

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

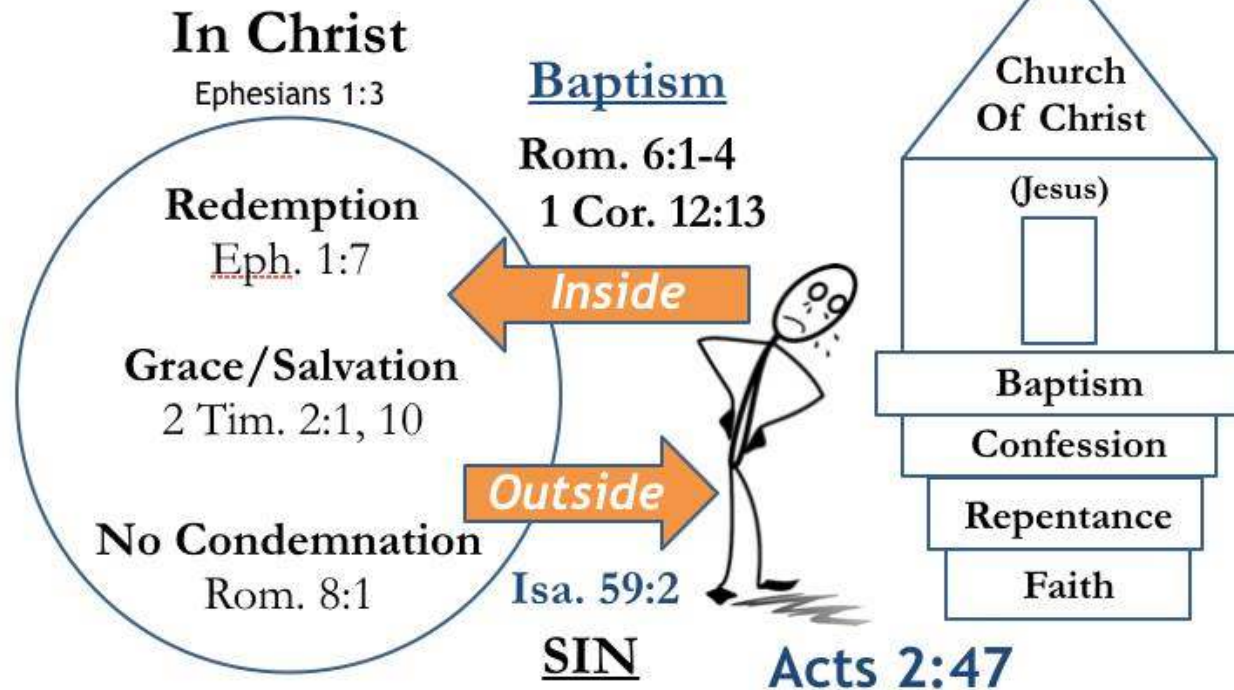
Visit Us At:
www.wjchurchofchrist.org
 For Audio Lessons,
 Past Bulletins, Bible Studies
 & More
 Wireless Internet Password:
 94615548

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	16
Sunday AM Worship	22
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wed. Bible Study	18
Offering	\$1645

Church of Christ
 Body of Christ

- Eph. 4:4 - One Body
- Eph. 1:22-23 - Body = Church



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
 Volume XIV May 16, 2021 Number 20

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 WSKS
 93.5 FM

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

The Mission of the Church

Tim Canup

The Gospel of Jesus Christ has been placed into the hands of the children of God (II Corinthians 4:7) and Jesus has commissioned us to take that Gospel into all the world and preach it to every creature. That, in short, is the mission of the church. In the first century, Paul was able to say that the Gospel had been "preached to every creature which is under heaven" (Colossians 1:23). In Acts 8:4, the inspired record tells us that the first century church, "went every where preaching the word." It has been nearly two thousand years since the death of our Lord and the establishment of His church and the same mission still applies to us. So, how are we doing?

Jesus compared the Word (that is, the Gospel) to seed (Luke 8:11). The soil that will produce what God desires is called the "good ground," which is those with a "good and honest heart" (Luke 8:15). There was a time in this country when that seed was being scattered widely, boldly and without apology. The result was that the Lord's church was the fastest growing religious body in America. Sadly, that is no longer the case. Modern false philosophies have permeated the minds of many people around us and even has crept into the church; the false

Continued Inside

philosophy of post-modernism. This philosophy says that there is no absolute standard; that there is no absolute right or wrong. What may be right for one may not necessarily be so for another (or vice versa). This philosophy has imbedded into the minds of many that no one has the right to tell another they are wrong about anything, especially when it comes to morals and religion. The result, therefore, is that men either have compromised the truth of the Gospel or we have seen a great reduction in those who are willing to respond in obedience to the Gospel.

The fact is the Gospel of Jesus Christ is exclusive; that is, it does not accommodate all that men tend to believe and practice. There have been some (too many) who have felt it necessary to soften the Gospel hoping to remove the “offensive” element from it. They have watered down the soul saving power of God unto salvation! In essence, they have given up the true mission of the church as it was given by God. Without trying to read the motives, it seems as though they are doing so simply to see the addition of numbers. Sadly, many times there is no real conversion. The late brother Thomas Warren used to say, referring to Mark 16:15, that God charged men to preach THE Gospel, not simply to preach a religious message. We cannot compromise the truth in an attempt to keep from offending someone. Remember that Jesus Himself often offended those of His day with the truth (cf. Matthew 13:57, 15:2; and others) and He spoke it in perfect love. When the truth is proclaimed, it will be the case that some will be offended, no matter how it is stated.

God has commanded us to plant and water the seed and He will give the increase (I Corinthians 3:6). It truly can be discouraging to work so hard at planting only to see very little results. Our true mission in preaching the Gospel is looking for those who have an honest heart who will take hold of the truth and allow it to transform them into the image of God. It could be compared to looking for a needle in a haystack. Brethren, let us keep on looking for the honest hearts and never compromise His Gospel merely for numbers. Let us do our part; plant and water and let God do His, that is, give the increase.

.....
“Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

The Sin of Doing Nothing

Frank L. Cox

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). The meaning of this passage is clarified and enforced by some of Jesus’ wonderful lessons.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN (Luke 10:25–37). The sin of the priest and Levite was that of passing by on the other side. The Samaritan commends himself to us because of his compassion and kindness—love in action.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS (Luke 16:19–31). The fault of the rich man consisted not in cruelty but in neglect to minister to the man who had been “laid at his gate.” He did not do the good that was in his power to do (Proverbs 3:27).

THE TEN VIRGINS (Matthew 25:1–13). Though listed among the friends of the bridegroom, the five foolish virgins were barred because they had not prepared themselves for the occasion. The person who does not prepare his heart and life, in harmony with divine direction, will be confined to the darkness of the outside.

THE TALENTS (Matthew 25:14–30). The third servant was not a criminal. He had not been wasteful. He had buried (preserved) that which had been given to him. His sin was the failure to put into circulation the sum that had been entrusted to him.

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS (Matthew 25:31–46). The people on the right side of the throne were blessed because of the deeds of love they had done; the people on the left were lost because they had not rendered service. No man should entertain the idea that the Lord will bless him merely because he does no evil. Positive goodness, as well as negative, is divinely required.

.....
“Vindicate me, Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, And I have trusted in the Lord without wavering” (Psalm 26:1).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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