



WEST COLUMBIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

## SACRIFICE

Sacrifice comes from a Greek word that means *"to kill"*. When we kill something, it's dead and gone; we don't have it anymore—we give it up, we **sacrifice** it. Consider this list of those who've sacrificed something.

ABRAHAM	gave up country and kindred	Genesis 12:1,4
MOSES	gave up a rich life in Egypt	Hebrews 11:26
JEPHTHA	gave up his only daughter	Judges 11:35
The WIDOW	gave up all her living	Mark 12:44
PAUL	gave up all things	Philippians 3:8
TIMOTHY	gave up caring for himself	Philippians 2:20
GOD	gave his Son	John 3:16
JESUS	gave his Life	Matthew 20:28

They all sacrificed—and for someone else, not themselves. It cost them—greatly! Not unreasonably then, Jesus told us he **requires** the same from us: “**And he said to them ALL, If ANY man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**” (Luke 9:23).

Jesus took up his cross to die. So do we. But not in a physical sense, as we're told: “**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a LIVING sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**” (Romans 12:1) God wants a **living** sacrifice, one that keeps on giving. As Jesus said, we need to take up our cross “daily”.

We might think of things that are “sacrifices” for us. But they can't substitute for what God has told us He wants us to kill: “**Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth; fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness ... But now you also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;**” (Colossians 3:5-9) All those things we do to please ourselves; the Lord has said—lose them, so we might gain Christ.

“**But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.**” - Philippians 3:7  
Don't be sad, instead **rejoice** and take comfort in the thought that those things we **lose**, are **gain** to Christ, and He and His Father will then be glad to welcome us home.  
- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

Remember ... **NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!**

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### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J BOLEN—Moral Thinking

PM: T J BOLEN—2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him,  
If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;  
And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” - John 8:31,32

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JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

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### SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study  
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly  
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study  
Office Phone (803) 794-5320  
*Nursery provided*  
*Bible Classes for all ages*

**LADIES CLASS**  
To be announced

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Anna Porter, Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Paula Kennedy** had 3 surgeries last week.
- **Judy Walker** is home from the hospital, but not feeling well. **Gwen Pittman** isn't well either. **Josiah Jenkins is recovering from strep throat.**
- **Anna Porter** is wearing a heart monitor and still weak, **Margaret Herring** is stoically suffering many ills, **Jan Kelleher** as well. Pray for these, we miss, and need, their presence.
- **Dorothy Gray** requests prayers for her parents, **Ronald and Martha Taylor** who are traveling to Florida for the funeral of their best friend.
- **Jim Farley**, architect and builder who did well for us in our building renovations in 2003 is ill and has been moved to Bethany House.
- Remember to send cards and call those you've not seen for awhile.
- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, knowledge.**

**"I intreated thy favor with my whole heart:  
be merciful unto me according to thy word." - Psalm 119:58**

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **Carolina Men's Fellowship**—Rock Hill, Saturday March 8. Lord willing, **Ed Kelleher** will be leaving from the church building at 7am in his van with **Tommy White** and has room for 5 others to go along, back by 5 pm. Don't miss the great encouragement!
- **LORD'S WORK SHEETS!** All members are asked to update theirs as we will be assigning necessary work monthly to members of the congregation, based on what you say you'll do. Please fill one out and put it in the basket in the **church office.**
- **YOUNG ADULT and NEW CONVERT** class Sundays, 10 am, upstairs classroom.
- Informal **Bible Study**, at the building **3 pm Saturdays.** Ask your Bible questions.
- Entire assembly is now being recorded on DVD thanks to brother Marshal Mancuso. See **Marshall** or **Jones Gamble** to get a copy for yourself or to share with someone.
- We need **volunteers** to take the DVD and the Lord's supper to our shut-ins.

**"And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." - Philippians 1:14**

## **Sun AM Sermon—MORAL THINKING**

What is your baseline for determining what is moral and immoral; is it the Bible or other factors?

### **Main Text - 1 Peter 4:1-4**

1. Arm yourselves with the same way of thinking.
2. Live for the will of God.
3. The Christian's "spiritual barometer" is different from all others.

## **DEATH OFFERS HOPE**

To some that statement is a shock. Most people feel there is no hope in death, but notice what the apostle Paul said in First Thessalonians 4:13, **“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.”** Unlike the world which has no hope, the Christian has a lively hope — a hope built upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead: **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” - 1 Peter 1:3**

In First Corinthians 15:55-57, the apostle Paul again enlightens us as to death. In this passage, Paul teaches us that there is victory over death of which the faithful will be a part. He said, **“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

It is through death that we gain the victory! Heaven is not ours until we pass from life unto death. We cannot be with the Lord until we are raised, and we cannot be raised until we die. Therefore, death offers hope because through death we gain life eternal. It is with these thoughts Paul said, **“Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thess. 4:18).**

Death sometimes catches us off guard and shocks us back to reality as to what is really important. We can all be thankful that certain incidents happen in life that help us to keep a proper perspective on life and on death. These incidents help us deal with the cold reality of death. Yes, they come as a shock, but with God's help and instruction, we are able to deal with them trusting in Him to carry us through.

- **Chuck Northrop**, minister Mayflower church of Christ, Arkansas

## **DEATH MUST BE PREPARED FOR**

Life is actually a preparation for death. Jesus said, **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal” (Matt. 6:19-20).**

The things of this world will be consumed in a fervent heat (2 Pet. 3:10), but we will live on — **“they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:29).** Since we will live on, we must prepare for death. We prepare for death by obeying God in becoming a Christian and by obeying Him in faithful living. We become a Christian by obedience to the plan of salvation. God has made the way for us by sending forth His Son to pay the price of sin. We live faithfully by worshiping and serving the Creator according to God's word with the motivation of love and faith. When we come to the realization that life is a preparation for death, we will have the proper outlook on life and on death.

- **Chuck Northrop**, minister Mayflower church of Christ, Arkansas

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