

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

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	30
Sunday PM Worship	19
Wed. Bible Study	19
Offering	\$3059

Activities of the Christian Life

SHINING
Arising to shine
Ephesians 4:14

HELPING
Arising to succour
Philippians 4:3

FIGHTING
Fighting to subdue
1 Timothy 6:12

HELPING
Arising to succour
Philippians 4:3

RUNNING
Running to win
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

SOWING
Sowing to reap
Galatians 6:7-9



PRAYING
Praying to bless
1 Timothy 2:1-2

FISHING
Fishing to catch
Matthew 4:19

FOLLOWING
Following to prove
John 10:27

STRIVING
Striving to enter
Luke 13:24

GROWING
Growing to attain
Ephesians 4:15

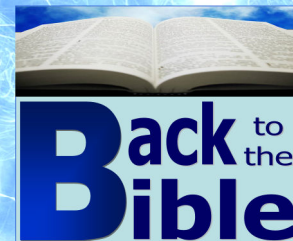
WALKING
Walking to accomplish
Galatians 6:7-9

WORKING
Working to benefit
Romans 12:6-16

WRESTLING
Wrestling to conquer
2 Timothy 2:5

WASHING
Washing to cleanse
John 13:14

REACHING
Reaching to gain
Philippians 3:13-14



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 XV January 2, 2022 Number 01

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 NEW LIFE

Tim Canup

Paul mentioned that when we are baptized we are "raised to walk in newness of life." The idea of the word "newness" involves a change. Jesus said, "Except ye be converted, & become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). Paul wrote, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). The new life we have been given is found only in Christ and one can only get into Christ by their obedience to the Gospel which culminates at baptism. Having been washed in the blood of Christ, we have a new life. Notice some things that are involved in this.

BEGINS WITH INEXPERIENCE:

In the New Testament, a new convert is compared to a newborn baby (I Peter 2:2). Jesus said, "except a man be born again" and "except a man be born of water and of the Spirit..." (John 3:3, 5). Paul told the Corinthians "...in Christ Jesus I have begotten you thru the gospel" (I Corinthians 4:15). Christ's work on the cross was to "make in himself of twain one new man..." (Ephesians 2:15). A newborn baby cannot do for himself or herself; it needs to be fed, clothed, etc., they take constant care. New Christians are the same way; mature Christians must help them, guide them, and care for them.

A new employee just learning a job is a good example.

Continued Inside

They may struggle to do job at first. Maybe we have gone into a business and noticed the worker having trouble doing their job and they say, “I’m sorry, I’m new!” But what if that inability continues? Sadly, there are some children born with a mental handicap, they do not properly develop; the parents usually soon know something is wrong. But there are no mentally handicap Christian. If one is capable of obeying the commands of the Gospel, they are capable of maturing and growing. Would an employer simply ignore an employ that is still struggling after months or years on the job? We understand that a newborn baby, under normal circumstances is expected to develop and grow. No reasonable parent would continue treating their growing child like a newborn. For newborn babes in Christ, there must be...

CONTINUAL GROWTH:

Jesus is our perfect example. In Luke 2:52, we are told that “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” The phrase “in wisdom” means He developed mentally as a normal human does, “in stature” means He developed physically, “in favor with God” refers to His spiritual development and “in favor with man” points to His social growth.

In every life, there must be growth. In physical life we may stop growing in height, but we must continue to mentally; we learn something new every day. Spiritually we must continue to grow as well. When Peter said, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I Peter 2:2), although he may not have meant that we always feed on just milk, but that the desire should always be there (cf. Matthew 5:6). The Hebrews’ writer rebuke the recipients of his letter for their lack of growth in Hebrews 5:12-14, but then encouraged them to “go on to perfection {maturity}...” (6:1). Paul gave the Christians in Ephesus reasons why they needed to continually grown in Ephesians 4:13-16. Sadly, too many Christians have never grown or matured properly because they have failed to properly feed themselves upon the word of God. What doesn’t grow dies! If we are not growing, we simply do not stand a chance against Satan. Our growth is an ongoing process; it is not automatic; therefore, it gives us a...

NEW MINDSET/DIRECTION:

God, through Christ, has given to us a new way to live. Paul wrote in Romans 6:5-6, “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his res.: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified w/him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” He said in Philippians 2:5, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” In our lives, we are to imitate

Christ (cf. I Corinthians 11:1). Consider Paul admonition to the Colossians in 3:1-15 how they were to put off the old man of sin and put on the new man, which involves a new way of living, like Christ lived; a new way of thinking, like Christ thought; a new way of acting, like Christ acted. If we are still living, acting, dressing, talking like did before obeyed Gospel, then I kindly suggest we have not been truly converted (or changed).

We cannot have the new life in Christ and continue to cling to our old man of sin. Our old life was rotten; it was a hard life, cf. Proverbs 13:15. Who would want to continue to carry it around with them? The new life is so much better!!! Yes, it has it’s difficulties, trials, obstacles, but it...

ENDS IN A BETTER DESTINATION:

There is a better destination here, in this life. The new life gives us a better place spiritually, that is from living IN Sin to being IN salvation, that is, IN Christ, cf. Ephesians 2:12-13, where we are told that in sin we gave no hope. The new life is one where all the burden of guilt of sin has been taken away; we have been forgiven (Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 8:12). This new life here also involves loving Father to cares, provides, and protects us (Matthew 28:20).

There is also a better destination to come, eternal life in heaven. Notice the following in John: “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (1:4); unless one is born again, they “cannot see/enter the kingdom of God” (3:3,5); “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (10:10); “these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (20:31). In giving us a new life, He gave access to heaven (Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 10:19-20). The final destination for faithful child of God is FAR better (cf. Philippians 1:21, 23).

CONCLUSION:

Every accountable person in this world has been stained by sin (Romans 3:23). That stained life can only be cleansed by blood of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:5). That cleansing gives us the new life; our old man has been crucified with Him. Are you ready for a new life?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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