

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	25
Sunday AM Worship	38
Sunday PM Worship	22
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Offering	\$1656

GOD'S SIMPLE SALVATION PLAN

HEAR
Romans 10-17

BELIEVE
John 8:24

REPENT
Luke 13:3

CONFESS
Matthew 10:32

BAPTISM
Acts 2:38

OBEDIENT UNTIL DEATH
Revelation 2:10



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 November 14, 2021 Number 46

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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!**

GOD'S FAMILY

Tim Canup

The word "church" comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*, which means "called out." The church was prophesied, promised and purchased by the blood of Christ. It is a divine institution. In the New Testament, there are several different designations for the church, such as the kingdom of God or heaven, which describes the governmental aspect of it. There is the designation the body of Christ, which shows the unity, the bride of Christ, showing the intimacy and fidelity, and the house[hold] of God. The designation "house (or household) is used to for family (cf. Acts 16:32-34; I Timothy 3:15). Seeing the church is the family of God, let us notice some things about it.

FEATURES:

We have God as our Father. As our Father, there are several things implied, such as the source of life, provisions and protection. Paul said in Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God & Father of our..." (cf. 3:14; 4:6). Jesus taught us to "call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven" (Matthew 23:9). In teaching the disciples to pray, "...Our Father which art in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9f).

We also see Jesus the Christ as God's Son (John 3:16; Hebrews 3:6) & our elder brother (cf. Matthew 23:8, 25:40). We read in Hebrews 2:11-13 "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is

Continued Inside

not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. ¹³ And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.”

Thus, we are children of God as well (cf. Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 3:26-4:7). We are His children because we have been adopted into the family, “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will” (Ephesians 1:5). Only by being children of God can we be the recipients of His blessings.

BLESSINGS:

As His children we can approach God as Father (Matthew 6:6-9; Hebrews 4:16). Not all people have the same privilege and access to God as does His children. However, every person has the ability to become His child. Then we have Jesus, God’s Son, as our High Priest and Advocate. The purpose of the High Priest is to make intercession for us before the throne of God and an advocate is to plead our case (cf. Hebrews 4:14-16; I John 2:1-2; I Timothy 2:4-6). Another blessing is that we have the Holy Spirit who leads us and guides us (cf. Romans 8:14; Galatians 4:6). He does not do so miraculously or directly, but through the revealed Word of God (cf. I Corinthians 2:6ff).

As children, we have God’s fatherly provisions. Paul said in Romans 8:32 God “...freely give[s] us all things?” James taught us that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Jesus said, “your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him” (Matthew 6:8; cf. 6:19-34). However, there is also God’s fatherly correction. Correction and punishment, done properly is for our benefit, to help us (cf. Hebrews 12:3-11). God is always perfect in all that He does, even chastening us. How does He correct us today? He does so through His Word, through church discipline, and from things we endure in this life.

Another great blessing of being in God’s family is His ever-present love. John penned, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...” (I John 3:1). Paul wrote in Romans 8:38-39, “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Finally consider that as His children, we are heir of God. Paul wrote “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” (Romans 8:17); “if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29). We can understand that only those that a person names as their heir will inherit. God has named that those who obey His will are His children and only His children will inherit. Our inheritance is not physical, corruptible, but rather, eternal life. (cf. I Pet 1:3-5).

REQUIREMENTS:

There are certain things that, as His children, God has required. He requires separation from the world. Paul wrote in II Corinthians 6:17-7:1 “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” John taught us to “love not the world...” (I John 2:15-17) and James taught us to “keep himself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27).

God requires us to be obedient. “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance” (I Peter 1:14). Paul wrote, “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 5:6).

We are also to wear the family name. God, through Isaiah, prophesied of a new name (Isaiah 62:2). That new name is “Christian: (cf. Acts 11:26; 26:28; I Peter 4:16). We should be able to recognize the great honor in being the children of God and should strive to live in a manner, as one father told his son, “Don’t shame the name!”

God also require us to love one another. Jesus taught His disciples, “A new comm. I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:34-35). Peter wrote, “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently” (I Peter 1:22). Just as earthly fathers are heart-broken when their children fight and feud, God, too, is heart-broken when there is contention between His children.

CONCLUSION:

There are both great blessings and great privileges in being in God’s family. God’s grace has been extended to us which gives us the right to be adopted as His children. He has made a way for us lost sinners to be saved and be a part of His family. If you desire, and are willing to obey His conditions, (the commands of the Gospel), then you can be His child. If as a child, you have departed, He is pleading for you to repent and come home.

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“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nov 14 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- Nov 28 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Dec 5 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell