



WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“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).

- (Continued on page 3)

“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

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 12 March 23, 2014

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J BOLEN—That you may be certain

PM: T J BOLEN—Who is God: More of God's Attributes

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

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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:
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
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

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Judy Walker, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.

- **Steve Rigney** and **Dorothy Gray** came forward last week requesting the prayers of the church that they will be stronger in the Lord.
- **Jason Parks** was rear ended in a car crash. Fortunately, no critical injuries, but he is recovering at home as the crash was severe.
- **Kelly and Adler Kennedy** are home sick. **Samantha Mancuso** has Strep throat.
- **Gwen Pittman** is getting stronger and able to get around with a walker. Pray the Lord will be merciful, that **Gwen**, and our sister **Judy Walker**, will get more strength and be with us soon. Remember also **Margaret Herring** and **Pat Joyner**.
- **Anna Porter** continues at home resting and waiting for a procedure to help her physical heart work better; hopefully by the end of the month.
- Prayers are requested for **Larry Reeves**, awaiting a heart transplant.
- Pray for **Dylan Leahy**, **Jeffrey Marks**, and **Audrey Williams**, new Christians who have been absent from our assembly for quite some time.
- Remember to pray for and send cards to those we've not seen for awhile.
- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge**.

"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

- **Saturday 3pm Bible Studies have resumed .. bring someone.**
- **LORD'S WORK SHEETS!** All members are asked to update theirs as we will be assigning necessary work monthly to members of the congregation, based on what you say you'll do. Please fill one out and put it in the basket in the **church office**.
- **YOUNG ADULT and NEW CONVERT** class Sundays, 10 am, upstairs classroom.
- Informal **Bible Study**, at the building **3 pm Saturdays**. Ask your Bible questions.
- Entire assembly is now being recorded on DVD thanks to brother Marshal Mancuso. See **Marshall** or **Jones Gamble** to get a copy for yourself or to share with someone.
- We need **volunteers** to take the DVD and the Lord's supper to our shut-ins.

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

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- **Jerry Herring**, an old friend of **Ed Kelleher**, passed away Thursday. He and his wife **Nancy** had visited here at West Columbia occasionally in the past.

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." - Ecclesiastes 9:10

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

It is important for **ALL** to attend **Sunday AM and Wed PM bible studies!** If you feel you're missing something, Bible class is a good place to go to find it.

“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