



WEST COLUMBIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## The Gospel's Power To Save

There must be some connection made between power and the thing to be moved. There is great power in a locomotive, but it cannot move the train of cars till proper connection is made with power.

There is sufficient power in the gospel to move every sinner out of sin into the blessings of salvation, but that power moves no one until proper connections are made. Preaching is the means of establishing that connection. It is God's way of bringing the sinner under the influence of his saving power. For that reason, Paul was not ashamed to preach it. **(Rom. 1:16).**

The gospel exerts no power over the heathen who has never heard it, nor over the infidel who will not hear it, and it exerts but little power over him who looks for the power to come some other way. It exerts a power over us for good to the extent that we place ourselves under the influence of its teaching. The cyclone has no power over the man who is safely hidden away in his storm cellar, but it would be foolish for him to come out after the storm and confidently affirm that there was no power in the cyclone, but no more foolish than for a man who will not heed God's word to affirm that there is no converting power in it.

## Genuine Faith

Genuine faith is based on evidence that admits of no doubt, and to believe in a person means more than to believe that such a person exists. **"He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).** In addition to accepting the truth that God is, we confidently trust Him for the fulfillment of His promises. In all genuine faith there is, therefore, the element of confidence and trust. We trust Him to fulfill His promises, and we confide in His wisdom and goodness.

It is true that Abel heard God's command and obeyed, and therefore he made his offering by faith **(Gen. 4:4; Heb. 11:4)**. But there was something back of all that. Why did he do what God said, and why did not Cain do what God said? Abel had confidence in God's wisdom and goodness. Cain had confidence in his own wisdom and way. Hence, Abel followed God's way and Cain followed his own way. Abel did what God commanded because he had more confidence in God than in himself.

(both by) - R. L. (Robertson Lafayette) Whiteside, 1869-1951 Gospel preacher

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

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org) South Carolina 4/26/2015

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### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

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

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

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JOIN US IN  
PRACTICING  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
COME SEE!

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

- **Tommy White** is at rehab at National Health Care, 2993 Sunset Blvd.
- The **Bolens** are travelling. Remember these and: **Anna Porter; Gwen Pittman; the Brisbons in NY ; Grant Parks** and family; **Debbie Sheppard; Nikki Willis; Eileen Lester**; and **Floyd Richbourg**.
- 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)**

**"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" - Rom 12:12**

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

- Take the **“New Testament Challenge”!** Read the New Testament in 30 days, an average of 9 chapters a day. Or, 260 chapters in one day (about 12 hours) if you procrastinate!
- **How We Got the Bible** class SKIPS next Tuesday at 7pm.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

**"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**

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

## **BE CHRISTIANS**

**“And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”—Acts 11:26**

The disciples were called **Christians** by God. It was a divine proclamation, a name given by God, not by man. Read Acts 11 and you'll see **why** God called them Christians—they were **acting** like it.

If we claim to be Christians, then we also need to **act** like it. We need to act like those good disciples described in the Acts of the Apostles and other books of the New Testament, because our hearts should be the same. The Lord told us as much:

**“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above” - Colossians 3:1**

This is really part and parcel of our repentance—changing our minds. Not minding the earthly, physical things, but instead setting our desires, our fulfillment on the heavenly, spiritual, eternal things God has called us to:

**“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. ... Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: ” - 1 Peter 4:1-4**

They might think us strange and speak ill of us, but God will call us **Christians**.

## **BE CONTENT - MOVE ON**

A poor man was out looking for food for himself and his family. It was cold, and he wore an old, cast off, badly torn and stained overcoat. It looked bad, but kept him fairly warm. A passer by asked him if he wouldn't like a better coat? He replied, “No, it's ok” and moved on. There were a lot of things he'd **like** to have, but he was looking for those things he **needed**. His coat was sufficient and he knew it. What he needed was to find food for himself and his family, not to stop and worry about a coat. If he hadn't been satisfied with the coat and instead gone looking for something better, he would have been distracted from looking for the more important things. He and his family would then likely go hungry. No, he had his goal and priorities right.

What's your goal? This world, or the next? Are cares for things of **this** world distracting you from what you need to be doing in the church—preparing for the **next** world? That's not what God wants:

**"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." - Hebrews 13:5**

God wants us to be content with the physical things we have so we'll devote ourselves instead to the spiritual things and grow in Godliness.

**“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.” - 1 Timothy 6:6-8**

The Lord hasn't given us "Hand-me-downs". What could we want that would be better than what he's given us — His **Son**, a hope of **resurrection** to eternal life with Him, and **three promises** to get us there, if we'll have faith and **act** on them:

**"ASK, and it shall be given you; SEEK, and ye shall find; KNOCK, and it shall be opened unto you:" - Matthew 7:7**

Let us be content with what we have, and look forward to what we need!

**“but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 3:13**

If we're tempted or want to look back to the things of the world ...

**“Remember Lot's wife.” - Luke 17:32**

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

**“And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” - Luke 9:62**