



WEST COLUMBIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## PRISON DID NOT ROB PAUL!

Paul used every situation to advance the borders of Christ's kingdom; he even used prison as an opportunity to further the cause of Christ. While prison robs a person of freedom, family and choices, Paul was not robbed of certain things, such as:

1. **HIS PEN.** The prison epistles (Eph., Phil., Col. & Philemon) were all written while Paul was in a Roman jail.
2. **HIS PURPOSE.** Paul had been chosen to spread the name of Jesus to the Gentiles, Kings and children of Israel (Acts 9:15). His purpose was to preach and his life was for Christ (Phil. 1:21).
3. **HIS PULPIT.** Paul was successful in preaching to the elite Praetorian Guard (Phil. 1:14), something possibly unattainable had he been a free man. He capitalized upon every situation for sake of Jesus.
4. **HIS PRAYER.** While in prison Paul prayed for the brethren. Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Phil. 1:9-11 and Col. 1:9-12 illustrate his prayer life on behalf of the saints. Cf. Rom. 10:1; 2 Thess. 7:17; 1 Tim. 2:1-8.
5. **HIS PRAISE.** Paul and Silas sang praises to God at mid-night while in the Philippian jail (Acts 16). Although they were confined, their hearts were full of joy and thanksgiving in the form of melodious song.
6. **HIS PATIENCE.** Paul was confident in God's plan for his life, therefore he endured patiently. He was willing even to postpone going to heaven in order to help the Philippian Christians in their spiritual growth (Phil. 1:21-25).
7. **HIS PEACE.** Paul found peace in Jesus Christ. He said, "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" (Phil. 4:11). Furthermore, he wanted the Philippians to know that while prison was a place of capture the gospel was continually preached (Phil. 1:12).

Paul is a great encouragement to all Christians. Though in trials, he was triumphant; though in chains, he was challenged. Paul was confined, but not controlled; restrained, but not restricted; incarcerated, but not incapacitated. Paul was in prison, but prison did not rob him of the most important thing in life; his desire to spread the gospel. Therefore, Paul can be described as the Apostle of the heart set free.

- **Mark N. Posey**, Preaching minister, Austinville Church of Christ Decatur, AL

**LOVE GOD! - NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!**

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 6/29/2014

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 26 June 29, 2014

### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J BOLEN—Parable of the Vineyard, Luke 20:9-18

PM: T J BOLEN—Strength

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,  
and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," - Hebrews 12:1

**RUN! ... NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!**

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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

JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

### 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*

*Informal Bible Study*  
*Everyone Welcome!*  
Bring your Bible questions  
Saturdays 3 pm

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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 sister **Anna Porter**, that she gain strength to be able to have a procedure to shock her heart back into rhythm.
- Also remember: **Margaret Herring** who is having severe foot problems and is in much pain; **Harvey** and **Gail Allen's** daughter, **Erin Baughcome** who is to have some tests run; **Richard Ramkinson** who had surgery last Monday and might need some more this Monday; **Hannibal Davis** in Marine Corps recruit training at Parris Island; and also: **Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Stephanie Rigney, Floyd Richbourg** and **Carolyn Stidham** as they continue on the road to recovery from various ills.
- And the **Bolens**, dealing with problems getting the residence air conditioner fixed.
- 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.**

**"There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee:  
neither is there any rock like our God." - 1 Samuel 2:2**

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **First Sunday—Next Week, luncheon, men's meeting.**
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**
- We need **volunteers** to take the DVD and the Lord's supper to our shut-ins.

**"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly;  
and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" - 2 Corinthians 9:6**

## **“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:24**

It's good to encourage our brothers and sisters with a kind word of recognition of their work—a Thank You! Being human though, we sometimes forget or worse, don't notice. This can discourage anyone—so tell them you care. To help those working, remember who it is we really are working for; **He** never forgets or doesn't notice:

**"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love,  
which you have showed toward his name,  
in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." - Hebrews 6:10**

But an even better way to say “thank you” is by pitching in and helping in the work **yourself!** This will be a great encouragement to others and of great benefit to **you!** We **all** need to help build up the church and spread the Gospel. Invite people to our Sat bible study, and remember: **We need people to sign up to help clean the building! Everyone can contribute something! Many hands make light work. ☺**

**WORK FOR GOD, WITH ... NO INBETWEEN IN 2014!**

## **THE FACTS OF THE GOSPEL**

**1 Cor. 15:1-8** — Whatever else the Christian system unfolds in the New Testament, it is first of all a record of historical facts. It is a divine revelation, an unveiling of man, a body of ethical precepts — it became a religious system. In these scriptures a story of fundamental, primary facts are found:

**“That Christ died.”** This is recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The fact of His death, like the fact of His life, is universally conceded. The apostle Paul takes us back to the saddest scene ever enacted upon the earth, to the darkest day in the world's history. But, the greatest blessing ever offered mankind became available because of what happened that day.

- (a) As a sacrificial victim: “For our sins.” Jesus did not die merely as a martyr, but also as an expiatory offering on account of our sins. John 1:29; 1 John 3:5; Gal. 1:4; Titus 2:14.
- (b) As a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy: “According to the Scriptures.” It was not just the will of wicked men, but also in fulfillment of God's divine plan for saving man from our sins, that Christ died, Isa. 53:1-8

**“That He was buried.”** Jesus Christ, being human as well as divine, touched life at every point. He began as an infant at Bethlehem, and ended in a tomb just outside of Jerusalem. He was buried in a borrowed tomb — another point in His humiliation.

- (a) In a place of beauty. The tomb was in a garden, a lovely spot fashioned by the hands of a rich man. John 19:38-42.
- (b) In a place of purity. It was “in a new tomb wherein was never man yet laid.” Matt. 27:60. He who came to resurrection and life, even his body did not see corruption. Psalm 16:10.

**“That He was raised.”** Jesus' resurrection is declared in Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20. “On the third day”. Jesus foretold this in Matt. 16:21. On the first day of the week, which became the day of worship for Christians. Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:1-2

**“That He was seen.”** By Cephas, by the twelve – by over 500 brethren, by James, by all the apostles, and the last by Paul. All of these were eye-witnesses to His resurrection.

The facts of the Gospel:

- **Believe in Christ, John 8:24;**
- **Repent Acts 2:38;**
- **Confess Christ publicly, Matt. 10:32;**
- **Be baptized into Christ, Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5.**
- **Live faithfully Rev. 2:10.**

Then enjoy the blessings of eternal life ...

— **Jerry Blount**, Pillar church of Christ, Wichita, Kansas