

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 42 October 18, 2015

**SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:**

AM: T.J. Bolen— Why Christians Serve

PM: T.J. Bolen—The Dust Will Return, Ecclesiastes 12

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

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." - 1 Peter 3:15

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

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

**Bible Classes for all ages**

*Nursery provided*

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Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study

Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study

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# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## UNFAITHFUL CHRISTIANS

Why is it that some Christians just can't seem to stay faithful to God? We label them, "Hot and cold Christians," "On again and off again Christians" or "Lukewarm Christians." While they are in the "faithful mood," you'll see them at every church-related function ... BUT ... when they start backsliding, you can't count on them to be responsible for anything related to church work. After being AWOL for a month or two, they show for worship, acting as if nothing was ever amiss. Let me suggest some reasons why they are "On again, off again Christians." Consider these facts:

- When they become unfaithful and forsake the assembly, no one immediately goes to them to let them know they were missed.
- When they wander in after being gone a month or more, no one asks where they've been — no-one expects them to come forward confessing the sin of forsaking the assembly — and they don't!
- A brother or sister who forsakes the assembly is casting stumbling blocks before the more faithful by offending them, setting a terrible example for other babes. This is sin! “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;” - Hebrews 10:25

Biblical teaching on this subject is plain. Look at Matthew 18:15-17. If your brother sins, go tell him one on one: if he refuses to listen, take others with you and try to talk to him, bringing him to repentance; if he still refuses take the matter before the church; if that does not bear fruit, withdraw from him before he pollutes the whole church with the leaven of unfaithfulness which is ungodliness!

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.—Romans 16:17

A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.” - Titus 3:10-11

I wonder if the unfaithful ever read bulletin articles like this one?

- Mike Suiter, minister, Tipton church of Christ, Oklahoma

**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.*

- **Jan and Ed Kelleher** will be in Charleston the next 2 weeks for Jan’s surgery and recovery. Please keep her in your prayers that she does well.
- **Remember: Dorothy Gray and family, Janet Boyd** tending her mother, **Eileen Lester; Gwen Pittman; Anna Porter** who is very weak; **Amos Jones’** brother **Timothy**, in VA hospice.
- Pray for those our **evangelist is studying with**, that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- **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)**

**“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” - Philippians 4:6**

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

- Please bring items for the **pantry**, canned goods with **pop tops** are good.
- **Church Survey** forms are in the foyer, please fill one out and put in the box **ASAP**.
- No 3pm Saturday Bible study for the rest of October. Will start again 11/8/15.

**“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” - Colossians 3:17**

**FLOOD RELIEF:** Members of the church, led by brother **Bolen**, are helping others in the area. They’ve been down to **Georgetown** and were to work Saturday in **South Beltline** neighborhoods. The church has received donations to help in this.

If you know of anyone in need, and/or would like to help in the work yourself, please see brother **Bolen**.

### **From our Treasurer, brother Jones Gamble:**

WCCC has received a sizeable contribution, from two COC congregations in Tennessee, to assist flood victims in SC. The funds are not restricted to flood victims, but needs in our area/congregation in addition to victims of the disaster. If you provide assistance to anyone, please keep receipts so I can reimburse you.

I appreciate TJ taking the lead in this and the volunteers that have been involved so far. As of last night, the work that was performed since last week has distributed 10,968 meals to victims and first responders. I know several from our congregation were involved in this.

We will need to meet soon to discuss this but obviously we are open to suggestions/recommendations. I would appreciate some feedback.

Thanks, Jones

## To whom shall we go?

**“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God’” (John. 6:66-69 NKJV).**

This exchange between Jesus and His apostles occurred following the feeding of the 5,000. The crowd continued to follow Jesus for awhile, waiting for more free food. But instead of food, Jesus gave them a strange sermon on seeking more permanent sustenance—something about eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The multitude was not interested in all this metaphysical stuff, so they left.

It must have been a bitter disappointment to the apostles to see all their hard work of the past several weeks fade away to nothing, especially considering that it was this weird sermon of Jesus that drove them away. Truth is, the apostles themselves were probably scratching their heads trying to figure out what Jesus was talking about. Judging from His question to them, Jesus apparently had some concern that even they would quit.

But the apostles did not quit. Peter’s response to Jesus’ question reveals the heart of a true disciple of Christ: “To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” This was not first time the apostles did not understand something Jesus taught, nor would it be the last. They frequently did not “get it,” and Jesus had to repeat some concepts over and over. Some lessons they never did fully grasp until after His death and resurrection. But regardless of their limited understanding, they continued to cling to Him, convinced that He was their best hope of making sense of a crazy world.

“To whom shall we go?” is a question that still confronts followers of Jesus today, especially when His religion appears difficult or inadequate. People struggle to understand the deeper teachings of the Bible. They become disenchanted with the strife and hypocrisy among fellow believers. Or they grow tired of a faith that has become stale and boring.

Eventually the temptation arises to do what the multitude did: just walk away. Some go to Buddhism, some to Islam, some to Scientology, some to atheism—there are plenty of options out there to satisfy everyone’s desire for something “different.” Many simply reject spirituality entirely, choosing a life of crass materialism that lives for the present and refuses even to think about spiritual matters.

But as they eventually learn, all these alternatives have their own shortcomings and frustrations. So their search for meaning in life goes off in yet another direction.

Which brings us back to Peter’s question: To whom shall we go? Whatever difficulties a Christian encounters in his faith, the foundation of that faith is a bedrock that no alternative can match: Jesus is the Son of God, demonstrated by His death and resurrection, and He alone has words of eternal life. Even if we struggle to understand and apply those words, He is better than anything else out there.

- **David King**, elder, Pleasant Valley church of Christ, Wichita, Kansas

**“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;  
And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” - John 8:31,31**

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