

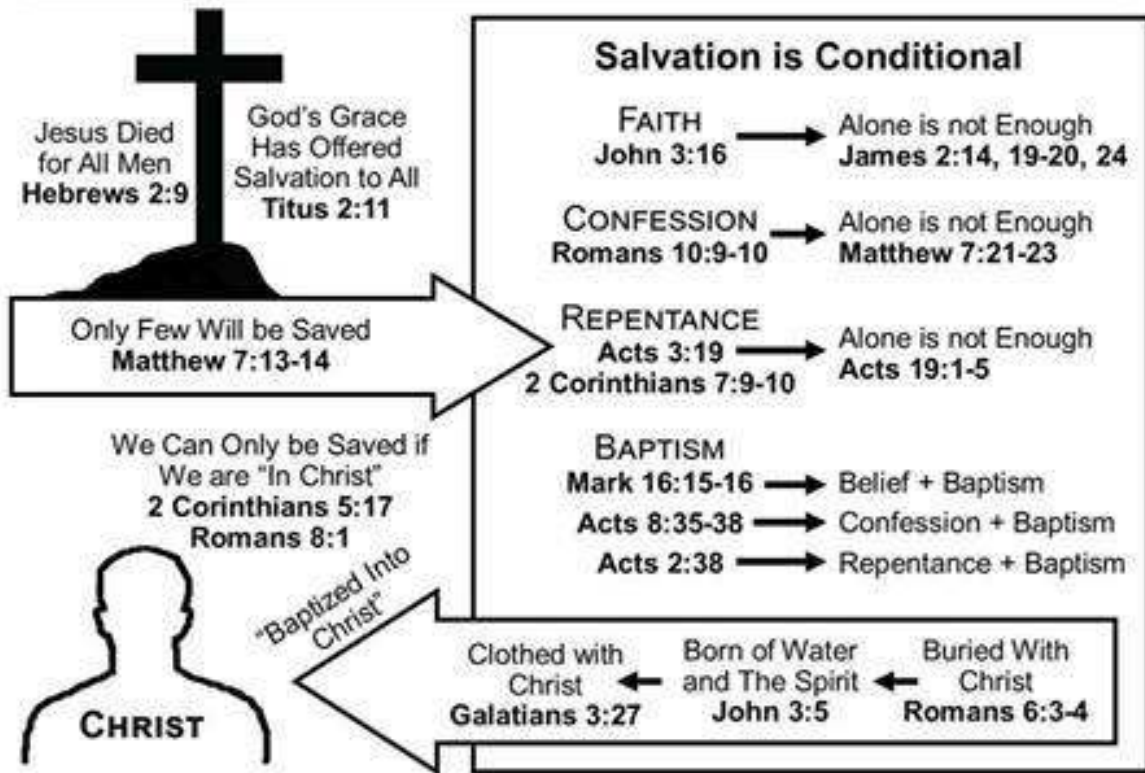
Today's Sermons
 Morning: I AM the True Vine
 Evening: Prayer Service

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	18
Sunday AM Worship	47
Sunday PM Worship	20
Wed. Bible Study	18
Offering	\$1593

Know What You Need To Do



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West Jefferson Church of Christ
 130 Robert Street
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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 WSKK
 93.5 FM

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

A LOVE FOR THE TRUTH

Bob Spurlin

The most compelling need of our day is a love for the truth. Unfortunately there is a deficiency in this regard that is woefully lacking. As a boy my father, grandfather, brothers, and I would go to Bentley's Barber Shop in Hartselle, AL, to get a haircut. My grandfather, J. F. Dean, was an elder in the church and was recognized as a walking Bible. Occasionally, at the barber shop a question would be raised about some Bible related subject. My grandfather would reply, "the Bible says so and so," and then he would quote the pertinent Scripture. As a child my memory was clear regarding how silent that place of business became when he finished his answer. The presentation of truth silenced the questioner and convicted the hearts of those present. Beloved, there was a day when men and women would shudder at the truth and/or tremble at the spoken Word (Heb. 4:12; Acts 24:25). How do we show our love for the truth? Initially, we should love hearing the truth or gospel proclaimed (Eph. 4:15; Acts 2:41). This writer has noticed over the last ten to fifteen years a lack of appreciation for the truth and the majesty of God's written Word. One brother told

Continued Inside

a gospel preacher that he should watch what he said because there were sectarian people in the audience. One even remarked that he should not speak on religious error due to certain people being present. Wonder how Peter or Paul would preach today? Would they simply slap people on the back, shake their hands, and then declare some philosophical jargon? Most Bible students know better. If we truly love the truth then joy will soar in our hearts as the spoken Word is preached. A love of the truth will cause us to crave and hunger for it like a fine meal (Mat. 5:6). Solomon said, “Buy the truth, and sell it not” (Pro. 23:23). A love for the truth will cause us to submit to it (Jam. 4:7-8). Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). A love for the truth will also cause one to live it to the uttermost. There can be no greater challenge for our love of the truth than living it daily. Paul said, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phi. 1:21). Jesus was the personification of truth and truly exemplified how we should conduct our lives. Luke wrote his second treatise to Theophilus and said, “All that Jesus began both to do and teach” (Acts 1:1). Paul said, “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Phi. 1:27—ASV). Friend, a love for the truth is not only the purpose of our being, but everlasting life will be the result of a faithful life.

A “Convenient” God

Dub McClish

Two or three generations ago the vast majority of Americans believed in the one true and living God, Whose existence the universe declares (Psa. 19:1-2) and Whose nature and will the Bible reveals (2 Tim. 3:16-17). These percentages have steadily changed so most of our countrymen now seem to give little thought to God in any sincere way. The bulk of professed believers seem little more than practical atheists. They live as though God does not exist, but they want always to keep God handy—just in case they might need Him. Otherwise, they obviously care nothing for His and His Son’s Divine will. They do not want to be bothered with any of His mandates, laws, commandments, rules, or restrictions, clearly set forth in the Bible. “Yes, God and Jesus, I believe in You, but don’t get in the way of my drinking, shooting up drugs, fornicating, lying, stealing, fighting, or anything else I want to do.” The most common mention of God nowadays is not in pulpits by preachers. He is now memorialized several million times a day in the irreverent, blasphemous,

Vulgar exclamation, “Oh my God!” Clearly, those who thus mouth God’s name do not do so with any intent to honor or exalt that high and holy appellation. Rather, they seem utterly unaware (and unconcerned) that they are even referring to the Almighty in this exercise in profanity. Such ignoble folk treat the name of Jesus with similar flippancy. These expressions trivialize and dishonor these sacred names, and the Beings they identify. Many find it convenient to invoke God’s name to feign piety, which they do not possess. Some speak of God or Jesus to enhance reputation or career. “I’m praying for you” falls all too easily from the lips of many who do not know the meaning of prayer and whose lives testify that they care nothing for God, if they even believe in Him. It is disgusting to hear an irreligious, sacrilegious, or downright hedonistic congressman or president piously say, “God bless you” or “God bless America.” Such political pandering and posturing might be amusing were it not so nauseating. They thus invoke God’s name as a convenient means to further their vain and selfish ends. These behaviors are but symptoms of the awful moral and spiritual apostasy that characterizes our nation today. Men will be held accountable for the everlasting principle: “Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain; for Jehovah will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain” (Exo. 20:7). “Using” God as a convenience for our selfish ends will be justly, appropriately rewarded.

“Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus; And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more” (II Corinthians 7:6-7).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NOTE: Preach-N-Eat for April has been canceled, we will resume May 2
- Mar 28 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Apr 4 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- April 11 – 6:00 pm Worship and Song Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell