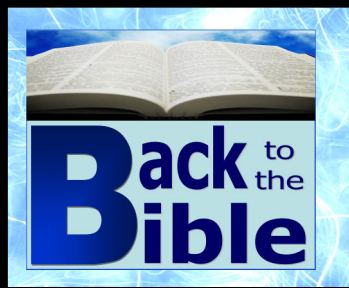


"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Visit Us At:  
[www.wjchurchofchrist.org](http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org)  
For Audio Lessons,  
Past Bulletins, Bible Studies  
& More  
Wireless Internet Password:  
94615548

FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	24
Sunday AM Worship	39
Sunday PM Worship	19
Wed. Bible Study	21
Offering	\$1531



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)  
Volume XVI July 16, 2023 Number 29

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  
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!**

**WHERE IS YOUR GREATEST LOYALTY?**

Roger D. Campbell

The adjective "loyal" is defined as "unswerving in allegiance . . . faithful to a private person to whom fidelity is due . . . faithful to a cause, ideal, or custom" [*Webster's 9th New Collegiate Dictionary*]. Three words that jump out in the above definitions are "allegiance," "faithful," and "fidelity." Put those thoughts together and apply them to the noun "loyalty," and the meaning is clear, is it not?

When children and adults alike, with hand over their heart, state, "I pledge allegiance to the flag, and to the United States of America . . .," what are they expressing? Answer: Their *loyalty* to this country. Through the ages, many humans have sacrificed their lives in order to defend their countries and their freedoms. By making such a sacrifice, or even if their lives were spared when they willingly put themselves "in harm's way," what were they demonstrating? Answer: Their loyalty – in this instance it was loyalty to their nation and its people. On the other hand, loyalty to the country in which one holds citizenship is clearly lacking when the citizens constantly knock their country, bash its founding principles, and wish for it to falter or fail.

[Continued Inside]

You Are Cordially Invited to Our  
**Old-Fashioned Barn Meeting**  
With Speakers:  
**Robert Taylor & Tim Canup**  
**July 20-22, 2023**  
Lansing Creeper Trail Park, Lansing, NC  
114 S Big Horse Creek Rd, Lansing, NC 28643  
**THURSDAY - SATURDAY:.....7:00 PM**  
There Will Be NO COLLECTION Will Be Taken!  
For More Information:  
(336) 846-5615 or [wjchurchofchrist.org](http://wjchurchofchrist.org)

In a great number of families, the family members' loyalty to one another is visible to those who know them well. They are a close-knit group. They stick up for one another. They do what they can to uphold the family name. They do their best to protect each other's physical well-being, mental well-being, reputation, and happiness. In other family settings, however, folks constantly badmouth one another, try to steal one another blind, and settle their differences with knives or guns. There is not much loyalty present in the latter instances, is there?

We have all witnessed loyalty when it comes to sports. People that enjoy sports competition often have their favorite players or teams. Some are loyal to a particular player, and they root for him regardless of the team on which he plays. For other sports junkies, their loyalty is to a team, and if one of their former beloved players winds up playing for a different team, he is now ditched and counted as part of the enemy.

Have you not seen those fans, though, whose loyalty to a team is what we call "fair-weather?" When their team does well (meaning w-i-n-s), the fair-weather fan is all for them. But, when they are losing more than their fans are accustomed to, you can count on some people not going to the games, not watching on TV or listening on the radio, and refusing to even discuss the team's activities. I do not see much loyalty there, do you? Please do not tell me that you are a loyal fan of a team, then turn around and in the next breath declare that you are going to get a new team to cheer for until your old one starts winning again. That is not allegiance. That is not loyalty.

Now, let us make a spiritual application. We recognize loyalty, or a lack of loyalty, when we see it in life. Are you and I loyal to the Lord Jesus? If so, then we not only call Him "Lord," but also do what He commands (Luke 6:46). Do you and I do that? If our top loyalty is to the Godhead, then we will love the Godhead with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength (Mark 12:30). Do we do that?

The saints in Laodicea were lukewarm and stood in danger of being tossed by the Lord Himself (Revelation 3:15,16). Which word better describes you and me? Is it "loyalty," or "lukewarm?" Loyal saints put the Lord and His kingdom first (Matthew 6:33). They do that regardless of what school functions, sporting events, or family activities are going on. Loyal children of God have the mentality that says, "My allegiance is to my Lord and His Cause, and if there is any time left over for anything or anyone else, then fine, but my Lord must come first!" Do you not love that spirit?! Is it not contagious?!

Some members of the body seem to float around. They attend here, then they

attend there. They might be over here, and they might be over there. Or, they might not be anywhere in attendance, and since they are not loyal to any one local church, they just may be hoping that no one will miss them and come "bugging" them about not attending. Here is what I have observed, and perhaps you have noted it as well. A lot of saints that claim membership in one congregation but just kinda float around, well, the truth of the matter is, they do not do much of anything for the Cause, period. Surely God and the local church deserve more loyalty than that.

Where is my greatest loyalty? If my answer is that my number one allegiance is to anyone or anything other than my Lord, then I am in serious spiritual trouble!

.....

*"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"*  
*(Philippians 4:1-7)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 9 – Preach & Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- July 20-22 – Barn Meeting in Lansing – 7:00 pm (Robert Taylor speaking Thur-Fri)
- July 30 – Prayer Service
- Aug 6 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell