



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

I'M THANKFUL FOR WHAT JOSHUA DID NOT SAY

In Joshua's farewell address, he stood before the representatives of all the tribes of Israel and told them to make a decision. He said that they could either turn from God and serve idols, or they could turn to God and serve Him. Joshua told them what his decision was: "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15). The leaders who represented the nation of Israel agreed. They said, "God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods" (24:16). I am so thankful for Joshua and his dedication. I am also grateful for what Joshua did *not* say.

I'm thankful that Joshua did not say, "My family will serve the Lord without me." Friends, so many wives and children are serving the Lord without fathers. Fathers should be the spiritual leaders of the home (Ephesians 5:23-25; 6:4). Fathers have an obligation to their families and God to set the spiritual tone of the home. God give us faithful fathers!

I'm thankful that Joshua did not say, "I will serve the Lord without my family." Sadly, some fathers must serve the Lord on their own, because they have wives who refuse to follow their lead. Fathers must maintain their faithfulness, and one day they may win their families to Christ.

I'm thankful that Joshua did not say, "My family and I will not serve the Lord." Entire families will be lost eternally because they refuse to serve the Lord. I cannot help but think that greater punishment will come upon fathers who have the duty of leading the home in the way it should go. May God give us Christian homes!

- Neil Richey, Gospel Preacher, Augusta Road church of Christ, Greenville, SC

“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;” - Ephesians 5:23-25

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” - Ephesians 6:4

Happy Fathers day—remember your Father in Heaven!

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 25 June 21, 2015

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen—If Christianity was a job; would you still be employed?

PM: T.J. Bolan—Ecclesiastes 1-2

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." - Isaiah 55:11

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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**JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
COME SEE!**

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Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
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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: Jan Kelleher, Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.

- **Gwen Pittman** fell last week and was taken to the hospital but is ok.
- **Marshall Mancuso** has been suffering severe pain from what is thought to be repetitive stress injury. Surgery might be required.
- **Jan Kelleher** was scheduled to start chemotherapy last week.
- **Pray for these**, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers!** (1 John 5:15)

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;
if so be that we suffer with him,
that we may be also glorified together.” - Romans 8:17

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Welcome back to the **Bolen** and **Gray** families from a week at Palmetto Bible Camp.
- **Pantry Items** needed. Look in the closet, see **Marshall Mancuso**.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

“But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good,” - Romans 2:10

Are You a Light To The World?

You better be! Jesus said that we are and that we must shine:

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 5:14-16

What if you aren't doing that? What if you're just a dim bulb? What if you're doing nothing to cause people to glorify God? Well, Jesus answered that too in the immediately preceding verse (think they might be related?):

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.” - Matthew 5:13

You are the salt. Jesus said salt that doesn't do it's job is only fit to be thrown away. He wasn't giving a home economics lesson. Think Jesus will keep you? Or, throw you back? Don't fool yourself. There will be a test!

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.” - 2 Corinthians 5:10

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

FAITH IN CHRISTIANS, OR FAITH IN CHRIST?

Have you ever been disappointed by someone you admired? Have you ever had high expectations of someone, only to discover they had done something you would not have expected them to do? When this happens it can be very discouraging but we should be careful that we do not put our faith in people instead of God. When a Christian is the source of this disappointment, some would go so far as to turn their backs on God! Should our faith be in Christians, or in Christ? What if Peter and the rest of Jesus' disciples had decided to stop following the Lord because of the actions of Judas? What sense would that make? When one thinks rationally, it is difficult to imagine trying to justify the rejection of God (who is perfect) because of something done by a man (who is fallible); however, this is something that seems to take place often.

God has instructed us not to trust in men: **“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.”** (Jeremiah 17:5). People are fallible, and everyone will make mistakes. All have sinned and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23), and even Christians striving their best to serve God will not live a life absolutely devoid of mistakes. In regards to Christians, John wrote, **“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”** (1 John 1:8-10).

Sometimes it may be easier for us to remember occasions when others have let us down than it is to remember the fact that we have probably let other people down as well. We should always strive to be the best we can be, but let us remember that we all make mistakes, and we should have forgiving hearts. Christ said, **“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”** (Matthew 6:14, 15; cf. Ephesians 4:32)

We should be so thankful that we have someone eternally dependable who will never disappoint us – God! God does not make mistakes! We should be thankful that we have a perfect Savior who, even though He was tempted in all points like we are, committed no sin (Hebrews 4:15). We should be thankful that God, who is all-powerful and perfect, wants us to lean on Him, and depend on Him! Because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can now obey the Gospel, which is the power of God unto our salvation (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Thesalonians 1:8). Once we are in Christ, we can confidently approach the throne of God and bring our burdens to Him (Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 11:28-30). God is holy and faithful – therefore, may our trust be in Him!

“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.” - Psalm 118:8

- Jason Hilburn, Gospel Preacher, Luverne Church of Christ, Alabama

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