

The brothers and sisters in the Lord's church at Westside would like to wish God's people everywhere who are struggling in various ways his blessings and peace upon them. May his healing hand be upon Kevin our minister and upon all of those who call upon the name of the Lord for healing. These have been trying and troublesome times for everyone. It is comforting to know that God is in control and that he loves us and he will see us through the many challenges that come our way. In Kevin's absence, I will be conducting Sunday morning bible class in which I will bring you another lesson from our Wednesday night class. Last Wednesday and this Sunday we have been, and will be examining the confessions that the apostle Peter made concerning who Jesus is. At the end of a very hard and ambiguous teaching on Jesus being the Living Bread that came down from heaven, we observed that many of his disciples turned their backs on Jesus and left him, not being able to follow him anymore because of this teaching. What made them leave was Jesus telling them that his flesh was real food and his blood was real drink and they had to eat and drink of him to have life in themselves. After they had left, Jesus looked at his apostles and asked them if they would like to leave too. The apostle Peter spoke right up and said, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." This is the first of two great confessions that Peter himself will make about our Lord. Peter's confession told Jesus, and us posteriorly, that he believed there was no one else to turn to that could possibly fit the mold that he has made to be the Messiah. There was nobody else that could do the miracles he did. Peter knew he was from King David's lineage, he knew scripture very well for an "uneducated Galilean" so he recognized him, having been a disciple of John the Baptist along with Andrew, James and John, he was waiting for him to come upon the scene. When he arrived John the Baptist pointed him out to the disciples and made witness and confession of his own concerning Jesus. John said to them and all who were in attendance that day in the Jordan river saying, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said a man who comes after me has surpassed me because he existed before me. I did not recognize him but the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit", I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God". After hearing John's confession, they leave him and followed Jesus because he had the words of eternal life. From being with him for a little more than a year and a half and experiencing everything Jesus did and said, they came to not just believe, but *know* he was the Son of God. Jim