

THE BULLETIN—VOL 42, NUMBER 31 September 11, 2016

**SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:**

AM: Ed Kelleher—Psalm 1

PM: Ed Kelleher—Light

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

**THE LORD SAYS YOU MUST BE READY ... ARE YOU?**

**“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**

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

West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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*

**INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY**

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

**EVANGELIST**

none at present time  
other than the members  
Full time position open

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# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## BIBLE FAITH

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1). Faith is belief, confidence, or trust in some person, fact, or thing. Jesus used the words "faith" and "belief" interchangeably — "Be ye not faithless, but believing" (John 20:27). All faith is based upon testimony of evidence — no evidence, no faith.

Because of His great love wherewith He loved us, God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that "whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus Himself emphatically says, "Except ye believe that I am he ( i.e., the Christ, OH) ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). But God has not required that men believe that Jesus is the Christ without ample evidence to convince them. John says the things recorded in the gospel "are written that ye might believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life in his name" (John 20:30-31).

Today, faith in Christ comes by the evidence recorded in the New Testament — "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17.) Since God has provided ample evidence to produce faith, men are required to believe that Jesus is the Christ and submit to His will, and will be condemned if they do not. "He that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16). For this reason, the gospel is to be "made known in every nation for the obedience of faith" (Rom. 16:25-26). Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:15-16).

Not only is faith dependent upon evidence for its existence, but also for its essence, character, and content. Faith is conditioned by its evidence and partakes of the essence of that testimony. If the evidence is fantastic, grotesque, or false, so will be the faith it produces. If the evidence is true, so will be the faith it produces. Untrue testimony, baseless faith; human testimony, human faith; divine testimony, divine faith. Like evidence, like faith. - (continued on page 3)

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

## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

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

- **Gail Allen** was feeling poorly last week and not able to be here with **Harvey**.
- **Lee** the young man with bone cancer is to have spinal surgery this week.
- **Tommy White** requests prayers for a friend, **Ms. Mitchell** who fell and broke her hip in 3 places last week.
- We thank God for his mercy and our brethren for their many prayers, that **Jan Kelleher** is tolerating well the new chemo drug she has started. **Jan** and **Ed** will be in NYC this week at the **Sloan Kettering** Cancer Ctr.
- Remember also: **Judy Cornelius’ niece Karen Harding** with metastatic breast cancer; **Margaret Herring** who has been able to make it to services the last few weeks; and **Anna Porter** in NHC on US 378.
- **Pray for all these;** those listed above and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow." - Phillipians 2:27

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

- The **church website** has been updated, please make **suggestions** to Ed.
- The **member photos** in the fellowship hall have been updated also.
- **Correction:** **Amy** and **Edward Carlton’s** new baby girl’s name is **Gretta**.
- We’re looking for a new evangelist, suggestions welcome!
- **Meals for College Students**—To be provided in conjunction with class taught by **Spencer Strickland**, every Wednesday. Sign up sheet in foyer.
- **Church Family Pictures**—**Marshall Mancuso** will have his camera with him every Sunday. Be prepared and please see him to get your picture made.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them. *Why are there cards left?*
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer**.
- **Scrap Booking class**, at the building 4th Saturdays 12-3, see **Paula or Faye**.
- Invite people, come yourself to the informal Q&A **Bible study**, Saturdays 3pm.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" - Phillipians 4:7

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

## **ARE YOU READY?**

"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

**Saturday 3pm Bible studies will help you get ready!**

## **BIBLE FAITH,** (Continued from page 1)

Men speak of kinds of faith, but such a distinction is not found in the Bible, and science knows of no separate and distinct kinds of faith. The Bible speaks of degrees of faith — "great faith," "weak faith," "dead faith," etc., but kinds of faith like "historic faith," "saving faith," etc are not spoken of.

It is the thing believed that determines whether we shall be saved. Faith in a lie will not save a man. Faith in some man-made doctrine will not save, though that faith may as firm as any man's belief in the truth. "**If Christ be not raised, then your faith is vain,**" (1Cor. 15:17) Paul says. Hence it is essential that the truth be preached. For this cause, Paul warns against false teachers, pronouncing a curse upon anyone, man or angel, who preaches "**any gospel other than that which we [Apostles, OH] preached**" (Gal. 1:8-9). It is not faith in just any sort of gospel that will save, but faith in the true and unadulterated gospel of Christ. It makes all the difference in the world what men believe.

Salvation is not dependent upon a faith, but upon the faith. For that reason, Jude exhorts Christians to "**earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints**" (Jude 3).

- **Olan Hicks**, 1907 - 1963, Gospel preacher, teacher

## **When Does God Mean What He Says?**

If what we are hearing in some circles, the answer would be: "Whenever the subject of grace enters the picture."

You probably thought that you have to be baptized in order to be saved, since that is what the Son of God said, along with the inspired writers who wrote the Bible (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21**). But now we are being told that to teach the essentiality of baptism for salvation is to be legalistic even though the Bible teaches it.

You also probably thought that repentance is necessary for salvation, since that is what Christ taught (**Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31**). But supposedly only self-righteous people now teach that, because grace covers all our mistakes.

Perhaps you also thought that faith is absolutely demanded of mankind in order to be saved (**John 8:24; Heb. 11:6**), but even faith is a work (**John 6:29**), and that would bring us back to the legalistic charge being hurled once again! However, since the works that God demands of us are not the meritorious works of men, then we are still obligated to work the works of God.

No, we cannot earn our salvation, but doing what God says is not earning salvation. It is loving the Lord (**John 14:16; Luke 6:46**). Since Paul taught that we are not to "**continue in sin, that grace may abound?**" (Rom. 6:1-2), we better just keep on trying to obey God, truly relying upon the grace of God, instead of accepting man's perverted version of a cheap grace that makes no demands (**Titus 2:11-12**). Cheap grace ultimately leads to universalism!

- **Wayne Price**, Evangelist, McLoud Church of Christ, Oklahoma