



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

WELCOME THE WORD

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls..” - James 1:21

It is one thing to hear the Word of God, it is something else to **welcome** it. There are two words in the New Testament translated *receive*. One is a word that means to reach out and take. But that is not the word James uses in James 1:21. The word that James uses is one that means to welcome as you would **welcome a friend**. You open your heart to the word as you would open your home to receive a friend. In this text James identifies three ways to receive the word.

First, you welcome the word with **repentance**: “Lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness.” The word filthiness is a word, a medical term that means “wax in the ear.” The Christian life is one of ongoing repentance. Remove the wax that keeps you from receiving the word — that’s repentance. The “superfluity of naughtiness” means that which remains, the things that are left, the hangovers of the past. Remove the leftovers of the old ways, the old habits — the old sinful practices. The point James is making is you’ll never be able to welcome the word until you remove the hangovers of the old life.

Second, you welcome the word with **readiness**: “Receive with meekness,” i.e. a compliant, ready spirit. It means to be teachable, trainable. Meekness is power under control. When you hear the word of God do you try to figure out whether it is true or not? Whenever you think that the word of God cannot be true until you approve it, you will never receive it. Samuel welcomed the Word when he said, “Speak Lord for your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3:9, 10). The people on Pentecost “gladly received the word and were baptized” (Acts 2:41). The Bereans were called noble because “they received the Word with all readiness” (Acts 17:11).

James says that if we welcome the Word, we must receive it with repentance — be clean; and welcome it with readiness — be meek.

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NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 20 May 18, 2014

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J BOLEN— The Kingdom of God:

The Kingdom is Given Preference

PM: T J BOLEN— Who Is God: Our Savior

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable

for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect,

thoroughly furnished unto all good works." - 2 Timothy 3:16,17

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JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

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

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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.*

- Remember: **Anna Porter, Gwen Pittman, Margie DeYoung** (Still Hopes **Rm 220**) and **Carolyn Stidham** as they continue on the road to recovery from various ills.
- **Anna** is doing better as she continues therapy at Still Hopes Rm 259 till 5/21/14.
- Remember **Stephanie Rigney** as she continues renewed treatment for cancer.
- Keep **Lisa and Josiah Jenkins** and **Dorothy Gray** in your prayers as they endure difficulties; that they be strengthened and overcome.
- 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.**

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him." - Psalm 27:1

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Bride and Groom Shower** for **Brian and Jen**, after the evening assembly, Sunday May 18. See **Martha** for details.
- **Gospel Singing—Windsor Lake, Sun May 18, 2-4 pm**
- **YOUNG ADULT and NEW CONVERT** class Sundays, 10 am, upstairs classroom.
- We need **volunteers** to take the DVD and the Lord's supper to our shut-ins.

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another:” - Hebrews 10:25

Sun AM Sermon— *The Kingdom of God: The Kingdom is Given Preference.*

The Kingdom of God is mentioned in several ways in Luke's gospel. The ideas are not unrelated and all things considered the Kingdom of God is something to be lived. This lesson considers three very visible ways from Luke's gospel on how to "live" the kingdom of God.

1. Embrace the un-embraceable.
2. Devalue wealth, invest in the spiritual.
3. Do not procrastinate with the Kingdom.

GIFTS: OF GOD, OF CHRIST, OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God,” John 4:10
The gift of God is His grace that will save us—not God Himself.

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” - Eph 4:7 The gift of Christ is access to God's grace—not Christ himself.

“and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” - Acts 2:38 And in **exactly** the same way the gift of the Holy Spirit is the revelation of the Gospel, the Word of God, that will save us in the end—**not** the Holy Spirit himself. The original Greek language in all three cases is **identical**, and so is the meaning: the gift is **not** the giver.

- Foy E. Wallace, Jr. 1896-1979 Gospel preacher,

Adapted from— The Work, Mission and Medium of the Holy Spirit

GOOD TO MEMORIZE AND KEEP WITH YOU

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” - Psalm 100

WELCOME THE WORD (continued from front page)

Third, you welcome the Word with **responsiveness**. James speaks of one “Beholding his natural face in a mirror, then turns and goes his way and forgets what he saw.” (James 1:23,24) This is just a casual glance that brings no response, no change. The other man looks, keeps looking and responds. This man is blessed in his doing. His is a careful gaze, a steadfast, continual, intentional look. He responds! He searches! He applies it! When we respond to what we know, we will know more.

When you receive the Word with **repentance, readiness** and **responsiveness**, you have **welcomed** the Word as you would welcome a friend.

— **Clarence DeLoach**, minister Pond Church of Christ, Dickson, Tennessee

“If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture ... ye do well:” - James 2:8

“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God;” - Colossians 1:25