

WORKS WE SUPPORT

Jim & Judy O'Connor, Foreign Evangelism
Peter and Pooi Fun Chin, Four Seas College of Bible & Missions, Singapore
"Seek The Old Paths"
Chuck Northrop, Bible Institute of Missouri (Instructor)
Kent Eakins, Bible Institute of Missouri (Student)
Jerry Martin, Memphis School of Preaching (Instructor)
Philip Vanwinkle, Malaysia
"Whom Do You Serve?" Television Program
"Bible Questions with Bible Answers" Television Program

UPCOMING SERMONS

SUNDAY AM

May 27	Who do we think we are?
June 3	Lessons from the Ethiopian Eunuch
June 10	What does it mean "if the Lord wills"?
June 17	Neo-Calvinism
June 24	Neo-Calvinism

SUNDAY PM

May 27	If there were no Bible (#369)
June 3	Think on these things (#370)
June 10	If God be God, serve him (#371)
June 17	Remember his death (#372)
June 24	His tomb is empty (#373)

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Web Site Information:

www.webbervillechurchofchrist.org
<http://sermons.webbervillechurchofchrist.org>

To see our services live:

<http://live.webbervillechurchofchrist.org>

Sundays: 11 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m.

Services:

Sunday

Bible Classes: 10 a.m.

Worship Assembly: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes: 7 p.m.

May 27, 2012

To our visitors, we want you to know that we are honored by your being with us today. We welcome any questions you may have. All materials that you see are free of charge and if there is any other information you would like, we will be happy to provide it.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Pardon, Pete Darling, Rusty Darling, Phyllis Darling, Raymond Heinz, Teresa Heinz, James Bush, Carolyn Jensen, Margaret Coats, Doug McArthur, Jean Reeder, Cheryll Akers, Kathy Briggs, Betty Jo's aunt, Erin's father, Robert Vanalstine, Jo Matheny, Jimmy Mortimore, John Mortimore, Jim Loper, Jewel Warfield, Bill Arnold

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

AM: 2 Pet. 2:4-7 **PM:** Psa. 119:105-112

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

May 27 – Singing at 5 p.m.; Business meeting
June 29 – Seminar with Rusty Stark
July 29 – Chuck Northrop to speak
July 30 – Aug. 4 – Booth at Ingham County Fair

REMOVAL OF THE CANDLESTICK

Charles Coats

The book of Revelation was written directly to seven congregations of God's people located in the Roman province of Asia in the western portion of what we now know as Asia Minor. These congregations had various degrees of faithfulness ranging from totally pleasing to totally displeasing to God. In the case of those who displeased God, there was given to them the opportunity to repent.

One congregation of particular interest is the church at Ephesus. Paul, Apollos, Aquila, and Priscilla all had an influence in helping spread the word in this city (Acts 18,19). Paul warned the Ephesian elders in Acts 20 of the danger of apostasy. And one of Paul's letters was

written to the church at Ephesus. We see them as faithful Christians who are encouraged to remain faithful to God and to spread God's word. In the 30 years or so from the writing of the book of Ephesians to the writing of the book of Revelation, something happened at Ephesus that caused the brethren to be in a condition of being chastised by God.

While we do not know what the specific problems were that led to Ephesus being chastised, we do have a summary of the problems – "thou hast left thy first love" (Rev. 2:4). Their hearts were not right with God. And, although they did many things which were right, they were lost. This is evidenced by the warning of Jesus.

Jesus asked them to repent and to once again walk faithfully with God. However, if they refused to do so, he would come and remove their candlestick (Rev. 2:5). From Rev. 1:20, we learn that the candlestick was one of the congregations of the church and Jesus was in the midst of these congregations. Therefore, to lose your candlestick meant that you lost your place with Jesus. Certainly, this spells doom for any congregation in this condition.

What can we learn from what we know of the church at Ephesus? We learn that starting well is only good if we continue to run well. We learn that one can do a lot of things right and still be lost. We learn that a Christian can so sin as to be lost eternally.

We must learn the lessons from God's word. Since God has not changed, we must be certain that we do not make the same mistakes as the congregations we read about in the Bible. We must be sure that we continue to walk faithfully with God. We do not want to be in the position of losing our place with Christ. We do not want our candlestick removed.

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? (Gal. 5:7)