



WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Truth IS Stranger Than Fiction (2)

Casual observation and surface thinking demonstrate that by no means can all the teaching and practices in churches, be from God. One group (church) says a person cannot fall “from grace”; another says a person can fall. Can both teachings be from God? One group (church) says that baptism has nothing to do with one’s forgiveness; another says baptism is for the remission of sins. Can both teachings be statements of God? To the person who has believed Truth (the simple, or simply, the Word of God), the teachings of error are very strange. To the person who has accepted human tradition (error, or unscriptural teachings), the Truth (statements of God’s Word) sounds very strange.

On the number one teaching above, the truth is stated many times in the gospel of Jesus. Perhaps nowhere more clearly than in Galatians 5:14, “**Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace.**” Well, that’s the TRUTH that God gives to all mankind. But to the person who has already believed that one cannot fall, that’s a strange teaching - hence TRUTH is stranger than fiction especially to the one who has sincerely believed the fiction.

On the second teaching above, perhaps almost all the religious realm, at least in the United States, believes most sincerely that to be baptized has nothing whatever to do with a person’s salvation or forgiveness of sins. So very many have believed with all earnestness and sincerity that if they just “accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior”, then they are saved and forgiven. All else, to such a person, is non-essential and does not really matter.

But God has somewhat to say on that subject. Since it is God’s to forgive sin, then it follows that God has all right to set before humans the condition or conditions for a person to receive that forgiveness of His.

So notice - man says, “Only accept.” God says: A person must repent, after he believes in Jesus as the Son of God (John 8:32, Luke 13:3 and 5); that a person must confess his faith in Jesus (not that he believes God has already pardoned his sins for Jesus’ sake—a purely human statement) (Acts 8:37); then a person must be baptized in order to be forgiven of his past sins (Acts 2:38, Matt. 28:18-20, 1 Peter 3:20-21).

When one does these, he is forgiven. Truth is stranger than fiction.

C.R. Franks, Gospel preacher, West Columbia church Bulletin, Jan 30, 1975

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 35 August 31, 2014

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J Bolen—The “Obedience” of Hell

PM: T J Bolen—What Makes A Great Church?

“Neither pray I for these alone,
but for them also which shall believe on me
through their word” - John 17:20

ARE WE PRAYING FOR OTHERS? - NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

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Nursery provided
Bible Classes for all ages

Informal Bible Study
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your Bible questions
Saturdays 3 pm

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Margaret Herring** has been diagnosed with some skin cancers, but the doctors are waiting to see what might develop. Also with bronchitis and chronic pain.
- **Jason Parks** has had difficulty sleeping for several months now, a bad situation.
- **Anna Porter** is to have a heart treatment Sept 3 to bring her heart back into rhythm. Join **Anna** in fervent prayer that she will be strong enough to have the treatment and hopefully improve her condition so she can be back with us.
- **Jen Parks'** aunt **Lou** is in her 80's and recovering from a broken arm.
- Remember also, **Gwen Pittman** (send a card), **Dorothy Gray**, **Margaret Gamble (Jones' sister)**, **Stephanie Rigney**, **Floyd Richbourg** and **Carolyn Stidham**.
- Remember to pray for and send cards to those we've not seen for awhile.
- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**

**"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;
in honor preferring one another;" - Romans 12:10**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Next Sunday is **FIRST** Sunday, stay to share a meal and for the men's business meeting afterwards.
- Our thanks to **Daryl Macon** and **Peter Jackson** of North Columbia for preaching last week while TJ and family were at a lectureship.
- **Gospel Meeting** St. Andrews Road 9/14-17, **Allen Webster** of Jacksonville AL.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**
- We need **volunteers** to take the DVD and the Lord's supper to our shut-ins.

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much:" - Luke 16:10

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- We rejoice with **Lisa Jenkins** as **Josiah** has returned home after her illness and that **Lisa** is able to go back to work. She has moved to a new apartment to be closer to her work and is meeting with the saints at North Columbia.
- **And**, that **Hannibal Davis** graduated from Marine Corp Recruit Training..
- **And**, We're thankful that those traveling are back with us safely again.

Sermon Outline AM - *The "Obedience" of Hell*

1. What Hell is not
2. Biblical descriptions of Hell.
3. Hell is a reality of the wrath of God.
4. Hell is a reality of the justice of God.
5. Are you trying to get to Heaven or simply avoiding Hell?

Dishes, Pots, Pans and US

Choosing a dish, a pot or a container isn't something we think much about. If asked, I'd bet you'd say, "Well, I just look for one large enough for what I want it to hold." But there are other things we consider, though we're likely not aware of them.

For example, does it **leak**? A dish with a crack might be alright to hold candy but we wouldn't use it for soup. Is it **strong**? Something strong enough to hold popcorn might not hold sand or dirt from the garden. Is it **clean**? A glass with a lipstick stain will likely go back in the sink. Is it **appropriate**? A dish the dogs have eaten from probably won't find it's way to the table when company comes for dinner. When we look for a container to use, there's actually quite a bit we look for.

It's the same with **us** and the Lord. The Lord thinks of **us** as **vessels** He can use in different ways to carry things—or not at all. Do we **leak** and lose what the Lord has given us, or do we hold fast the faithful word? Are we **strong** and able to bear up under heavy loads or do we fail at the mildest of temptations? Are we **clean** or have we soiled our clothes like children with the cares and things of this world? Are we appropriate, **are we holy**, or have we fallen back to sinful ways as pigs returning to wallow in the mire? The Lord has much work he wants done. God is not willing that any perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9) . Who will be able to **help** with that work? If we want to be useful to God, we need to remember that we've repented from dead, unfruitful works and instead do the works of God. The Lord chose Paul to write much of the New Testament. Why? There was a reason. He can choose us too, or not.

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth, and some to honor and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." - 2 Timothy 2:20,21

Which are you? Which to you want to be? Let's be faithful, and hold fast what the Lord has given us: His **word** and the **hope of glory** with Him in heaven. Let's **purge** ourselves of the things of this world and not dirty ourselves with them. If we do, God will be pleased to use **us** as vessels of honor, for His glory, by putting opportunity in our path and there will be many jewels in our crown when we are able to use those opportunities.

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, SC

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” - 2 Timothy 2:3,4

HAVE YOU CHOSEN? Then, NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!