

THE BULLETIN—VOL 43, NUMBER 47 December 24, 2017

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

PM: Ed Kelleher

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

A Sure Thing!

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” - 1 Corinthians 15:58

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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

SERVICES

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

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays 3 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time position open

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

GIVE ME A CHANCE

Have you ever asked the Lord to open a door for you? To give you a chance to serve him? It's a good thing to pray for. In Matthew 7:7 the Lord promised us **"Knock, and it shall be opened unto you"**.

How many of us, though, **believe** that promise? How many of us **keep** asking, and asking, and asking, but we never seem to get the chance we're **looking** for? Maybe that's the problem—we're not **seeing** the chances or opportunities to do good the Lord is giving us. Maybe we're being too picky or choosy: "Not that one Lord, I want a **really** good work to do!"

Let's remember that it is the **Lord's work** we're about, not ours. It's He who gives us the opportunities we have. It's He that gives the increase (1 Cor 3:6, 2 Tim 2:25). Let's trust Him, that He'll give us what we need, because He **has**—His Word, the gospel! Let's take advantage then of the opportunities we have, no matter how small they might seem to us. Let's open our eyes and hearts to them:

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

Maybe when we want to do some great thing, what we're **really** wanting is to say: "Look what I did." **We** want the recognition for the deed; from people instead of from God. But the real power and strength we have can only come from God:

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"—Philp 4:13

He wants us to know this and **act** like we know it. He'll be pleased with us if we do—if we trust in **His** power and strength, just as He was pleased with the church in Philadelphia. Look at what the Lord praised about them:

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." - Revelation 3:8

They didn't **deny** the name of Christ by seeking to please themselves and trusting in their **own** power or wisdom. They humbly **did** what the Lord put in front of them, trusting in Him and His word - looking to please God and not themselves. Let's do the same, so our Lord will say the same—of **us**.

- **Ed Kelleher**, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 12/24/2017

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Dawn Gamble**, has been suffering a severe respiratory issue for several weeks now, so much so they had to postpone and cancel their year end drop-in.
- **Margaret Herring** requests prayers for her grandson's wife **Angela**, who has been diagnosed with leukemia and has slipped into a coma. Also, for her oldest daughter, **Anne** who has a spinal injury and having an MRI.
- **Pat Joyner** requests prayer for her grand daughter **Michelle** an severely injured her mouth, requiring surgery.
- **Judy Cornelius** requests prayers for her health. Ryan Sheppard was at Drill and Jamie and Kaitlin have been traveling.
- Remember the Amy and the Strickland family, dealing with continual ills/
- And **Margaret Herring** suffering from many difficulties with self and family.
- **Pray for all these**, and our search for an **evangelist** to help us with the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.” - 1 Timothy 2:8

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Laura** and **Jordan Beard** were very thankful for the basket the church provided.
- **Cancelled:** The drop-in at the **Gamble's** home. Remember Dawn in your prayers.
- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jones Gamble** or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **Contact** those on the Directory list that you've not seen recently (like last Sunday).
- **Save the Date! Carolina Men's Fellowship**, Saturday 3/10/18 at church of Christ at Gold Hill Rd, Fort Mill, SC. Lord willing, **Ed** will be driving a van full of men to it.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” - Philippians 1:6

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

GOOD TO MEMORIZE AND KEEP WITH YOU

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” - Psalm 100

THANK GOD

How do you thank someone for doing something for you? Hopefully you do; no one likes those who are ungrateful. But how do we sincerely thank someone? You might shake their hand, or give them a kiss as you tell them so, or you might write them a note. But the best way is to show them you're thankful for what you've received, by using what they've given you. “Thanks for those slippers, I wear them all the time!” Thank a cook by eating their food with gusto. Thank someone who's given you a break by taking advantage of it. Actions speak louder than words.

God hasn't left us hanging in regards to this either. In **1 Peter 1:3** God said He would give us **“all things that pertain unto life and godliness”**. He has done so. And He has given us a way we can show Him we are thankful for the precious gift of hope, peace and life He has given us through His Son:

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” - 1 Peter 4:8-10

The gifts (manifold grace) we have received, God wants us to use by giving them to others. As good stewards He doesn't want us to lock up and guard what we've received, instead He wants us to minister (give) the same to others. He tells us this is what He wants: **“freely ye have received, freely give” - Matthew 10:8**

God gave us His word, to keep us from sin, so we might live and be with Him. Are we thankful for that? Well then show Him—study it, use it! Tell others. This little snippet of scripture tells us **what** we should do (walk, even as He walked) and a good reason **why** (he is the propitiation).

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 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 2:1-6

God has called out to us through the Gospel whereby we can be His children! Are we thankful for this? If so, we'll be showing him by using and growing in those spiritual qualities he wants of us: Charity, meekness, obedience, mercy, zeal, justice, long-suffering, purity, etc.

This is what He has provided the church for, and he's given us the yardstick against which we'll all be measured. Thank God by using what He has given to grow to that complete man God wants us to be. The rest will follow.

“unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:” - Ephesians 4:13

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina