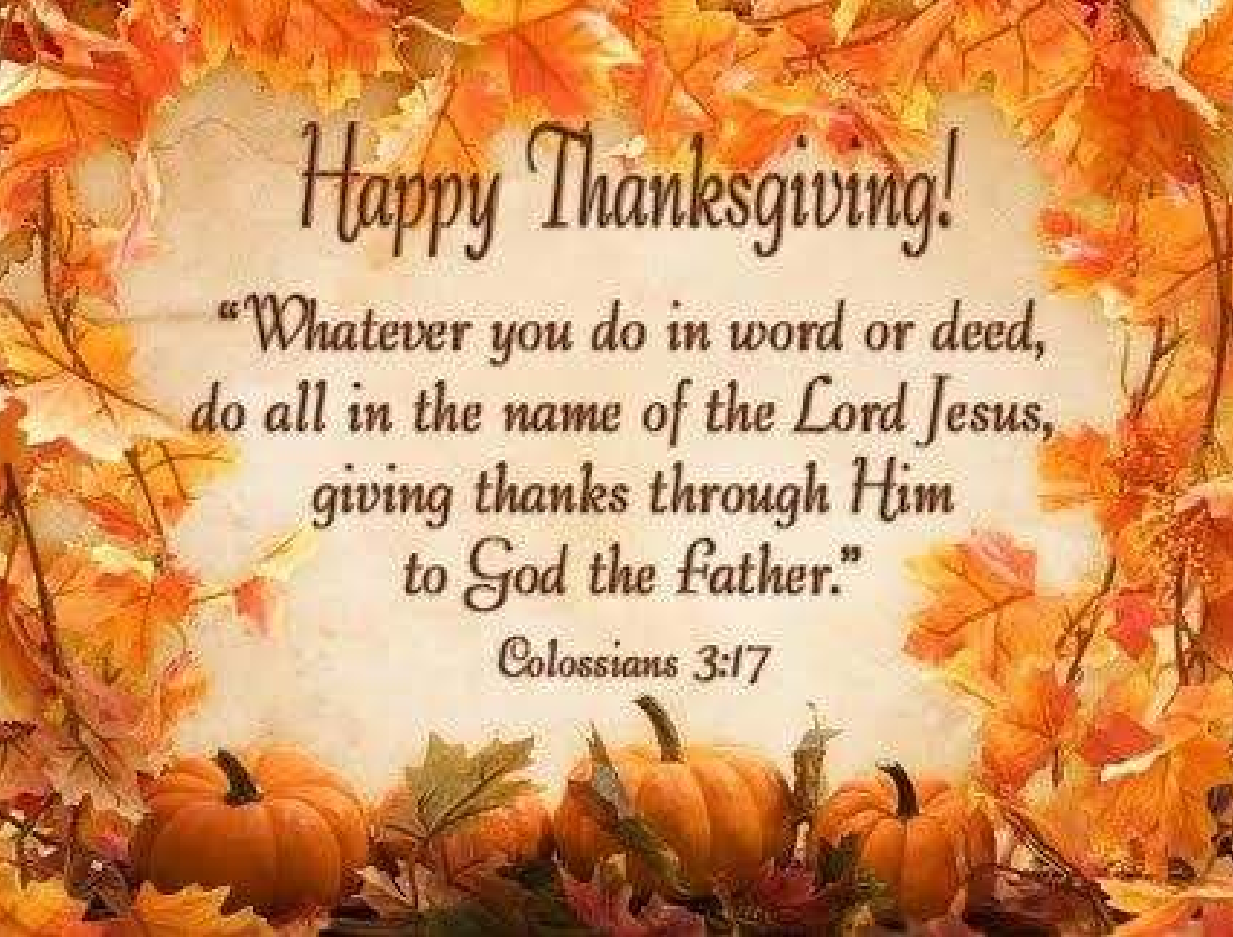
Morning: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Evening: Prayer Service

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	23
Sunday AM Worship	36
Sunday PM Worship	22
Wed. Bible Study	14
Offering	\$1481



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 XIII November 22, 2020 Number 47

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 WSKK  
93.5 FM

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

### Better Felt Than Told

by Terry Caldwell

The past few decades have seen an increase in emphasis placed on listening to what goes on in our minds and "hearts" to determine what is right and wrong. The problem with that is that each person will apply a different standard to their life and who is to say that what works for one person is right or wrong for someone else.

In religion this has long been a premise accepted in more than one system of belief. The idea that we possess the ability to guide ourselves and discover ultimate truth leads to more questions than answers. When we turn to the scriptures we find that God revealed his will to man to eliminate this confusion and in spite of that, many insist on being led by how they feel.

I have heard religious folks state that their experience of being a Christian and being saved is "better felt than told" meaning they had an experience beyond their ability to explain that confirms they are a child of God. When we turn to the scriptures we find that God's word is never based on ideas that humans have and it does not involve mysterious experiences that cannot be described when it comes to knowing that we are serving God. Solomon writes, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25). Jeremiah also adds to that, stating, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). In order to determine if we are correct we need to understand that God's revelation and commands came from God, not humans. They

*Continued Inside*

are external to us and our way of thinking. Isaiah also comments on this when he states, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Is. 55:8-9). Peter tells us that what we have in the scriptures is not by the will of man but was revealed by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21). Paul also states that all scripture has come about by the inspiration of God (2 Tim. 3:16). That removes the human factor. We also find that throughout the scriptural narrative, mankind never knew the will or mind of God outside of external divine revelation (1 Cor. 2:11). During the Patriarchal period God spoke to the heads of households. During the period governed by the Law of Moses, there were prophets and priests who were active but the Law was written down for them to read. In the New Testament we find that the final revelation of God was revealed and recorded once and for all (Jude 3).

Having done that, we find that all who responded to the Gospel are those who heard the word preached or read the word that had been written by inspired men who recorded the message of the Spirit. Nowhere in the scriptures do we find anyone knowing they were converted through some vision or experience. The apostle Paul in Acts chapter 9 was instructed by Christ to go to Damascus and wait until he was told what to do. Ananias was then sent to teach Paul, or Saul as he was known at the time, to obey. Cornelius the centurion’s prayers rose before God as a memorial that the time to reveal the word to the Gentiles had come. An angel appeared to Cornelius, which was quite an experience in itself, but was instructed to send for Peter who would tell him what he needed to know (Acts 10). The experience that each of these examples shows is that there was always an external factor involved in conversion. It did not just happen out of the blue, so to speak, and was rooted in the rational and objective delivery of God’s word to those who were listening. Paul places emphasis on this as he tells the Ephesians, “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand me knowledge in the mystery of Christ” (Eph. 3:4).

As we point out, the experience of hearing or reading the Gospel may do as much to discomfort us when we realize we are outside the saving grace of God (Heb. 4:12). When we read, understand and obey, we will achieve the peace of mind that some claim to have, but not until then.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nov 22 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Dec 6 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Dec 13 – Preach-N-Eat and 1:30 Worship (Song Service)
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

## “Be Strong in the Lord”

by Don Walker

The struggles of Christianity are manifold, indeed. The challenge to be pure and Christ-like in a hellish world sometimes may even seem to be overwhelming. Yet, even in the face of conflict Christ says, “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). We must overcome the devil’s devices, whether they are manifested in the onslaught of an army or the pettiness of little people (Rev. 3:21).

Because the world is what it is and the climate in the brotherhood can be hostile at times, Paul’s desire for the Colossians has great significance even today. His desire for those brethren was that they might be “increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness” (Col. 1:10-11).

In verse 9 Paul desired that they would “be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.” There are so many things that can be accomplished with knowledge of God’s Word. It provides faith (Rom. 10:17), equips us to overcome temptation (Matt. 4:10), builds us up and gives us an inheritance among the sanctified (Acts 20:32), and it can save our souls (James 1:21). It is also through His Word we become strengthened to fulfill responsibility. It helps us to bear trials, resist temptation, discharge our Christian duty, and live a life of faith—all of which are necessary to be Christ’s. It also will lead to our maintain fellowship with our God and a recognition that behind our victories and blessings we find God’s glorious power. He grants the victory for His people in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 2:14).

Yet, all of this should lead to patience, longsuffering with joyfulness. Patience is the Greek word *hupomonē* and deals with endurance, with respect to things. The man who is patient, when under a great siege of trials, who bears up and does not lose heart or courage. Romans 5:3 tells us “tribulation worketh patience.” No wonder James says to rejoice in the face of trials (James 1:2-4).

Longsuffering, on the other hand, is the Greek word *makrothumia*, and it deals with endurance in respect to persons. The longsuffering man, when having to deal with injurious persons, does not suffer himself easily to be provoked by them, or to blaze up in anger. The danger, however, is to be overcome, even when we do maintain patience and longsuffering, with gloominess or sourness of disposition.

The remedy, therefore, is joyfulness, so that the Christian is able to meet all of his trials with a buoyant sense of mastery. We must be in control and maintain a joyfulness in all situations (Phil. 4:4). Satan will attack constantly and in many different ways. We each must be aware and prepared as we study our Bibles more and more.

.....  
*“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).*