

St John Church of Christ

May 2, 2021

Worship
Service

Premiers
Sunday at 11:00



Welcome to Worship!

We're glad you're here. Bible classes begin at 10:00. For kids, the Pete & Penelope, our children's puppet program is followed by songs and classes.

Our Bible is the most amazing book of all time. Although it was written by dozens of people over a period of 1,600 years, we believe the Author is God. Adults, join us in the auditorium, for a new, six-week series, which explains "How We Got the Bible." This week, we'll talk about "Who Decided Which Books Belong in the Bible?"

Worship follows at 11:00

If you are unable to be with us in person, our worship is shared through our website:

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

Simply select "Sermons" from the menubar at the top, or click this link to visit our page on YouTube:

[St. John Church of Christ](http://St.John Church of Christ)



"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

– Jesus, Mark 8:36, 37

To understand his question, we need to go back to the beginning of the ministry of Jesus before he called his apostles before he gave the Sermon on the Mount before he even performed a miracle. The setting is the terrible wilderness south of the Jordan. Jesus hasn't had anything to eat in over a month. There he meets the Tempter. Have you ever thought about Satan's third temptation, according to Matthew?

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." (Matthew 4:8 - 9)

First, we need to think about what this temptation is about. It's pretty easy for me to resist heroin (I hate needles!), but chocolate is a very different matter. The third temptation appears to appeal to human greed or the thirst for power, but were those temptations that appealed to Jesus? I think not, so let's examine this temptation again.

The message of both Jesus and John the Baptist was "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" How daunting and difficult it must have been to get that message out to the whole world! Satan often tempts us with shortcuts. Taking the easy way still is a powerful temptation just browse the book titles in the self-help section of Barnes and Noble: "Ten Easy Steps to Fame and Fortune." "Marital Bliss Made Simple." "Understanding Women for Dummies." How easy would it have

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been to spread the Gospel if Jesus was in charge of all the kingdoms of the earth? "Move over, Nero!" "Step aside, Herod!"

Satan is still tempting us to take short-cuts - to find the easy way out. We are saved by grace. That means God freely forgives us because of the sacrifice of Jesus. We don't have to do anything. Our salvation is not contingent on completing a dangerous pilgrimage or living the life of a saint. Grace. Simple. But beware Satan's temptation: "After you dry off after baptism, you don't need to do anything else."

We are not called to merit salvation. We are called to reflect salvation. God's love changes us. The power of the Holy Spirit causes us to grow in holiness. How has the Lord changed you?



Key Dates

- **Vacation Bible School**
 - May 5 Work Night
 - May 12 Work Night
 - May 19 Work Night
 - May 26 Work Night
 - Saturday June 12 One-Day Vacation Bible School!
- **Congregational Birthday Party!**
 - May 23, Potluck and Party after morning services
- **CORE Dinner**
 - May 24, Monday Night
- **VBS JUNE 12th**

News & Prayer Requests

Please pray for Gentry Rodriguez. The effects of recent major surgery have kept him out of work.

Joy has asked us to pray for her friend, Becky, who is awaiting the results of a recent biopsy.

Gayle is continuing to have bleeding problems.

Pray for Paul as he battles cancer in Washington state, and let's continue to pray for Curtis in Pratt as he wrestles with cancer.

Please begin praying about VBS and Silver Maple Bible Camp programs coming this coming summer.



Thanks to everyone for helping at the Silver Maple Workday!

More from Mexico

Here are the latest pictures from Rick Owens. They are building churches and schools in Mexico.



THE LORD'S ARMY



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 12TH

We're off to a great start! After our planning meeting April 21st, we had our first work day last week. We are building props, fill-

ing bags of candy with invitations to pass out during the parade and working on class materials. Everyone - all ages - can help!