

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 46, December 9, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland

PM: Spencer Strickland

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

WHEN HATE IS NECESSARY

**"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil:
he preserveth the souls of his saints;
he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked." - Psalms 97:10**

Examine yourself! Are you in the faith, or not? (2 Cor 13:5)

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

On Request
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

Church Growth Is Not An Accident

When a congregation of the Lord's church increases in number it is no sequence of random events. If visitors were to come and become engaged in a Bible study leading to their salvation, it would not be accidental. To become engaged in Bible study members of the church have to be intentional about sharing their faith. Or perhaps someone visits and hears the right message at the right time. This as well is not an accident. The scriptures are powerful and sermons are intended to generate action. The word of God will always convict the honest heart (this is by no means limited to obeying the gospel message of Jesus).

Sometimes a congregation increases in number, but it does so at the expense of another local body. This is not church growth by any Biblical definition. The new faces are encouraging for the group whose size has increased because there are more workers, more relationships to enjoy, etc... But this is an example of relocation, not growth. The church as a whole is has not profited nor have souls been added. The only occasion in which a matter of this nature is useful is when those leaving a particular group are doing so because of error which they are certain they cannot reverse. Paul warned of departures from truth brought about by those within the church (Acts 20:28-30).

True church growth is always intentional (Acts 6:7; 1 Cor. 3:6-7). Individuals in the church must make conscious decisions to grow in and live by the word of God. God will use people who make themselves available to Him in His service. Are you doing your part to help bring more souls to Christ by doing what is necessary to reach greater heights in your faith? If your ears are dull, if you're stuck on milk and not moving on to solid food (Hebrews 5:11-14); you're not doing your part. We all have different roles, that is how God designed the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12). But we also have shared responsibilities as well. Growing spiritually is one of them. You may have never realized before how important you are, how important each individual is to the health, well-being, and growth of the local body and therefore the entirety of the church. You are. Christ died for you, and that was no accident.

- T.J. Bolen, Gospel Preacher, West Columbia church of Christ SC (2014)

Examine yourself! Whether you be in the faith (2 Cor 13:5)

How? Read your Bible and these bulletin articles and ask yourself: *"Is it me?"*.

“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.*

- **Janet Boyd’s** mother was in the hospital last week. **Paula Kennedy** is having great difficulty time with shingles. **Pat** had another spell of great dizziness. **Marshall Turbyfill** is going through severe family difficulties also.
- Also remember in prayer: **Connie**, in pain with no apparent relief at this point, **Pat** also with no relief at this point; **Gail Allen** recovering from surgery; **Spencer** and **Amy** ask for prayers for **D.J.** ; **Lauren’s** friend **Ashten** (13 years old) as she is to have stomach surgery and then possibly another eye surgery, Lauren’s grandmother, and **Lauren** also Remember **Linda Floyd** after a knee cap replacement.

"But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.
My times are in thy hand;" - Psalm 31:14

- Pray also that we **all** grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**
- Remember 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.

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren,
be pitiful, be courteous" - 1 Peter 3:8

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **ALL! INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, **be faithful** to use them.

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

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;” - 2 Corinthians 13:5

**“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.” - 2 Timothy 2:15**

Are you working? Will you be ashamed in front of God?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL STAY HOME

If you don't regularly attend the church Bible classes, Sunday and Wed.

If you show up late and leave early most of the time.

If you don't take time to talk with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Do you think you're a member of the Lord's church? Are you acting like it?

It doesn't matter what others think.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked:

for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” - Galatians 6:7

When Love is Bad

Even though Jesus taught that love is the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:36-40), we are also warned that there are certain types of love that are unprofitable and evil. The following are examples of love that we should not have:

Love of money – *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (1 Timothy 6:10 ASV).

Love of the world – *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* (1 John 2:15).

Love of prestige – *“It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory”* (Proverbs 25:27); *“For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted”* (Luke 14:11).

Love of idols – *“Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you”* (Deuteronomy 6:13, 14).

Excessive love of self – *“For men shall be lovers of their own selves...”* (2 Timothy 3:2); *“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again”* (2 Corinthians 5:15); *“...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”* (Philipp. 2:3, 4).

Love of strife – *“As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife”* (Proverbs 26:21); *“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work”* (James 3:14-16).

Love of sin – *“That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”* (2 Thessalonians 2:12); *“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them”* (Romans 1:32).

- **Jason Hilburn**, Minister, Luverne church of Christ, Luverne Alabama

WE MUST KNOW GOD’S WAYS AND WANT TO DO THEM!

How important are the thoughts of our hearts as compared to our actions—what we do? Look what the Lord said was the Israelites' problem:

"Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways." - Psalms 95:10

Is your heart different from God's, are you erring? Better check before it's too late!