

# St John Church of Christ

September 6, 2020

## ONLINE

### Children's Bible Class

Pete and Penelope and Friends are back with new Bible stories and activities. Activity packets are available for all the kids. Contact Pam Turner if you would like one sent to your children. You can even watch previous episodes online through our website:

[www.StJohnChurch.Org](http://www.StJohnChurch.Org)

### Adult Bible Class

10:30 - 10:45 A.M.

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote one of the most down-to-earth letters in the New Testament. Join us online today as John McKeel shares from his recent book, *James the Brother of Jesus Speaks*.

## ONLINE

### Worship

11:00 - 11:45 A.M.

You can join us online at <https://StJohnChurchofChrist.org>.

(CCLI #244012t9)



# Getting to YES!



“18 As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. 20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.”

(2 Corinthians 1:18-20)

Why do people think Christians are so negative? Perhaps it's because we are always talking about “Thou shalt not...” We not only focus on the things we can't do and the things we don't do; in the past, we even added extra lay-

ers of “no” around activities because they might lead someone to sin. For example, Gary Freeman wrote about overhearing a class for teenage girls warning them not to wear patent leather shoes (“Boys will be tempted to stare at the reflections and look up your dress.”) or polka dots (“Young men will be tempted to push the dots.”) Imagine his reaction when he saw a girl wearing patent leather shoes with a polka dot dress! No wonder people think Christians don't know how to live!

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Jesus would take exception to that. Do you remember when the Lord explained, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). I think Jesus would spell “life” with a capital L!

“But there is so much evil in the world!” someone might warn, and they would be right. Judith Smith pointed out in a Ladies’ Bible Class, “The way to overcome evil is to turn it around. ‘Evil’ spelled backward is ‘Live.’”

Two words for “evil” used in the New Testament are *phalos* and *kakos*. The first, *phalos*, can also be translated “base, ordinary.” That sheds an interesting light on Paul’s instructions to the Corinthians:

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil [*phalos*]” (2 Corinthians 5:10).

## A Place for Pictures

*In Kansas, we think of raising cattle, but if you look close, many different domestic animals also call Kansas home.*



What if we translated Paul’s words as “so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in this life, whether good or ordinary”? If you genuinely want to experience life, don’t settle for evil, that’s just ordinary. Be extraordinary!

The second word is *kakos*. The second-century Christian, Ignatius, wrote: “These people while pretending to be trustworthy, mix Jesus Christ with poison [*kakos*] – like those who administer a deadly drug with honeyed wine, which the unsuspecting victim accepts without fear, and so with fatal pleasure drinks down death,” (*Letter to the Traillians*, 6:2). Evil is a deadly poison. I want no part of that!

So God is warning us not to drink the poison the world offers; instead, live an extraordinary life! This thing we call “sin” has consequences, now and later, so choose life!



Clint and Tara will be moving to Wichita Sept. 12 (next Saturday), and if anybody is available to help load their truck, it would be greatly appreciated. They live at 512 Brock Street.

With so much of our program online, do you need a fast way to find our website? If you have a smartphone, you can simply scan this QR code and instantly be taken to the site. Our webpage is a portal to our online Bible Classes, Children’s Bible Hour, and even online giving! Try it.



(For the rest of us, just type

[StJohnChurchOfChrist.org](http://StJohnChurchOfChrist.org)

into the address bar of your browser.)

## For Your Prayers

Please pray for our schools: our students, teachers, and staff!

Maren’s second transplant was scheduled for August 25th. Please keep this little girl in your prayers!

Don’t forget to pray for Curtis as he wrestles with cancer.