

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 33 August 16, 2015

JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
COME SEE!

YOU MUST HAVE HOPE! YOU MUST KNOW WHY!

THEN YOU MUST:

“... be ready always to give an answer
to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you “ - 1 Peter 3:15b

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:
AM: T.J. Bolen—Jesus Is Lord, Part 2
PM: T.J. Bolen—Ecclesiastes 7:5-14 Asking from Wisdom



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

How Do I Evangelize?

Sometimes it is not required to say many words to say very much. A prime example of this is found in Acts 17:22-31. A Short passage which does not take much time to read, it is a sermon by Paul in the city of Athens. He explained, very briefly, what that audience needed to hear in order to receive salvation. He first understood who it was he was speaking to (17:16, 22-23). Understanding where they were at “religiously” he began preaching to them what they needed to hear. What they needed to hear was there was one true God who made everything and who Himself was not made as were the idols surrounding them in Athens. The one true God is also the creator of mankind and He desires that every man of every nation would seek Him. Paul is telling the men of Athens of the character of God. The idol worshippers of Athens probably well understood the idea of wanting to please their gods but the idea of their gods seeking after them was nonexistent. The one true God who made all the living constantly seeks out His creation, to have a relationship with every man from every nation. Paul also taught of the need for God because one day God, as the creator will judge what has been created. This will be done through Jesus, the only one who has ever defeated death. This too was not something any follower of an idol could ever claim about their so-called deities. From 17:32-34 we can read of the response to this sermon. Some became obedient to God, others sneered, others said “we will hear you later.” Clearly nothing about the response to the preaching of Jesus has changed from Paul’s day to ours.

There is no “text-book” way to evangelize, no specific sermon, no one program to guarantee winning souls to Christ. The answer to “How do I evangelize?” is answered just as anything else is when it comes to faithful living, and that is with another question: “What does the Bible say?” You may never preach a sermon, especially one in a setting like that of Athens. But what do we see from this passage which will equip us to share our faith? What did Paul observe and what did he do in response? He saw what these folks lacked in truth and he gave it to them. It really is as simple as that. Most of our hesitancy to teach the gospel does not come from not knowing how, it comes from not knowing what to say. Because we do not know what to say, we tell ourselves “I don’t know how” because that feels better than saying, “I don’t know enough.” If you want to know how to better spread the gospel, begin with knowing better the gospel for yourself. It is much easier, even in difficult circumstances, to talk about what you know as opposed to what you do not know.

- T.J. Bolen, Gospel preacher, West Columbia South Carolina

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

"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 Burton.*

- **Merrie Christmus** - still having complications from shingles.
- **Steve Rigney's** step-mom **Fran Rigney** has had testing and is awaiting open heart surgery.
- **Pat Joyner** has an MRI scheduled to diagnose some dizzy spells.
- **Dorothy Gray** requests prayers for her family to become whole.
- **Richbourg**s request prayers for **Gerald Chavis**, having a triple bypass on Thursday.
- **Boyd Joyner's** sister, **Jennifer Jeffcoat** in Florida suffered a stroke.
- **Margaret Herring** is continuing radiation treatments and chemotherapy.
- **Jan Kelleher** and **Stephanie Rigney** continue chemotherapy also.
- **Ed Kelleher** and **Jamie Sheppard** have been down.
- Remember: **Janet Boyd** tending her mother, **Eileen Lester**; **Gwen Pittman** feeling lonely in room **101 (correction!)** and **Anna Porter** who is very weak.
- **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)

"We are bound to thank God always for you brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward one another aboundeth;" - 2 Thessalonians 1:3

"AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY" - Acts 2:42

- **Save the Date!**—Friday evening 9/11 DEVO at the Bolen home.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

"For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother." - Philemon 1:7

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

Better it is not to vow, then to vow and not pay." - Ecclesiastes 5:4,5

"REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!" - Romans 12:15

- **Dorothy Gray** has been promoted to managers position at work.
- **Roderick Gray**, Dorothy's husband has a new job.
- Keep them in your prayers continually the Lord will bless and keep them.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - Galatians 6:9

Godly Living — A Dire Need

Am I guilty of willful neglect? Am I too weak to do what I know is right? Do I blame others for my mistakes? Have I resolved in my heart that I will do my duty regardless of what others do or think? Have I made a good impression on my neighbor by my faithfulness to the Lord and His church?

Do you realize the influence of a godly life? The influence of gospel preaching is doubled by "practicing what we preach." Let us "**walk in the light as he is in the light**" and have fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7). "**I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils**" (1 Cor. 10:20). "**What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?**" (2 Cor. 6:14). Truth and error will not mix.

If Naomi had been weak like some of the people in our day, she would never have converted her daughters-in-law to the truth, or to the true God (Ruth 1). She would never have converted them by partaking of their evil religion. If a thing is not right, "**Touch not, taste not, handle not**" (Col. 2:21). The doctrines and commandments of men are condemned by the Lord (Matt. 15:9).

- E.M. Borden, Gospel preacher, late 1800's– early 1900', in Texas

There Is Only One Church

The Lord has only one church, and it is the redeemed in the aggregate. Paul said, "**There is one body**" (Eph. 4:4). Jesus said, "**I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**" (Matt. 16:18). Jesus is the head of the church, and that church is His body (Eph. 1:22-23).

On the day of Pentecost the Lord added to the church "**daily such as should be saved**" (Acts 2:47). This one church was purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). This means that every member of the church of Christ has been saved by the blood of Christ. People are saved as they are added to the church. When we become Christians, our names are written in the book of life in heaven, which means we are members of the church for which Jesus died.

- E.M. Borden, Gospel preacher, late 1800's– early 1900', in Texas

Is your heart like Paul's, whose heart was like Christ's?

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. ... For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. ... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" - Romans 10:1-14

People believe in God but it does them no good because they have not obeyed God, because they have not heard the whole counsel of God preached. They will hear it here! Invite people to come hear so they might be saved. Tell them yourself.