

THE BULLETIN—VOL 48, NUMBER 12 March 21, 2022

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Dennis Johnson

PM: no assembly scheduled

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

FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T HANG ON?

**"WHEN I SAID, MY FOOT SLIPPETH;
THY MERCY, O LORD, HELD ME UP" - PSALM 94:18**

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)

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

Office Phone (803) 794-5320
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org
info@WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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

SERVICES
Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM Assembly
Nursery room provided

INFORMAL BIBLE
STUDY
Anytime! Contact: us
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible
questions

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



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

ONE MORNING IN THE MOUNTAINS OF MORIAH

I wonder sometimes if his heart was pounding in his chest as he **"stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son" (Genesis 22:10)**. The Bible record says that he did it by faith, believing "that God was able to raise [his son] up, even from the dead" (Hebrews 11:19). It also says that he rose up early to complete the task, and when his son asked him where the sacrifice was, he said, **"My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering" (Genesis 22:3, 8)**. It even says that he called it "worship" (v. 5). Yet my mind struggles with the concept: how could you have that much faith – faith enough to trust and obey God to the point that you would kill your only son in a sacrifice to Him?

The man was Abraham, whom we are told is "our father", "the father of us all," and the man whose seed we are if we are in Christ (James 2:21, Romans 4:16, Galatians 3:29). This means that Abraham has innumerable children just as God promised: **"I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth"** (Genesis 13:16; cf. 15:5; 16:10; 22:17). Yet Abraham knew little of these future children by faith; he knew less of the future children he would have by Keturah. At the moment he raised that knife he had two sons, but of those two only one legitimate son born to him by the wife of his youth – his princess, his Sarah. That son – Isaac – was the son of the covenant and the son of promise (Genesis 17:21; Romans 9:9). And it was that son who was under the knife that morning in the mountains of Moriah.

We know what happens next. Our father Abraham raises that knife above the hope of the world – his "only son," and the son through whom the seed promise would be delivered (Genesis 22:2; 12:3; 17:19). He raises that knife and prepares to bring it down, but at the last minute is stopped by an angelic voice: **"Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him" (22:12)**.

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"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" - James 2:20-22

Examine yourself, whether you are in the faith ... or not! (2 Cor 13:5)

"PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER" - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Barbara and Melvin Reeder, Merrie Christmus, Margaret Herring, Jan Kelleher, Jamie Sheppard

Daryl Macon is doing much better, for which we are thankful, but continue to remember him in your prayers.

We are thankful for the continued good health of **Dennis and Beth Johnson** and the encouraging preaching of **Dennis** and **Daryl**. Thank them, and God.

Jan Kelleher was not well last week feeling the effect of her chemotherapy treatments, none the less, she is happy and thanking God for his continued mercy.

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.

"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." - Romans 14:8

"AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY" - Acts 2:42

- **MEETING:** If you are able to make it, we are meeting at the building each Sunday for 10am Bible Class and 11am for assembly.
- Please send bulletin news to:
Dawn Gamble <dawngamble@gmail.com>
Paula Kennedy <kennedypaulam@gmail.com>
- **ALL! Contact** those on the Directory list you've not seen recently (like last Sunday).
- **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 sure to use them!
- on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.

It is important for **ALL** to attend **Sunday AM bible studies**, as well as the worship assembly. If you feel you're missing something, Bible class is a good place to go to find it because you can ask questions.

"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

The example we set others, in everything we **do**, or **don't do**, is important and has a great effect on them. For example, the Lord was able to use Paul to encourage other brethren, even when he was in prison, so have a care.

"And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." - Philippians 1:14

Make effort to be at bible class and the assembly this Sunday morning.

ONE MORNING IN THE MOUNTAINS OF MORIAH - (Continued from page 1)

Instead of being forced to kill his son, Abraham was provided with a ram:

"Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns" (22:13). We are not told of the relief that flooded the heart of our father Abraham; we are not told of his thanksgivings going up to God. We are simply told, **"Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son" (v. 13).**

I shudder at the profound faith of my spiritual forerunner. I reflect upon the fact that God has asked no such task of me – neither to give the life of one close to me, nor to give my own of necessity save living a life of self denial. He has not placed a knife in my hand, but the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). I fight no carnal battles, and for the most part fear no carnal recourse. Yet I realize that even with the light yoke placed upon my shoulders – for His **"yoke is easy, [His] burden is light" (Matthew 11:30)** – I sometimes falter. I have a long way to go before I can even stand in the shadow of my father Abraham.

Yet as I watch through the eyes of faith that man of faith pulling the ram out of the thicket, this thought permeates the scene – there was no ram in the thicket for another Father that day. For you see, what my father Abraham's Father did not ultimately ask of him and has asked of no one, He was willing to give. Abraham's Father is my Father and my God, and while my God did not receive Isaac into His arms on that day, He had already opened up His Own arms to let His only begotten Son go. What marvelous faith and sacrifice meet at that splendid scene, where my father Abraham received his son alive again, but where my Father in heaven gave His son to die on the cruel and bitter tree.

- **Patrick Swayne**, missionary to Melbourne, Australia

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)

COMMON SALVATION—ONCE DELIVERED!

"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. ⁴For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." - Jude 3-5