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**FOR THE RECORD**

Sunday Bible Study	22
Sunday AM Worship	32
Sunday PM Worship	20
Wed. Bible Study	15
Offering	\$1620



A Weekly Publication of the  
**West Jefferson Church of Christ**  
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 Volume XIV April 4, 2021 Number 14

Minister:

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**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!**

**SHOW TIME OR WORSHIP?**

- Ivie Powell

Church buildings were once looked upon as places of worship. Now these same structures are viewed as places that "meet the needs" of the whole person. Many religious groups are marketing their church through means of recreation and entertainment. Everything to accommodate the family including "Family Life Centers" (gyms) to playgrounds is on the "drawing card" for the 21st century church. The mega-churches have really gone all out to capitalize on the craving for modern man: Theaters, bowling alleys, cafes, and large auditoriums to accommodate the "gospel" rock groups to entertain the young people which draws thousands to satisfy the flesh.

The instrument (piano, organ) which made its entrance into the assembly without Scriptural authorization (Col. 3:17) has now expanded to orchestras. Not only are people entertained by choruses, and solos, now drama and dance have been accepted in many places as acceptable expressions of "worship."

*Continued Inside*

"This is love, that we walk according to  
 His commandments. This is the  
 commandment, that as you have heard  
 from the beginning, you should walk in it"  
 2 John 1:6



Friends, there simply is no Scriptural authorization for recreation and entertainment as a work of the church! The only drawing power that has heaven's approval is the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16). Some have attempted to justify the use of dramatic reading, drama and dance as simply a method of presenting the Gospel. This cannot be the case for the following reasons:

1. In order for any method to be used it must first and foremost be Scriptural. Dramatic reading, drama and dance fail the test since there is no authorization for them in the Scriptures (Col. 3:17)! It isn't unusual after a "performance" that many will burst forth in a resounding applause. Actually, these things cheapen worship; making it a spectator event, and takes away the praise and honor due only to the Almighty!

2. All worship must be directed to God "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24) and not for the purpose of elevating or exalting man! The simplicity of God-approved worship consists of Singing praises unto God (Eph. 5:19, without the use of instruments of music), Prayers (Acts 2:42), Preaching (Acts 2:42), partaking of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-29; Acts 20:7), and Giving of one's means as God has prospered them (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Remember, friends, additions to God-ordained worship results in "vain worship" that God rejects (Matt. 15:8-9; Gal. 2:21-23)!

John informs us of the great AWE (reverence) demonstrated in heaven toward Almighty God when he wrote: "...And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshiped him that liveth forever and ever. ... And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders, and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God" (Rev.5:14; 7:11). My friends, the atmosphere of the assembly must reflect Him whose presence we are to honor and praise!

As we enter the assembly let us remember we are in the presence of God. We are not there for a show or to be entertained, but to worship the great I AM (Exodus 3:14). His holiness, His greatness, His goodness, and His severity, demands we worship Him and Him alone "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24)!

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*"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."*  
(I Peter 4:11).

B.C. Goodpasture: "It is not the mission of the church to furnish amusement for the world or even for its own members. Innocent amusement in proper proportion has its place in the life of all normal persons, but it is not the business of the church to furnish it. The church would come off a poor second if it undertook to compete with institutions established for the express purpose of entertaining people. It would make itself ridiculous if it entered into such competition. Again, it is not the responsibility of the church as such to furnish recreation for its members. A certain amount of recreation is necessary to the health and happiness of the individual . . . but it is not the function of the church to furnish the play. The church was not established to furnish athletics..."

"For the church to turn aside from its divine work to furnish amusement and recreation is to pervert its mission. It is to degrade its mission. Amusement and recreation should stem from the home rather than the church. The church, like Nehemiah, has a great work to do; and it should not come down on the plains of Ono to amuse and entertain. As the church turns its attention to amusement and recreation, it will be shorn of its power as Samson was when his hair was cut. Only as the church becomes worldly, as it pillows its head on the lap of Delilah, will it want to turn from its wonted course to relatively unimportant matters. Imagine Paul selecting and training a group of brethren to compete in the Isthmian games!" (Gospel Advocate, May 20, 1948, p. 484)

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*"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"*  
(I John 3:7-8).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NOTE: Preach-N-Eat for April has been canceled, we will resume May 2
- Apr 4 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Apr 11 – 6:00 pm Worship and Song Service
- Apr 25 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell