

THE BULLETIN—VOL 42, NUMBER 15 April 10, 2016

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **Curtis McCray**

PM: **Curtis McCray**

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

**“EXCEPT THE LORD BUILDETH THE HOUSE,
THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT”
PSALMS 127:1**

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

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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

LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8:14 says, **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”** Everyone interested in salvation should understand how this is accomplished. Due to false teaching, it is often shrouded in darkness, and people fail to investigate Gods word and are thus deceived.

The church of Christ is often misrepresented. Opponents say God must do the converting and accuse us of denying that. They also say one must be converted by the Spirit and power of God and imply that we also deny that. Some say the heart is changed by faith and that faith is a gift from God and accuse of denying that. But we believe all these things to be true. There is no difference on what God does, but how He does it. Look at the law and the testimony (Isaiah 8:20), and let that decide.

Faith Is Produced By The Word Of God: Jesus prayed for a certain class of people — those who believe on Him through the words of the apostles, His personal representatives on earth (John. 14:26; 16:13-15; 2 Cor. 5:18-20). John 20:30-31 shows that saving faith comes through the written word of God. Peter said that the Gentiles believed by hearing the word from his mouth (Acts 15:8).

The apostle Paul testifies that faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17), but that one must hear before faith can be produced (Rom. 10:14). There is no belief without first hearing the word. All these witnesses agree. The only difference is that now the word that produces faith is written in the New Testament.

Paul told Timothy to preach the things that he had heard from him with many witnesses (2 Tim. 2:2). Further, he said we should stand fast in the word he had taught whether by word or letter (2 Thess. 2:15), and that any who would teach a different doctrine would be accursed (Gal. 1:6-9).

How The Holy Spirit Gives Faith: As shown above, in reference to John 16:13-15, the Spirit was sent to the apostles to guide them into all truth. First Peter 1:12 says they preached the gospel with the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven. Acts 2:1-4 reveals the coming of the Holy Spirit, and that the apostles began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. In Revelation 2:1, Christ says, **“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus, write...”** And verse seven says, **“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”** So the Spirit speaks through the written word.

Where is all this found? In the New Testament. Second Timothy 3:16-17 says that the Scripture furnishes all one needs for perfection. Second Peter 1:3 says that everything that pertains to life and godliness comes through knowledge, and for that reason one should study (2 Tim. 2:15).

How People Are Converted By The Power Of God: Romans 1:16 says the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone who believes it, and that faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17). This word was given to the apostles by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:13). — **(Continued on page 3)**

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 4/10/2016

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Betty Mathis, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **TJ's** father, **Tee Bolen** apparently suffered a stroke last week, but is recovering well and was to leave the hospital Friday. **TJ** and the family have gone to visit them in Tennessee for several days. **TJ** has arranged for **Curtis McCray** of the St. Andrews Road congregation to preach for him here this Sunday.
- **Paula Kennedy** requests prayers that surgery relieves her aunt of severe pain.
- **Anna Porter** will be moving to **Still Hopes**, to continue recovery from a stroke.
- **Remember also:** **Betty** and **Bill Voss**, **Stephanie Rigney's** aunt and uncle; **Debbie Sightler**, daughter of **Vince** and **Helen Reusser**; **Mattie and Suzie Charney**, relations of **Paula Kennedy**; **Barbara Shives**, a friend of the Gamble family; and **Mary Ann Mancuso**, **Marshall's** mom, diagnosed with Parkinson's..
- **Pray for all these**, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

“For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” - Matthew 7:8

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- The meeting on building **spiritual growth and discipleship** in the congregation was well attended last week. Ten men were there, with excellent participation by all. Time of the next meeting to be determined.
- **Thank You!** notes are on the bulletin board in the foyer from the widows and others who received baskets prepared by members here.
- **Scrap Booking class**, at the building 4th Saturdays 12-3, see **Paula or Faye**.
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It's a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.
- **Men!** Check bulletin board for worship assignments—if you can't make it, find someone to fill in. We're counting on you.

"WHOSOEVER WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME" - MARK 8:34

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- Our dear sister **Elgene Sanders** left this world last week. **Elgene** helped raise our children when they were small and Jan and I were both working. They called her “Blue Jean”. We all did. A kind, patient, loving, wise soul. She blesses us with memories of her. Service will be at the **North Columbia** church, Sunday 2 pm.

“Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves ...” - 1 Peter 3:3-5

LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT—(continued from page 1)

Paul said the gospel came to him by revelation (Gal. 1:11-12), and Peter affirmed that the Gentiles were purified by faith which was produced by his preaching (Acts 15:7-9). Furthermore, Peter says one purifies his soul in obeying the Truth (1 Pet. 1:22).

Without doubt, therefore, the Scripture teaches that faith is a gift of God, but that it comes from a study of God's word, not in some mysterious, direct means.

This Is Demonstrated By Divine Example: Acts two reveals that the Holy Spirit spoke to the multitude through the apostles (Acts 2:1-4, 22). When they heard the word preached they were pricked in their hearts — made believers. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17) which was wielded by the apostles and other preachers (Acts 2:1-4, 22-27; 8:4-5, 12). When the people on that Pentecost day heard the word preached by the apostles, they were pricked in their hearts — convicted of sin.

The Pentecostians Led By The Spirit: Their change, or purification, was begun, and the effect was produced by the Holy Spirit. They were led by the words spoken by the apostles. But where? They were led to cry out, “**Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter answered and said, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**” (Acts 2:37-38).

With this example, it is clear that to be led by the Spirit, to receive faith, and be saved by the power of God is accomplished by the written word. Please observe that the whole process of conversion was begun in preaching the gospel, and hearing the gospel which produced faith and repentance, and obeying the gospel in baptism which consummated salvation.

Is Something Besides The Word Of God Needed?: How do you know Christ is the Son of God? The Bible says so. Don't you need some other proof? No, for the Bible says so. How do you know there is a heaven to be gained and a hell to be avoided? The Bible says so. Do you not need other testimony? No, the Bible is enough.

If one were to hear Christ say, "Thy sins are forgiven thee," how would he know he was pardoned? Christ said so. Would you not need other proof? No, for Christ said so.

The same Christ says that in order to be saved one must:

1. Believe in Him as God's Son (John. 8:24).
2. Repent of sins (Luke. 13:3); Acts 3:19).
3. Confess Him before men (Matt. 10:32; Acts 8:37).
4. Be baptized to be saved (Acts 2:38; 10:48; Rom. 6:3-6).

Christ promises to save one who obeys His word. Why fight it?

- **Roy J. Hearn**, 1911-2000, Gospel Preacher,
Founder Memphis School of Preaching

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!