

Our VBS...

Jesus' Friendship Parables
June 1-5, 2020

7 pm Each Night

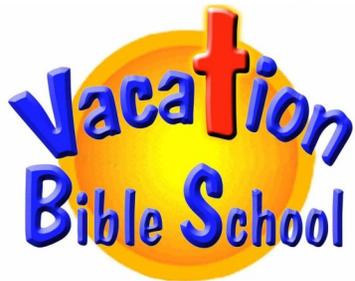
The Good Samaritan
Monday

The Rich Fool
Tuesday

The Soils
Wednesday

The Unforgiving Servant
Thursday

The Prodigal Son
Friday



Sentence Sermons

- It's easy to run into debt, but it is hard to crawl out of it.
- When you hold the truth lightly, you are likely to let it slip.
- When you are right on the inside, you will be right on the outside
- Failure can give you a weight or it can give you wings.
- Love the brotherhood.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
wbcoc.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

May 24, 2020



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Church Ahead

Where will the Warfield Blvd. church of Christ, and other local churches, be in 10, 25, or 50 years? Will this church and other local churches still be in existence, or will they be gone? So many churches that once existed are now gone. Will we be the same one day?

The Lord's Church In the Future

We know from God's word that the Lord's church is everlasting (Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 12:28). But, where are the churches that existed in the New Testament found today - churches like Jerusalem or Ephesus? The universal church (all Christians everywhere) will always exist, but not necessarily the local church of which I am a member.

The Evolution of the Local Church

Consider the example of the local church at Ephesus. First, around A.D. 53-55, there was a group of dedicated and convicted Christians who joined together to zealously serve the Lord (Acts 18-19). Next, around A.D. 60-63, this local church was well-known in the community, growing, and united (Ephesians 1-6). Next, around A.D. 64-

67, there was maturity in the leadership and organization of this church, but also problems were present (1-2 Timothy). Finally, around A.D. 95, this local church existed and continued to do some good, but it had also lost its first love (Revelation 2:4-5). You see here that the church at Ephesus went from loving Jesus to leaving that love about 40 years later!



The Evolution of A Local Church

Often a local church will evolve in time for the worse. Zeal will be replaced with lethargy. Sacrifice will be replaced with selfishness. Evangelism will be replaced with materialism. Attendance will be replaced with absence. Responsibility (work) will be replaced with retirement. Militancy will be replaced with compromise.

The Church Ahead (What Is Needed)

What is needed for a church to keep from evolving into non-existence? We need more prayer to God (Acts 4:29). We need more evangelism (Acts 5:42). We need more godly elders and deacons appointed (Acts 6:1ff; 11:30; 14:23). We need growth in maturity (Acts 16:5). We need more faithful living and the willingness to "remember" and "repent" when necessary (Revelation 2:5).

Challenges For This Local Church (This Week)

What can each one of us do now to guarantee that we will be the church ahead? We can communicate with the Lord this week (prayer, Bible study). We can live for the Lord this week (faithfulness). We can engage in the Lord's work this week (volunteer). And, we can communicate with the lost this week (evangelism).

What does it matter if the Lord's church will always exist, but this local church may not? Well, it matters because it identifies us as the faithful remnant or not (Revelation 3:4). Let's be the church ahead! - *Chris Reeves*