

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Richard Ramkinson

PM: Richard Ramkinson

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

HOW MUCH STRENGTH DO WE NEED?
ENOUGH TO GO TO GOD

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” - 2 Corinthians 12:9,10

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

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

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

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
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

Alien Sinners Praying For Salvation

Prayer is not in the Great Commission, the law of pardon as announced by the risen Christ, and no example of prayer for pardon was recorded in Acts of the Apostles. We then conclude that prayer is not a command given for salvation from sins. It is an addition by man and many souls are being led astray by this doctrine. Many are also being kept from learning and obeying the truth by a prayer system of salvation.

For What Should An Alien (unsaved sinner) Pray?

1. **For God to love him?** No, for God loves him now and has shown His love (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 4:9-10).
2. **For light or understanding?** No, for the word of God gives light, and the sinner has God's word (Psa. 119:105, 130). Hence, read and understand.
3. **For the Holy Spirit?** No, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles to guide them into all truth. Christ never promised the Holy Spirit to anyone save the apostles (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13).
4. **For Christ to come to him?** No, because the sinner is invited to come to Christ (Matt. 11:28-30). If the sinner fails to come he will not be saved (John 5:40).
5. **For mercy?** No, for God has already extended his mercy to man (Ex. 34:6-7).
6. **For God to get willing to save him?** No, for God is willing to save him now (1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9; Ezek. 18:23, 32). Yes, God is now anxious to save!
7. **For converting or saving power?** No. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16; Psa. 19:7).
8. **For God to be reconciled to him?** No. The sinner must be reconciled unto God (2 Cor. 5:18-20). This is done by obeying the truth.
9. **To get religion?** No. Religion is something to do not get (Jas. 1:27).
10. **For saving grace?** No, God's saving grace has already come (Tit. 2:11-12).
11. **For pardon?** No. The sinner must turn to God in order to be pardoned (Isa. 55:6-7). God is "ready to pardon" (Neh. 9:17). Is the sinner ready to turn to God?
12. **For salvation?** No. The sinner must comply with the terms of pardon before he can enjoy salvation (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 11:14; 22:16).
13. **For faith?** No, for faith comes by hearing God's word (Rom. 10:17).
14. **For repentance?** No, for repentance is a command of God for man to obey (Acts 17:30; Lk. 13:3; Rev. 22:14).

— (continued on page 3)

“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.

- **Judy Cornelius** has been visiting family and expects to be back mid December.
- **Laura Nichols** friend **Lee** will be undergoing radiation treatment for cancer.
- **Also remember:** **Karen Harding** under hospice care; **Mike Kennedy** still undergoing tests; **Jan Kelleher** continuing treatment for metastatic disease; **Laura Nichols** with trials at her work and those close to her; **Dorothy Gray** and family,
- **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.

“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.” - Hebrews 13:20,21

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Please make **website** suggestions to **Ed**, to make it better!
- **Bible Bowl**—February 23, 2017—Book of LUKE.
- New **Visitor Welcome** sheets to give to visitors to our assembly are in the foyer.
- We’re looking for a new evangelist, suggestions welcome!
- **Please sign up to provide Meals for College Students**— in conjunction with class taught by **Spencer Strickland**, every Wednesday. Sign up sheet in foyer.
- **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.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- Invite people to come to the informal Q&A **Bible study**, Saturdays 3pm.

“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” - Galatians 6:2

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:24

It’s good to encourage our brothers and sisters with a kind word of recognition of their work—a Thank You! Being human though, we sometimes forget or worse, don’t notice. This can discourage anyone—so tell them you care. To help those working, remember who it is we really are working for; **He** never forgets or doesn’t notice:

**“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love,
which you have showed toward his name,**

in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” - Hebrews 6:10

But an even better way to say “thank you” is by pitching in and helping in the work **yourself!** This will be a great encouragement to others and of great benefit to **you!** We **all** need to help build up the church and spread the Gospel. Invite people to our Sat bible study

For What Should An Alien (unsaved sinner) Pray? (cont from Page 1)

15. **For a pure heart?** No, for the heart is made pure by obedience to the truth (1 Pet. 1:22).
16. **For freedom from sin?** No, for this comes by obedience (Rom. 6:17-18).
17. **For God to accept him?** No, for man must work righteousness (obey) to be accepted (Acts 10:34). When he does this he is accepted.
18. **For remission of sins?** No, for man must obey the Lord for remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
19. **For the Lord to make known his will to him?** No. The Lord has already made known His will to all sinners (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).
20. **For the baptism of fire?** No, No!! That will come later — too soon for some, I fear — upon the wicked and disobedient at the end of the world (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 19:20; 20:14-15; 21:8).

Then why should an alien sinner pray at all? Where does the Bible teach a sinner to “pray it out with the Lord,” or “stay on your knees in prayer until God saves you”?

The sinner must hear the gospel, believe, repent and, upon confession of his faith in Christ, be baptized in order to be saved. This is the Lord's way. Why change it?

To teach the mourners-bench system of salvation, instead of what the Lord has said, is to lead souls astray. What a terrible thing! Millions are being led into eternal damnation by this false doctrine. Better be careful (Matt. 15:14). It takes obedience — not prayer — to save (Lk. 6:46). If one will not obey, God will not hear his prayer. God does not hear a sinner's prayer (Jn. 9:31; Prov. 28:9; Psa. 34:15). Prayer belongs to the child of God, not to an alien. And the saved cannot pray to God to save the sinner independent of the sinner's obedience to the gospel.

I pray for sinners — that God may spare their lives until they have obeyed the gospel, that the sinner may obey the truth. This is the way Paul prayed for sinners (Rom. 10:1-3). Prayer must be asked according to God's will, and I cannot ask God to save a sinner while the sinner is in disobedience to the Lord's law of pardon (1 Jn. 5:14). God will not set aside His law to save a sinner, even though I pray for his salvation. The sinner must obey the Lord's law of forgiveness.

The rich man “in hell” (Lk. 16:19-31) begged for mercy. It was denied him. Then he asked that a miracle be performed — that God would send Lazarus back to the world to warn his brothers not to come to that terrible place. This is the only time I ever read of anyone in all the Bible asking God to perform a miracle to save someone. Was this prayer answered? No. The reply from Abraham was, “**They have Moses and the prophets [the Old testament Scriptures]; let them [your brothers] hear them [Moses and the prophets]**” (Lk. 19:29).

Today we have Moses and the prophets, and, in addition, Christ and the apostles. If one refuses to hear what the Bible says, if he fails to obey the teaching as found in the book, he will die and be eternally lost. The sinner must in humble, submissive faith obey the Lord and be saved.

- **Perry B. Cotham**, Gospel Preacher, Missionary, Grand Prairie, Texas