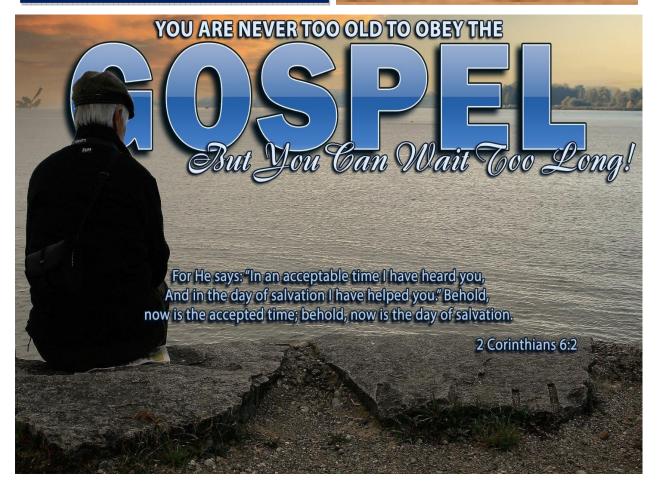
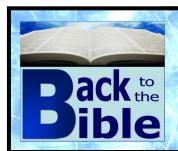
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	14
Sunday AM Worship	26
Sunday PM Worship	17
Wed. Bible Study	18
Offering	\$1428





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

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### Minister:

Tim Canup tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

#### **Times of Services:**

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am AM Worship:...1:00am PM Worship:...6:00pm 2nd Sunday:....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:......7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WKSK
93.5 FM

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

# WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

Paul Sain

Why should a person be a member of the church of Christ? I wish to offer several reasons. The Scriptures are found at the end of each reason. Please take full advantage of the "Reason" given by taking your Bible and looking up the references carefully.

- 1. Because it was founded by the Scriptural builder Christ (Matthew 16:18).
- 2. Because it was founded on the Scriptural foundation (Matthew 16:18; I Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20).
- 3. Because it was founded at the Scriptural place Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-3; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 2).
- 4. Because it was founded at the Scriptural time Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2, "church" is used in the present tense).
- 5. Because it is Scriptural in name (Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16).
- 6. Because it is Scriptural in organization (Philippians 1:1).
- 7. Because it has the Bible as its only creed (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:3).

Continued Inside

- 8. Because it is undenominational (John 17:20-21).
- 9. Because it teaches and administers Scriptural baptism (Matthew 28:18-19; John 3:23; Romans 6:4) It is immersion (Acts 8:36-39).
- 10. Because it gives Scriptural answers to the question, "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16).
- 11. Because of its Scriptural teaching and observance of the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:23-25; Acts 20:7; Acts 2:42).
- 12. Because it has Scriptural music in worship (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).
- 13. Because salvation is in Christ's church (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:47).

Friends, why not obey the simple Gospel of Christ today? Sins condemn one's soul eternally - but God has given His Son, making it possible for sin to be removed through obedience to the Son's will for mankind today. But all is in vain unless one obeys!

There are many "religions" - it is confusing until one can objectively view the Bible. Upon looking at the Old Testament and seeing the Kingdom (church) in prophecy; the Messiah would come, and the details given that man could identify Him; and then in the life of Christ, the Son actually stating some were hearing His voice that would not taste death until the Kingdom (church) came with power (Mark 9:1). Then Acts 2 records for us some of the events that took place on the day of Pentecost, the time when the Lord's church began.

We can be added to that same church today - the one that Christ said He would build (Matthew 16:18); the one that is found within the pages of the inspired Bible. By doing today what they did then - we can become today what they became then - just Christians!

"Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:25-26).

### Can We Understand The Bible Alike?

—Garland Robinson, McMinnville, TN

If people are confused over what the Bible teaches, it is not God's fault "For God is not the author of confusion" (2 Corinthians 14:33). He desires for all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). He has provided the means of their salvation through Christ (Hebrews 2:9). He desires that ALL men be ONE in Christ. To the church at Corinth it is written: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..." (1 Corinthians 12:13). If all are baptized into ONE body, why then is there confusion and division? It's because men refuse to see the Bible alike, not because they can't.

Jesus prayed that we all see the Bible alike "... That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us..." (John 17:20-21). The Bible was written to be understood "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Ephesians 3:4). The same message was taught by every gospel preacher in the first century. Paul said he taught the same thing "...every where in every church" (1 Corinthians 4:17).

God's plan is that everyone be united in Christ. That can only be accomplished by a proper understanding and practice of the Bible. God's five-fold plan for unity is outlined in 1 Corinthians 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." In this plan, one step leads to another. If (1) we all speak the same thing, (2) there will be no divisions among us. If there are no divisions among us we will be (3) perfectly joined together. If we are perfectly joined together we will have (4) the same mind. And, if we all have the same mind, we will have (5) the same judgment.

There are strict warnings given concerning those who do not teach the same message! Romans 16:17 says, "...mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." God hates those who sow discord (Proverbs 6:19) for there is only ONE body, ONE faith (Ephesians 4:4-5). Are you in the one body? Repent and be baptized today (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Dec 26 Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- > Jan 2 Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- > Jan 9 Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell