



WEST COLUMBIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## Always Saved?

In the days of the prophet Haggai the Jews had returned from Babylonian captivity. Initially the return was full of excitement and zeal. They began to restore the sacrifices of the altar for worship and resumed the feast they were to keep; as commanded in the Law of Moses. They also began to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, which was destroyed decades earlier. The rebuilding came with much celebration. The enemies of the Jews would soon force and scare them into ceasing their work on the temple. During this time the Lord's "house" remained unfinished yet the Jews once again became too comfortable and grew more concerned with their own possessions rather than completing their God-given work.

Something the short book of Haggai displays is that the nature of people has not changed. The problem of zeal morphing into complacency is hardly a new problem for God's people; it is still a problem in His church. The danger of complacent Christianity is we trick ourselves into thinking we are pleasing God because of a few Christian-like practices, all the while lacking a Christ-like mind and heart. The Jews of Haggai's time allowed themselves to think they were pleasing God, but God stated they and their work were unclean (Haggai 2:14). Correction was needed, even though they had assured themselves they were fine.

There is a doctrine which is popular entitled "once saved always saved." It's teaching is just as it sounds: when someone becomes a Christian they will never lose their salvation. It's easy to see why that's a popular doctrine, despite scripture not permitting such a thing to be true (Luke 9:62; John 6:66-69; Galatians 5:4; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; Hebrews 10:26-27). However, is there any difference in knowing a teaching is false yet living as if it is true? Just like the people of Haggai's time we can assure ourselves we are clean in God's sight yet a life that is absent of joy and zeal because of and for Christ is not one pleasing to God. We can mask our true feelings and even efforts of following Christ to others and to ourselves. But we all know that can't be done with God. Beware of the eternal danger of convincing yourself you're saved because of a few Christian "deeds" all the while there is an absence of a Christ-centered mind and heart.

- T.J. Bolen, Gospel preacher, West Columbia church of Christ, SC

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

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### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen— Lessons from the prophet Haggai

PM: T.J. Bolen— Enriched in Everything, 2 Cor. 8-9

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

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CHRISTIANITY  
COME SEE!

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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*

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

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Margie DeYoung** passed away last Monday. Services are in Ohio.
- **Jan Kelleher** will be traveling the next two weeks on business, promoting and selling here book. **Sharon Mancuso** will also be in Greenville on business.
- **Anna Porter** is in Still Hopes rehabilitation center, Rm 257 and **Tommy White** continues in rehab at Agape, Rm 106A
- Remember **Dorothy Gray** and family, also **Grant Parks** and family; **Margaret Herring** who is also suffering many ills, and **Gwen Pittman, Floyd Richbourg** with knee problems, **Stephanie Rigney** with severe neck pain.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" - Matthew 7:7

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

- **Singing! Twin City church**, Sun 1/25/15, 2-4 PM. Ed will driving his van if anyone wants a ride.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

"Lord, to whom shall we go? THOU hast the WORDS of eternal life." - John 6:68

## **Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

### **“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15**

- We rejoice with the angels that **Duane and Sabrina Brisbon** were baptized into Christ. They had recently moved down from New York and been introduces to the church here by Duane's brother, **Vonn** who is a member of the church in Aiken. They had been studying with the preacher, and were greatly encouraged by the members here. Unfortunately, it appears they and the children, **Reginald and Zada**, and the boy yet to be born (another cause for joy) will be moving back to Long Island, New York. Remember them in your prayers, that they find a faithful congregation, continue in the faith and be built up in Christ.

“Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” - Acts 14:22

### **Sun AM Sermon— *Lessons from the prophet Haggai***

1. Historical setting & current issues, Ezra 4-6; Hag. 1:1-6
2. Get back to work! Haggai 1
3. The latter glory will be greater, Hag. 2:1-9
4. Reclaim & keep God's blessings, Hag. 2:10-19

## **GIVE ME A CHANCE**

Have you ever asked the Lord to open a door for you? To give you a chance to serve him? It's a good thing to pray for. In Matthew 7:7 the Lord promised us "**Knock, and it shall be opened unto you**".

How many of us, though, **believe** that promise? How many of us **keep** asking, and asking, and asking? But maybe we never seem to get the chance we're looking for. Maybe that's the problem—we're not **seeing** the chances or opportunities to do good the Lord is giving us. Maybe we're being too picky or choosy: "Not that one Lord, I want a **really** good work to do!"

Let's remember that it is the **Lord's work** we're about, not ours. It's He who gives us the opportunities we have. It's He that gives the increase (1 Cor 3:6, 2 Tim 2:25). Let's trust Him, that He'll give us what we need, because He **has**—His Word, the gospel! Let's take advantage then of the opportunities we have, no matter how small they might seem to us. Let's open our eyes and hearts to them:

"**He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.**" - Luke 16:10

Maybe when we want to do some great thing, what we're **really** wanting is to say: "Look what I did." **We** want the recognition for the deed; from people instead of from God. But the real power and strength we have can only come from God:

“**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me**”—Philp 4:13

He wants us to know this and **act** like we know it. He'll be pleased with us if we do—if we trust in His power and strength, just as He was pleased with the church in Philadelphia. Look at what the Lord praised about them though:

"**I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**" - Revelation 3:8

They didn't **deny** the name of Christ by seeking to please themselves and trusting in their own power or wisdom. They humbly **did** what the Lord put in front of them, trusting in Him and His word - looking to please God and not themselves. Let's do the same, so our Lord will say the same—of **us**.

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

## **In Christ—In the church!**

“**Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:**” - Ephesians 1:3

“**And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things to the church*, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” - Ephesians 1:22,23**