



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



WESTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

WESTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

<http://wbcpalestine.org>
903-723-8297
Fax 903-723-8590
office@wbcpalestine.org

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY

Bible Study (Nursery Provided) 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship (Nursery Provided) 10:45 a.m.
Evening Service 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday Evening Meal 5:30 p.m.
Bible Drill 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Nursery Provided) 6:30 p.m.

Pastor

Josh Dennis
josh@wbcpalestine.org

Music Director

Zach Zajicek
zachbeth@icloud.com

Deacons

John Tilley, John L. Moser,
Jayson Jenkins, Troy Clark,
Cliff Frazier, Jeff Douglas,
Mike Bosley, Tom Witte,
Zach Zajicek

FROM THE PASTOR

J.C. Ryle's Holiness is a rich treasure trove of deep thoughts, convictions, and implications on the doctrine of sanctification. If you have been able to read through this timeless work, I'm sure that you can resonate with the sentiment that Ryle has served the believer well in spurring one on towards holiness. Though I am limited in space in commenting on the entire book, I would like to highlight his chapter on counting the cost. In Luke 14:27-28, Jesus states:

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

While on this earth, Jesus' teaching was received with astonishment and amazement. Why? The Master and Teacher proclaimed truth with clarity and precision. He knew how to communicate to His audience so that they could both comprehend and sympathize with the illustrations and analogies that He would employ. Therefore, when Jesus teaches on true discipleship, He presents a question that emphasizes the cost of truly following Him. Ryle sees the benefit of this teaching and its relationship to holiness by posing the following questions:

What does it cost to be a true Christian? What does it cost to be a really holy man?

The words of Christ accompanied with Ryle's questions help us evaluate a key element to the Christian life that is essential, which is considering the cost. There is a cost that comes with following Christ. Of course, the sacrifice that was made by Christ to provide the forgiveness for sins cost Him His life. This cost is not fully comprehended to its depths, but there is a cost on the behalf of the Christian which acts as a marker of genuine faith and discipleship.

Ryle supposes the one that needs to hear this message above all else is the one that knows of the Christian faith but has yet to experience true saving faith in Christ Jesus. This of course is the heart that corresponds to the soils that are described as thorny and rocky. The individual initially receives the gospel with joy, but the cares of this world and hardships hinder true saving faith. The cost of following Christ was never fully understood. Though this individual might need to know the message of the cost of following Christ, the true Christian needs to be reminded that their holiness is costly.

What is the cost? Ryle provides four areas within the Christian's life: his self-righteousness, his sin, the love of ease, and the favor of this world. For the believer, each of these particulars are costly. Listen to the words of Ryle in reference to the cost of his sins:

He must be willing to give up every habit and practice which is wrong in God's sight. He must set his face against it, quarrel with it, break off from it, fight with it, crucify it, and labour to keep it under, whatever the world around him may say or think.

The cost is found in deliberate war with the flesh and deserting the desires that are constantly opposed to the indwelling Spirit each and every day. A daily awareness of the cost of following Christ should capture the mind and heart of the believer. The exhortations from Ryle's Holiness have personally challenged my own heart and affections for the Lord. I hope that as a body of believers we would be confident of our salvation in Christ Jesus and continue in our daily responsibility of walking in holiness. The pursuit is costly and it's worth examining our lives to see whether we are truly experiencing this essential element of discipleship. I conclude with this final quote from Holiness:

Let every reader of this paper think seriously, whether his religion cost him anything at present. Very likely it costs you nothing. Very probably it neither costs you trouble, nor time, nor thought, nor care, nor pains, nor reading, nor praying, nor self-denial, nor conflict, nor working, nor labour of any kind...A religion which costs nothing is worth nothing. Awake before it is too late.

My prayer is that we are not discouraged but awakened to the call to be holy as our God is holy.

Consider the cost.

Blessings,

Josh

P.S. Beginning in April, I will be commenting on John MacArthur's book, The Gospel According to Jesus, if you want to plan ahead to acquire a copy.

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1809 Bassett Rd.
Palestine, TX 75803





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Wednesday Night Meal

Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm.
\$6/Adult, \$4/Child 12&under,
\$25 max per family

Men & Women's Bible Study



Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

KIDS CHOIR

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. during Bible Study



DEACON Vote and Ordination

March 15th during the evening service we will
vote on new deacons.
March 22nd during the evening service, we will
have a Deacon Ordination.



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SUN
MAR

08

5:00 PM



It's a Boy!



Please join us in the WBC parlor for a baby
sprinkle honoring Bethanie Andrews.
Bethanie is registered at babylist.com



BIRTHDAYS

Jonathan Thigpen		Aly Dennis	
Gunnar Cannon		Logan Zajicek	
Vonda Frazier		Tristan Bryant	
Jeannie Linam			

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AND EXCITEMENT!

KIDS AND YOUTH FUN NIGHT!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18
6-8PM

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

FAMILY PICNIC

At the Church
Saturday, March 21
From 12-2

5TH SUNDAY MEAL

March 29th after church service.
Italian Theme.
Please bring your favorite Italian dish or dessert.
The church will provide salad and bread.

2026

March

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Evening Service	2	3 Homeschool Co-Op	4 Wed. Nt. Meal Bible Drill Bible Study & Kids Choir	5	6	7
8 Evening Service	9	10 Homeschool Co-Op	11 Wed. Nt. Meal Bible Drill Bible Study & Kids Choir	12	13	14
15 Business Meeting, Vote for Deacons, Open Gym	16	17	18 6-8pm - Kids & Youth Fun Night	19	20	21 12-2pm - Family Picnic
22 4:30pm - Church Drill & Ultimate Drill 6:30pm - Evening Service, Deacon Ordination	23	24 Homeschool Co-Op	25 Wed. Nt. Meal Bible Drill Bible Study & Kids Choir	26	27	28
29 5th Sunday Meal	30	31 Homeschool Co-Op				