



# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## Spring Eternal Hope

More than likely you are familiar with the expression “hope springs eternal.” This phrase describes in a darkly humorous manner how one may hope without reason for a positive result. It is a phrase commonly used during this time of year; not merely because it is Spring even though Spring most certainly brings a time of newness and refreshment. All the professional baseball organizations are currently in spring training. So “hope is springing eternal” in regards to winning the World Series and ball players looking for their chance to break into the Major League for the first time. But only two teams can make it to the World Series and regardless of talent there are only so many roster spots. Similarly college football programs around the country are in the midst of spring practice. Many are excited about their team's chances for the coming season. Nevermind the facts that there isn't much hitting in spring football (and in football hitting is still somewhat necessary), bad players don't become great players from November to March, or that your team completely stunk last year and its pretty much the same group running the show this year. Sometimes people just want to hope for the sake of hoping.

In order to avoid hoping for the sake of hoping there needs to be a reality for a positive expectation. To help remind us of this reality we can rearrange the words of our phrase and kick-out an “s” for it to read as, “spring eternal hope.” Spring can mean the origin of something. Christians have eternal hope which is sprung by Christ. In Ephesians 1:18 part of Paul's prayer for the brethren was that, “**you may know the hope of His calling.**” Jesus is the source of hope, and we are called by His gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14). The hope provided by, through, and only in Christ is an eternal one, “**For we know that if our earthly house is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens**” (1 **Corinthians 5:1**). As long as we remain in Christ this hope cannot be taken away from us (John 10:29; Romans 8:1). The list of all which can drain our hope in life is not a short one, but the list of who provides real hope is extremely short. Hope in Him.

- T.J. Bolen, Gospel preacher, West Columbia South Carolina

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” - Romans 8:1

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

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### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen— He is risen; what about you?

PM: T.J. Bolen— Girded with truth, Ephesians 6:14

“Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.” - Luke 12:37

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

JOIN US IN  
PRACTICING  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
COME SEE!

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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.*

- **Stephanie Rigney’s** PET scan results show she is still cancer free, but her arthritis is getting worse.
- Tests show **Tommy White** is in need of heart surgery.
- **Ethel Smith** had surgery to repair a muscle in her eye and is doing well.
- **Margaret Herring** had 3 biopsies. The doctor recommends drug treatment rather than surgery.
- **Floyd and Connie Richbourg** and the **Gambels** will be traveling Sunday.
- Remember these and: **Anna Porter; Gwen Pittman; the Brisbons in NY ; Grant Parks** and family; **Debbie Sheppard; Nikki Willis; Eileen Lester;** and **Floyd Richbourg.**
- 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)**

**"Now know I that the Lord saveth his annointed; he will hear from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand." - Psalm 20:6**

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

- Take the **“New Testament Challenge”!** Read the New Testament in 30 days, an average of 9 chapters a day.
- Next week is our “First Sunday “ luncheon.
- **How We Got the Bible** class continues each Tuesday at 7pm.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

**“But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” - 1 John 2:5,6**

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

**“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” - 2 Timothy 2:24-26**

## **Sunday AM Sermon – *He is risen; what about you?***

1. He is not here; for he has risen, just as He said. Matthew 28:6
2. Come see the place where he was lying. Mt. 28:6.
3. Rise With Christ.

## **The Church's Mission Is Spiritual**

The church of Christ has never sought to be a political force such as Catholicism is, for the church is spiritual in its design and mission (**John 18:36**). The salvation of souls by the preaching of the gospel is the work of the church. God ordained civil government to direct and control matters political. Likewise, the home has been established through divine wisdom as the center and circumference of human society. It is not the business of the church to furnish entertainment for anybody.

It is the business of the church to work in the interest of the souls of men, and that alone through the teaching and preaching of the gospel of Christ. When the church begins to serve political and social purposes, it has been prostituted from its high and holy mission given by the will of the God of heaven.

**- Jerry C. Brewer, Editor Gospel Preceptor**

## **The New Testament — Our Guide**

When the church was established and began to work, Paul wrote 14 letters to churches and preachers telling them how to live. James wrote one letter, Peter two, John three, and Jude one. These are all letters of church discipline and government, telling church members how to live.

The last book in the New Testament was written by John. The Revelation not only tells of the past and the present in the first century, but crosses the river of death and tells us of the future home God has prepared for those who love Him and do His commandments. He tells us that on the other side of the river of death there is no night, but one eternal day; no sickness, sorrow, pain, or death. The river of life and the tree of life are found there. So the New Testament — properly divided, read, understood, and obeyed — is a safe guide to lead us into the city whose Builder and Maker is God.

In summary, there are 27 books in the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell me what I must believe in order to be saved. Acts of Apostles tells me what I must do to be saved. The 21 letters of Christian instruction that follow tell me how I must live and work after I am saved in order to finally reach the heavenly home we read about in the last book of the Bible.

My brethren are often condemned for preaching so much in Acts of Apostles, but this will be our leading book as long as we teach salvation to a dying world, for this is where we find the plan of salvation first taught by the apostles after they had Holy Ghost baptism which qualified them to preach the gospel to all the world. As long as we teach the same things the apostles taught them to do, we are sure we are teaching the word of God, and we are also sure we will be rewarded at the last day for so doing. So, let all be satisfied with the simple word of God, to teach and fight it out along that line, knowing that if we do this, heaven will be our home.

**- J. D. Tant 1861-1941, Gospel Preacher**