



# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## Original Application

The Bible is far too often read with a desire to make application without putting in the proper study. One of the most common mistakes in approaching scripture is to neglect the intended purpose for the original audience. Before applying the word in modern times it must be understood in its original setting. Truth has not and will not change, but to understand it we need to do our best to put ourselves in the place of the first recipient(s). God had the books written for specific reasons and for specific people. Consider 1 Timothy 3:14-15, the apostle Paul wrote “These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of the living God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” You can see the timeless truths very plainly: The church is still and always has been the house of the living God; the church is and always has been the pillar and ground of the truth. Additionally in these verses Paul told Timothy why he was writing the letter. Knowing why the letter was written helps us understand the book from Timothy’s perspective. Everything in 1 Timothy pertains to how Timothy, the preacher at the church in Ephesus (1:3), needed to go about his work. The text in 3:1-7 of this letter is one of the places we must go to when discussing “qualifications of elders ” But this is almost always done without consideration for the text outside of those seven verses. The elder is one who oversees the church. What is it that he is to oversee? He oversees the pillar and support of the truth, the house belonging to the living God. That’s why a man meeting every last one of those qualifications/qualities is of the utmost importance. To lack in even one is enough to keep him from being one of the overseers of this group. Does this not add some weight to the meaning of what an elder does, and who he must be? That’s not understood when we don’t go beyond 3:7? The truth and application of scripture is right there in the pages you read every time. Let’s do our diligence in our Bible study, let’s approach scripture as God gave it and intended it and not how it suits us.

**T.J. Bolen** Gospel preacher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

**“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” - Jude 3**

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

**THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 9 March 1, 2015**

### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

**AM: T.J. Bolen— How We Use the Bible**

**PM: T.J. Bolen— Speaking in Christ, in the Sight of God. 2 Cor. 12:14-21**

**JOIN US IN  
PRACTICING  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
COME SEE!**

### WHO SPEAKS TO US?

**“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, ... “ - Hebrews 1:1,2**

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

The Bulletin  
(USPS-994-500)  
Periodicals Postage Paid  
West Columbia, SC  
Published Weekly By:  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169

### *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*

*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:** *Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Margaret Herring** has an appointment on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to evaluate an abscess on her salivary gland. She is also still having trouble with her foot. **Stephanie Rigney** is to have a PET scan Saturday March 12 to see if her cancer is still in remission.
- Remember these and: **Anna Porter; Tommy and Michelle Johnson; the Brisbons in NY, Gwen Pittman; Grant Parks** and family; **Debbie Sheppard; Nikki Willis; Eileen Lester; Floyd Richbourg** with knee problems.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

**“For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.” - Psalms 22:24**

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

- **First Sunday!** All are invited to stay and share a meal with us. **Men’s meeting** afterwards. Welcome several who have moved into the area and are visiting with us.
- **Carolina Men’s Fellowship** in Rock Hill, Saturday March 14, make plans to go. Ed and Tommy White are driving up and have room for more if you’d like to go.
- **House to House, Heart to Heart** pamphlets from the church were mailed to homes in the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Our thanks** to all who showed up to pass out announcements of our upcoming series on “How We Got the Bible”. These start next Tuesday at 7 pm and will run for about 2 months. Over 200 hundred announcements were assembled and hung on people’s doors in less than 2 hours. Pray that God will be glorified.
- **Daylight time** starts next Sunday, March 8, 2015.
- Lots of stray dishes in the kitchen, please pickup any that are yours.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

**“If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, ...” - James 3:2**

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

## **Sun AM Sermon— *How We Use the Bible***

The Bible is the sole means of teaching and learning about God, we must ensure we are studying and applying His word as He intended for us to.

1. Even with the presence of Scripture, faith in God is supposed to be taught person to person.
2. Our purpose in Bible study is to draw out the meaning which is already present. *HOW?*
  - a. Be an archeologist
  - b. Learn book by book
  - c. Consider to how and to whom the scriptures were first given?
  - d. What does approaching the Bible this way help us accomplish?

## **OVERCOMING HUMAN TRADITION**

Many times a person will have difficulty accepting the truth taught in God's Word because it goes against what was formerly believed by the individual, and perhaps contradicts what he was always taught. This very thing happened to Alexander Campbell, who set out to restore New Testament Christianity in the 19th century. Campbell's family had always practiced infant baptism, and Campbell himself had been sprinkled. But when a child was born to Campbell and his wife in March of 1812, he determined to study the subject in light of the Bible alone.

Throwing aside the Presbyterian tradition in which he had been raised, Campbell was convinced through a study of the Bible that only penitent believers were appropriate subjects for baptism. He studied further and looked at the original language, and discovered that baptism was actually immersion.

Alexander related these conclusions to his father, Thomas Campbell, who agreed with his study. They realized that they had never been baptized into Christ. On June 12, 1812, Alexander Campbell and six others — his wife, sister, father, mother, and James Halen and his wife — were all baptized into Christ for the remission of sins.

The gospel is the power of God to save (Romans 1:16), but when men pervert the gospel it loses its power. This is the reason there are such stern warnings against changing what is revealed. "As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:9). Adding to and taking away from the message is strictly forbidden (Revelation 22:18-19).

The Campbells recognized and respected the Lord's authority on the question of baptism by immersion by penitent believers, as well as other points. While Alexander Campbell is not the founder of the church of Christ, nor is he our authority in religious matters, he serves as a good example on this point that we would all do well to imitate. Search the Scriptures for the answers to religious questions, and submit to the ordinances of God.

- **Jason T. Carter**, evangelist, Mt. Vernon Church of Christ, Park City, Kentucky

**“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) ...” - 1 Peter 3:21**

**Throwing aside man’s traditions, is one way to ...**

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**