

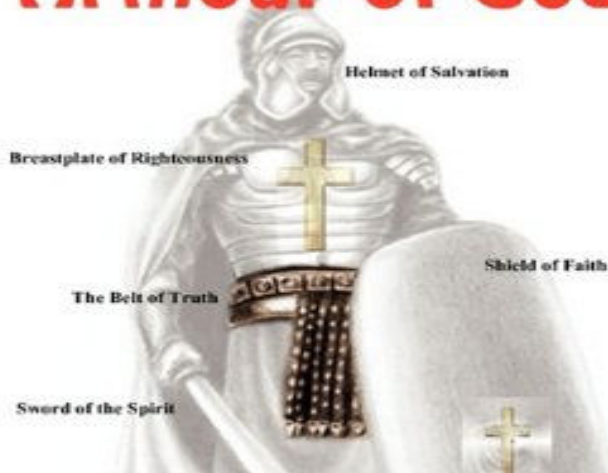
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

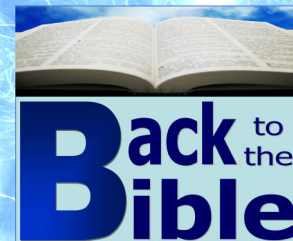
Sunday Bible Study	17
Sunday AM Worship	23
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wed. Bible Study	15
Offering	\$1957

**The Whole**  
Ephesians 6:10-19  
**Armour of God**



**"Christian Soldier Checklist"**

Feet shod with the preparation of the  
Gospel of Peace



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)  
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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 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

*Continued Inside*

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 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.

## **A Christian Soldier**

by Charles Adams

A soldier's marching forth today,  
A Christian's marching down the way.

He has a book within his hand;  
He's moving on to take his stand.  
His book is but the Word of God  
It is his strength and guiding rod.

His greatest victory is a soul  
Although the whole world is his goal.  
And in the silent realms of prayer  
Are all his thoughts invested there.

His battle field is every door,  
Even as the tempests roar;  
And when day is growing dim  
He's gathering precious souls for Him.

He but rests through every night  
That tomorrow he may better fight  
The fight of Faith, of Hope, of Love,

To gather medals up above  
Where the Master ever rules  
Over his unworthy tools.

He wears no uniform or stars,  
No golden stripes or service bars.  
His obstacles are hate and strife;  
His serving time is all his life.

Glory bright is only his;  
He a Christian Soldier is.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Dec 12 – Preach-N-Eat (canceled) & 1:30 Worship Service will be at 6:00 pm
- Dec 26 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Jan 2 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell