

"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	21
Sunday AM Worship	34
Sunday PM Worship	15
Wed. Bible Study	20
Offering	\$1253

You Are Cordially Invited to Our

# Spring Gospel Meeting

May 7-11, 2023

With Guest Speaker:

Jeff Johnson

West Jefferson Church of Christ

130 Robert Street; West Jefferson, NC 28694

SUNDAY:.....10:00AM, 11:00AM & 1:30 PM  
MONDAY-THURSDAY:.....7:00 PM

**NOTE: No Collection Will Be Taken Monday-Thursday!**  
For More Information: (336) 846-5615 or [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!**

**"WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW?  
HOW READEST THOU?"**

Roger D. Campbell

Luke 10:25 records that a certain lawyer stood up and tested Jesus with this question: "*Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*" Their conversation eventually led to Jesus telling the story that we usually identify as "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" (10:30-35). But, Jesus' immediate response to the inquirer was to ask him two questions in return: "*What is written in the law? How readeest thou?*" (10:26). We can learn a bunch from these two questions.

"*What is written in the law?*" Jesus appealed to the standard that contains the correct answer. When the man wanted to know the answer to a question pertaining to spiritual matters, our Lord did not point him to tradition, what the majority thought, or the opinion of well-known people. No, Jesus appealed to God's law. You and I need to do the same. The Lord wants us to be ready to answer people that make inquiries about religious matters (1 Peter 3:15), but it is not enough just to give them "any old answer." God says that our message should always be from His oracles (1 Peter 4:11). We have got to get it across to people that if we want to serve God faithfully, then His word is the only acceptable standard of authority.

"*What is written in the law?*" Jesus knew that the old law was in written form, and He endorsed it. God first spoke to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai, then later Moses put God's message in writing. Jesus completely endorsed the message of the Old Testament. Do you remember how He answered the devil's three special temptations? Each time it was with, "*It is*

[Continued Inside]

written" (Matthew 4:1-11), then He would quote the written word. After Jesus ascended to heaven, the inspired message of the Holy Spirit was taught orally in the first century via apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11). As time passed, the inspired message was put in written form. Today you and I have the blessing of having God's word in written form, and it is just as powerful and persuasive as was the oral message that faithful saints of God propagated nearly 2000 years ago (Romans 1:16,17).

"What is written in the law?" Jesus knew that the passing of time did not affect the truth that the Law of Moses was still binding. Later, Jesus abolished the old covenant when He died on the cross (Ephesians 2:15,16), but until His death, the old law was still in effect. If the Israelites received the Law of Moses at Mt. Sinai in about B.C. 1450, then from that time until Jesus did His public teaching was around 1,480 years. Yet, the message and proper application of the message that God spoke through Moses was unchanged. This truth is further seen in a later statement that Jesus made to some Sadducees who tried to stump the Master with a hypothetical scenario about a woman being married to seven brothers in the flesh. Watch what Jesus told them: "But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob . . ." (Matthew 22:31,32; emphasis mine, rdc). Jesus quoted a statement that Jehovah made to Moses (Exodus 3:6). Nearly 1,500 years had passed since God said it, but according to Jesus, it was "spoken unto" the 1<sup>st</sup>-century Sadducees, meaning that it still applied to them. We would do well to remember these examples when we run across people today who claim that the New Testament is no longer relevant since it was written over 1900 years ago.

"What is written in the law? How readest thou?" Jesus knew that it was possible for people to read the law. The law was available to the Jews, and they could have read it if they desired to. There are recorded examples in the Old Testament of God's people reading the law. The 1<sup>st</sup>-century Jews read the writings of Moses every Sabbath (Acts 15:21). It is also stated that before the apostle Paul preached in the synagogue of the Jews in Antioch of Pisidia, there was first "*the reading of the law and the prophets*" (Acts 13:15). It is possible for you and me to read God's word, too. When inspired epistles were written to saints in the first century, what did the Giver of those messages want His children to do with them? That is correct – read them! (1 Timothy 4:13; Colossians 4:16; Revelation 1:3). There are people in the world who do not have their own personal Bible, but they would love to have one. Some of us, on the other hand, have a handful of Bibles, and though each of them may have its own unique aspects, they have two common characteristics: dusty on the outside from lack of use and clean pages on the inside that are rarely turned. Have I got it right?

"What is written in the law? How readest thou?" Jesus knew that it was possible for people to read the law with understanding, that is, people could understand it. What would be the point of God giving a law that was above and beyond man's comprehension? And, what would be the point of Jesus asking a person if he had read it, and how he read it, if there is no way to perceive its true meaning?

"What is written in the law? How readest thou?" Jesus expected the man to know and understand the law. It was possible for the fellow to read God's law, but more than that, Jesus expected him to know what it said! In His teaching, Jesus constantly quoted from the Old Testament and referred to events and people that are mentioned in it. The fact that He did so makes it obvious that He expected them to know God's word. Brothers and sisters, we need to be people of the Book. I do not mean just to give lip service to the Bible, but really dig in and diligently study it. Remember, God says, "*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is*" (Ephesians 5:17). Some folks boohoo about their lack of time and education, trying to present these factors as excuses for not knowing the Book well. What about those "poor old farmers" of 150 years ago who could work circles around most of us and spent their evenings with their families reading the Bible together? What we call "progress" and living in "better times" do not necessarily guarantee strong Bible knowledge and true spiritual strength, do they?

"What is written in the law? How readest thou?" Jesus expected the man to make proper application of what he learned. After Jesus asked him these two questions, to his credit, the lawyer gave the correct answer, saying that God's law teaches the need to love God and love thy neighbor as thyself. Hear the Master's reply: "*Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live*" (Luke 10:28). Jesus wanted the man to know and acknowledge God's truth, but just as importantly, He wanted him to "do" it. That is making the proper application, isn't it? After Jesus told him the story of the helpful, compassionate Samaritan, the lawyer again gave the right answer when the Christ asked him which person in the story acted as a true neighbor. Now the inquiring lawyer has learned a lesson from the Master. However, acquiring knowledge was only part of the deal: "*Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise*" (Luke 10:37). Jesus wanted this man to go and live the truth that he knew. What does one do if he pats himself on the back for knowing God's Book, but he is not a doer of the word? He deceives himself (James 1:22). And, how does the Bible describe faith without works? Right, again – such faith is "dead" (James 2:17,20).

No one faithfully serves God by accident. The truth cannot give liberty to one that does not know it (John 8:32). But, having a brain full of knowledge is worthless if we do not "go and do" it. "What is written in the law? How readest thou?" May we all think seriously about these important lessons.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- April 30 – Prayer Service
- May 7 – Preach & Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- May 7-11 – Gospel Meeting with Jeff Johnson
- May 14 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell