

# St John Church of Christ

September 20, 2020

## ONLINE

Be sure to join us over the internet for Pete, Penelope & Friends, our Adult Bible Class (James the Brother of Jesus Speaks), and our worship service.

The programs are available starting Sunday at 10:00 (Children's Bible Hour), 10:30 (Adult Class) and 11:00 (Worship). You can watch them at your convenience any time after that from our website,

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

or from [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

### Children's Bible Class

Our puppet buddies, Pete and Penelope and Friends, teach important Bible lessons and life skills. In addition, there are activity packets available for all the kids. Contact Pam Turner if you would like packets sent to your kids.

### Adult Bible Class

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

## ONLINE

### Worship

11:00 - 11:45 A.M.



## Chuck the Blueprint



*A Much Younger John McKeel Climbing (falling) in Colorado*

“Honey, don’t you want to read the instructions first? That seems pretty complicated.”

I can’t begin to tell your many times my “guyness” has gotten me into trouble. I don’t need the instructions. It’s obvious, but then I begin sheepishly looking for the directions as I get farther and farther into the project.

The same is true about church. Many people don’t feel the need to study the Bible. They just want to go by their instincts, but how many of us have bought a used car or tried to put together a computer only on instincts? (I won’t ask for a show of hands.) If our feelings get us in trouble in life, why should we trust them for decisions with eternal consequences?

So, let’s be reasonable. If we are going to please God, we need to know what God desires. It is certainly possible for God to speak to each one of

us (and many people claim God has spoken to them), but that hasn’t been my experience. In fact, I suspect the voices most of those people are listening to are just echoes of their imagination. I say that because the one thing we should expect of God is consistency. There are many reasons to believe the Bible is the Word of God (and we’ll talk about those reasons in the future) and so it is reasonable to compare what these people are saying with what God has already revealed. If there is a contradiction, I’m going to stay with the Scriptures.

Other people interpret the Scriptures in light of ecclesiastical traditions. Those traditions get modified periodically to meet present circumstances. It must feel very secure to have a thousand years of tradition supporting your beliefs, but what if those traditions and interpretations are wrong? Obviously, then tradition isn’t on the same footing as infallible Scripture.

I believe The Bible is the full and final revelation of God and, as such, is the rule for matters of faith and practice. Not only is it possible to understand the Bible, but it is also God’s will that we do so. To the extent people have strayed from the pattern, they must return to it.

“Honey, have you seen those instructions? This looks pretty complicated, and I want to get it right!” (See 2 Timothy 1:13.)

## For Your Prayers

John and Jan will be back from vacation next week.