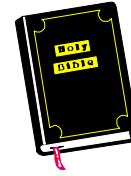


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

BEARING FRUIT

Bearing fruit is something *all* Christians *must* do. Jesus wasn't giving an *agriculture* lesson when he said: "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." - Matthew 7:19

Usually we jump right to the harvesting stage, wanting to pull good fruit out of thin air, much like the rich young ruler who asked Jesus, "What good thing shall I do ..." (Matthew 19:16) as if that were all there was to it. Like him, to be fruitful we should first think instead about how to *prepare* ourselves to be *able* to bear good fruit. If we prepare properly, we'll bear fruit; good fruit, and tons of it. Think for a moment on how you'd go about getting some apples:

First and foremost, you must *want* the fruit, else you won't put out the effort. If you don't like apples, would you buy an apple tree, dig a hole, plant it and water it etc.? You wouldn't, you'd quit first. We also must **know and be fully convinced** the work is worth the effort: "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:" - Romans 2:7

Second, we must get the ground ready—us! You wouldn't drop a tree on the ground in your backyard and expect it grow. Look at the *qualities* a Christian must cultivate *in order to* bear fruit (they aren't fruit of themselves): "add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful ..." - 2 Peter 1:4-8.

Then we must plant the right seeds. Apples don't come from kudzu. If we want *good* fruit, we must plant *good* seed - God's word and wisdom, not man's: "The seed is the word of God" - Luke 8:11, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;"- Romans 1:16

The seed must then be watered and nurtured and cultivated while waiting for the harvest. You don't plant a tree then harvest the next day. We also ought to have patience and faith in God. Wait on the Lord, don't be discouraged, it will be **worth** it! "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - Galatians 6:9

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

Out with self and ... **OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!**

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 8 February 21, 2010

RECORDS 2/14/2010

SERMONS 2/21/2010

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 42
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 60
Sun 6 PM Assembly:
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 39
CONTRIBUTION: \$1708

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: John Manning
THE CRITERIA OF ETHICS
WE ARE GIVEN A CHOICE

"We are bound to thank God always for you brethren, as it is meet,
because that your faith growth exceedingly,
and the charity of every one of you all toward one another aboundeth;"
- 2 Thessalonians 1:3

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

LADIES CLASS

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Jean Godley** has been diagnosed with an extensive, inoperable cancer.
- **Vernecia Matthews** is doing poorly also, having to give up mailing the bulletin as she has done faithfully for many years.
- **We have many that are ill:** Trevia Parks, Marilyn Brooks, Ron Banks, Margaret Herring, Jean Boyd, Anna Porter, Sue Eiland, Anna Porter, Craig Robinson, Carolyn Lee, and Margie DeYoung.
- Remember all these in your prayers. Write them a card, give them a call, let them know you're praying for them and see if they'd like a visit:
- **Cheryl Osland, Betty Mathis'** daughter has asked folks to hold off visiting Betty for a few weeks as there is a stomach flu going the rounds where Betty is. Do call and send cards though.
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember these, those that are recovering from loss, in your prayers.

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" - 1 Peter 1:7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Any of the men of the congregation** with a desire to teach are encouraged to see brother **Manning** to prepare some Wednesday night devotionals/invitations.
- **Carolina Men's Fellowship, 12th Annual, Sat. March 13, 2010** at Rock Hill. 9 AM—3 PM at the Gold Hill Road church of Christ, Fort Mill, SC. If you're interested in going, see Ed, hopefully we'll have a van load going up.
- **College age Bible study now on TUESDAYS at 7 pm.**
- Anyone that would like to **prepare the bulletin** for mailing each week, please see **Ed Kelleher**.
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

2/21 Dole Tropical Fruit 2/14 Campbells Chunky Beef&Dumpling

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this;
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. “ - Galatians 5:14

OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

I'D RATHER SEE A SERMON THAN HEAR ONE, or ...

“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue;
but in deed and in truth.” - 1 John 3:18

CHURCH LEADERSHIP — IS YOU!

God's word is replete with the work, power and necessity of examples:

- **Elders** are to lead the flock—by example. 1 Peter 5:4
- **Woman** convert their non-Christian husbands—by example. 1 Peter 3:1
- **Jesus** left us an example to follow. 1 Peter 2:21
- **Disciples** are followers, looking to be like their master. Luke 6:40
- **Sons** do what they see their father's do. John 5:19

The Lord condemned the Pharisees for not leading by example: “**but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not”** - **Matthew 23:3** Read the whole chapter!

Paul commanded Timothy to be an example; not in dress, or grooming, or table manners, but in things that each and every Christian must possess: “**... be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.**” - **1 Timothy 4:12** These are things we must do for ourselves—and for others!

I got the below list at a local preacher elder meeting (a meeting where men influence others by their example, thanks Mickey!). Ask yourself these questions and see if you are happy with the answers (*see scripture below*):

What if everyone in the church:

- **Loved** as I love?
- **Prayed** as I pray?
- **Sang** as I sang?
- **Studied** the Bible as I study?
- **Attended** as I attend?
- **Gave** to the Lord's work as I gave?
- **Ministered** as I do?
- **Lived** as I live?

Would it be a church pleasing to God? Do you see your role in leading the church by doing what the Lord commanded? Are you fulfilling it? If not, why not?

Jesus led by example. What can be more compelling, more forceful in producing obedience to the Lord's command to minister to others than the example of our Lord and Master washing the disciple's feet. He said as much:

“**For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. ... If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.**” - John 13:15

Be happy! Be a good example, and a leader in the Lord's church!

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

Be a good example ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!