

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 try and 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. However, like him, to be fruitful we should instead first think of 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 then must also 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 to grow. Similarly, there are qualities a Christian must first 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 Pet 1:4-8.

Third, 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

Lastly, 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, it must be tended; the better the care, the better the fruit. We also must 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." - Gal 6:9

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 7/29/2012

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 29 August 5, 2012

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: HARVEY ALLEN

PM: HARVEY ALLEN

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

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

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

The Bulletin
USPS-994-500
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:

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

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

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.*
- Keep the **Gamble** family in your prayers as Jones father steadily declines, and Jones sister **Margie** is having serious rejection problems with her transplanted kidney.
- **Ken and Faye Parks** request prayers for Faye’s brother **Steve Nimms** who is having some pituitary gland issues.
- **Merrie Chrismus** requests prayers for her cousin **Mildred** in Texas who is in ICU.
- **Floyd and Connie Richbourg** we’re under the weather last Wednesday.
- Brother **Cedrick Anderson** requests the prayers of the church in his time of loss.
- Give thanks to God for His mercy, and pray for all these, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” - 1 Peter 5:6,7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- First Sunday luncheon today, with men’s business meeting and a baby shower for **Brittany Sailors.**
- **Bible Study at Church Building, most Saturdays at 3 pm,** all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It’s a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong’s Concordances.

“IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME” - MATTHEW 16:24

WHAT CAN THE WORLD DO FOR YOU?

(kill you ...)

“..., which, when they have heard, they go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection” - Luke 8:14

And ...

“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”

- Matthew 7:19

Knowing the world can kill you then, for eternity, don’t you think you’d rather:

“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

And thus ...

IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012

A SURPRISING WOE

Normal human nature craves friends, and delights in being well spoken of. One of the basic passions is a feeling of self-importance. To be sinned against in this respect is as grievous as going hungry. It is the more surprising, therefore, that Jesus said, **“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for in the same manner did their fathers to the false prophets.”** (ASV Luke 6:26).

It is commonly considered a compliment to a man if he has no enemies. But militant goodness is offensive to some and makes enemies "for righteousness' sake." The Lord Jesus was wholly clear of all manner of sin, and yet He began to make enemies as soon as He came into the public eye. His very righteousness was a rebuke to a self-ish, scheming class, and His teaching met the most violent opposition. He was subjected in turn to ridicule, opposition in debate, and death. The worst passions of depraved hearts were loosed in fury upon Him. He had friends, but His enemies were many and powerful.

And it is interesting to note how many reacted to Paul. If there was ever a good man, praiseworthy in all respects, Paul was one. After he became a Christian, a search for sin in his life would yield meager results. And yet from the very beginning of his ministry in the gospel he was harassed as few men have ever been. Some of his enemies were members of the church — "false brethren," he called them. From one place he fled with a companion **“when there was made an onset both of the Gentiles and of the Jews with their rulers, to treat them shamefully and to stone them.”** (ASV Acts 14:5). He was beaten and put in jail on a charge that he taught unlawful customs. He was charged with turning "the world upside down." His enemies said he taught "men to worship God contrary to the law." "Some mocked" in the face of his most brilliant sermons. A hired orator, speaking for a powerful group, called him, "a pestilent fellow," said he ought to be in a pesthouse somewhere, and stigmatized him as a ringleader of a sect which stirred up trouble all over the world.

Jesus and Paul made enemies for a great cause, and their enemies emphasized their greatness and righteousness. **“Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you.”** (ASV Matt. 5:11-12).

- Cled E. Wallace, Gospel preacher

So, what do men think of you? ... What does God think of you?

Which matters?

“What shall we then say to these things?

If God be for us, who can be against us?” - Romans 8:31