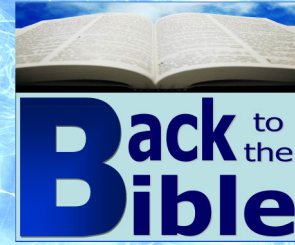


"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	22
Sunday AM Worship	36
Sunday PM Worship	18
Wed. Bible Study	21
Offering	\$2307



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 November 13, 2022 Number 46

**What You Do With What
You Have Been Given**

Tim Canup

It is obvious to any Bible student that God has given to us, lost sinners, the greatest gift ever known: salvation from sin and eternal life! It is also obvious to any honest Bible student that the recipients of that gift can give it up. The entire book of Hebrews was written to encourage Jewish Christians who had received salvation not to give it up again. The writer did so by providing the proof that Jesus is better; far better! He is better than the prophets, better than the angels who gave the Old Law (Acts 7:38, 53; Gal 3:19), better than Moses, the Law Giver and even a better High Priest than the Aaronic High Priest.

Jesus' priesthood was one after the order of Melchizedek, according to prophecy, and not after that of Aaron. The writer of the book of Hebrews introduces the idea of the High Priesthood of Jesus in chapter 2 (verse 17) and again refers to it in chapter 4 (verses 14-16). In chapter 5 the writer wants to further develop this point but feels he cannot because the recipients of this letter have "become dull of hearing" (5:11), and he rebukes them for not maturing spiritually as they should (verses 12-14). For the proper understanding of this passage, it is best for the Bible student to ignore the chapter division (chapter 6) and not allow it to interrupt the thought. [Continued Inside]

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

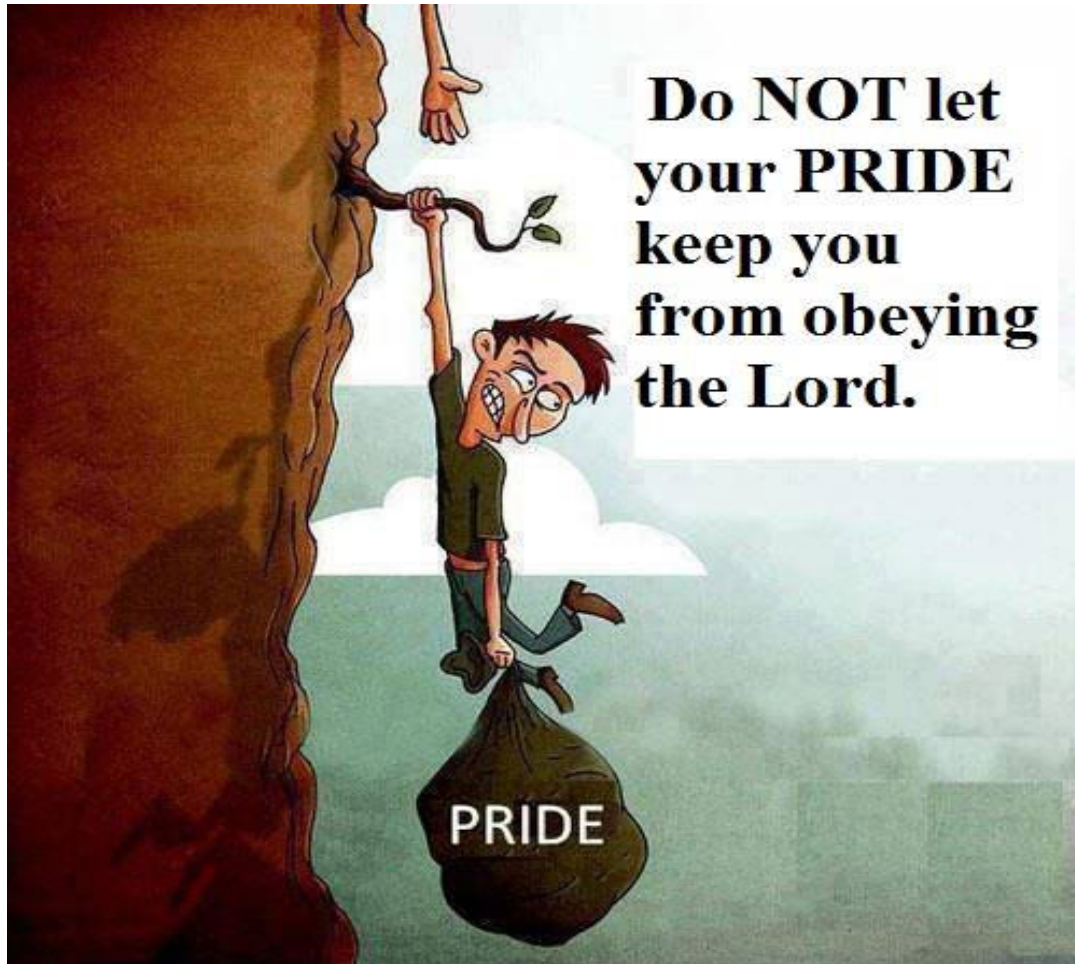
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

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!**

**Do NOT let
your PRIDE
keep you
from obeying
the Lord.**



Having rebuked them, he then encourages them to move on to the maturity they need. The New King James Version best communicates the writer's words when it says, "leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of..." (6:1). He is not encouraging them to leave the principles, but the discussion of them. He compares this to laying a foundation, once a foundation is laid, you do not need to lay another (or a third or fourth, etc). They had laid their spiritual foundations and it was time to move on to building their spiritual houses. "And this will we do, if God permit" (verse 3).

In verses 4-6, the writer of Hebrews makes a statement that has been troubling to many Bible students. Perhaps much of the difficulty comes from failing to view these words in their proper context. The writer said, "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." The proper interpretation of these words is from the standpoint of their willingness to turn from sin; to repent. As long as they had the mind set of moving away from Christ, there is no salvation.

The writer then illustrates this with the example of gardening: "For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;⁸ but if it bears thorns and briars, *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned" (verses 7-8). What do these words mean? What is the purpose of this illustration? The context shows that the illustration is connected to the writer's statement in verses 4-6 of the impossibility of renewing one who refuses God's way! Notice the passage begins with the word, "for." That word indicates the writer is going to further explain something just said. God provides what is necessary for mankind to live. God gives the rain. In every garden grows both vegetation that is healthful to man as well as that which is not, such as weed, briars and thorns. What determines what grows in one's garden? Of course it is the gardener.

God has given to mankind that which he needs to make his spiritually whole and healthy. If a person finds weeds, briars and thorns in the garden of his/her life, it is because we have allowed them to grow there! The same rain that brings forth

vegetables also brings forth weeds. The same truth that brings about salvation can also bring about bitter resentment from those who are not willing to be honest with it. In I Corinthians 2, speaking of the revealed, soul-saving Gospel, Paul said, "But the natural {unspiritual-McCord} man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (verse 14). Paul also said, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:7-9). Now the question comes to each one of us, "What are we going to do with the gift God has given to us?" Remember, Jesus said, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:20).

.....
*"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
⁶ For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Corinthians 4:1-6).*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nov 13 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Nov 27 – Prayer Service
- Dec 4 – Men's Bus. Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell