

THE BULLETIN—VOL 41, NUMBER 50 December 20, 2015

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen—Christians Give

PM: Daryl Macon

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

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving your own selves."
• James 1:23

"...let us not love in word, neither in tongue;
but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:18

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
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

Saturdays 3 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Churches of Christ

The church of Christ is a non-denominational body of Christians. We have no earthly headquarters. Our leader is in Heaven at the right hand of God. We are not affiliated with any organization such as the National Council of Churches. Rather, each local congregation of the churches of Christ looks to God and His word for guidance. We believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God and that it furnishes us completely for every spiritual need. We stand for a return to New Testament faith and practice. And we are confident that by believing and doing what New Testament Christians did, we can be the same kind of Christians they were. We know this is right before God. We see no need, therefore, for denominational names, creeds and organizations.

Jesus said that worship must be in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24). Worship among churches of Christ follows the Scriptural pattern.

When the Lord established the church, He organized it into local autonomous congregations, with each taking care of its own affairs. He made no provisions for a national or international headquarters. In matters of faith all are to be guided by the New Testament. In other decisions, each congregation was to govern itself.

The work of the church Jesus built was to preach the gospel, as well as edify its members and care for the needy. Churches of Christ do not exist as political tools, nor do they exist as recreation clubs. Their work is spiritual, doing what God intended the church to do.

Remember, Jesus built His church. It is found in the New Testament. We can be a part of it by letting the Bible be our only guide.

— David Pharr, Gospel preacher, Rock Hill, South Carolina

"upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." - Jesus, recorded in Matthew 16:18

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.

- **Mary Ann Mancuso**, Marshall's mother has moved to Lexington Extended Care for rehab. Pray she receives good care and benefits from it.
- Remember **L.D. Sayer**, a pillar of the church in Elizabethton TN, who is in the final stages of Alzheimers. He was a long time elder at the church there, where his son is currently an elder. The Park's family remembers him fondly from their time there.
- The **Kelleher's** will be in Virginia through next Sunday, hoping for snow. The **Bolen's** will be frolicking in the cold (and likely snow) in Wyoming next week also.
- **Jan Glott and Daryl Macon** will be preaching here in TJ's and Ed's absence.
- **Give thanks to God and pray for all these**, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." - John 15:7

"AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY" - Acts 2:42

- **No Bulletin next week, no Sat Bible studies for remainder of 2015.**
- **Men!** Check bulletin board for worship assignments—if you can't make it, find someone to fill in. We're counting on you. See box below.
- Please bring **Pantry items**, pop-top canned items are good.

"But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

REGARDING DENOMINATIONS

"Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people.

And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." - Acts 11:25,26

"Every denomination (Catholic or Protestant) had its origin this side of the New Testament. Every denomination has something in its teaching or practice that marks it as different from the church of the New Testament. Otherwise, it would not be a denomination.

As it was possible for an undenominational church to exist at Antioch, so it is possible now. Any church today that has the same faith and practice as did the church at Antioch (and other faithful New Testament congregations) is not a denomination, but a church of Christ".—**David Pharr**, Gospel Preacher

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." - 1 Corinthians 1:10

LOOKING TO CHRIST

There often is discussion about **unity**. People say the religious world is lacking in unity. A casual look at the yellow pages under "CHURCHES" will show you this is true. There is a problem. But, it's one of **man's** making, because people are not looking in the one direction God said look—to Christ!

Unity comes from the word **one**. If you have more than one, you don't have unity. God has told us how to have **UNITY**, and it's very simple:

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" - Philippians 2:5

If you have **your** mind, and I have **mine**, we have **different** minds, and consequently, no unity. However, if **your** mind was like that of Jesus, and **my** mind was like that of Jesus, we'd both have the **same** mind. We would not differ. How could we disagree? How could we do things differently? We couldn't! We would be **one**, and not just one period, but one in **Christ**! Not one in Billy Graham, not one in Pope Francis, not even one in Paul or Peter (1 Cor. 1:12) but one in **Christ**.

We don't have to have **UNITY CONFERENCES** and **SUMMITS**. We don't have to discuss our **differences**. The Lord has given us the **yardstick** that we're to be measured against, and it is **Him**:

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: " - Eph. 4:13

Forget about others. This is an **individual** choice. If we all went about making our **own** minds like Christ's we would be working **directly** and **effectively** on getting **unified**, we'd be true **disciples**. The Lord **wants** disciples. Why do you think that word is used so often in the New Testament? But that's not all: He wants them to be **His** disciples—like Him:

"The disciple is not above his master, but every one that is perfect shall be as his master." - Luke 6:40

Why do we make so many problems for ourselves by **not** looking to Christ? Do you like problems? I don't. The author of these problems is Satan—don't serve him. We each can do something about it: look to Christ—point others to him also.

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

DO THE MATH

Next time you're sitting in a pew and your mind is wandering a bit, look at the board up front that announces the weekly budget target and the number of people in attendance. Like: Budget \$1500, Attendance: 30. \$1500/30 means it would take \$50 each from every person attending (kids included) to make that. Are you helping? This message is for those whose minds wander in our worship assembly. If you're focused as you should be, it's very likely you'll be giving as you should be.