

THE BULLETIN—VOL 43, NUMBER 14 April 2, 2017

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland, “Thinking like a Christian, Romans 8:6)”

PM: Spencer Strickland, “Satan: A Character Study, 1 Peter 5:8)

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

HOW TO WALK WORTHY? (Watch and be ready)

“Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.” - Luke 12:37

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!

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

ASCENDING TO HIM

**“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully” Psalms 24: 3, 4.**

This is a question that many people have forgotten to ask themselves today. They believe everything is all right. Others do not believe that there is a God or an afterlife.

There is a God, though, and we need to find out what it takes to be able to approach Him. David doesn’t leave us without the answer. He tells us what it takes to be acceptable to God. He uses some symbols which make it easy for us to remember and understand who may come into God’s presence. The hands symbolize our actions, work, that which we do. The heart symbolizes our motives, intentions, attitudes and thoughts. Lifting up the soul symbolizes our worship and adoration of that which is greater. Swearing deceitfully reminds us of our speech.

Do you want to come into God’s presence? Make sure then what you do is right and acceptable to God. Do you want to come into God’s presence? Make sure your thoughts and intentions are proper and acceptable to God. Do you want to come into God’s presence? Make sure your worship is pleasing and acceptable to God. Do you want to come into God’s presence? Make sure the words of your mouth are true and acceptable to God.

- **Bryan Naugle**, Evangelist, Sebring Parkway church of Christ, Florida

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly , nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.” - Psalm 1

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

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

- **Amy Strickland** has been out for several weeks with a vertigo problem, but is doing better. Please keep her, **Spencer and the children in your prayers.**
- **Judy Cornelius** is to have hip replacement surgery April 6.
- **Remember also:** **Karen Wyatt** recovering from eye problem; **Stephanie Rigby** with recurrence of lymphoma; **Margaret Herring** was in the hospital for 4 days with esophageal problems; **Dorothy Gray** dealing with the many needs of her family; **Tommy White** and leg problems; **Tommy White's** brother recovering from surgeries; **Jason Parks** Traveling; **Pat Joyner** with vertigo; **Laura Nichols** friend and co-worker **Tammy** with spread of cancer, not much time and not much hope, pray that she desire to hear the word of God and a door be opened to her heart; **Jan Kelleher** continuing in a painful fight with metastatic disease.
- Visit **Anna Porter** at National Health Care on US 378. **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.

"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

- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jason**, or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- Remember signup sheet for **college student meals on Wed!** All are invited to stay.
- **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.

God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which you have shown toward his name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." - Hebrews 6:10
Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!

GOOD TO MEMORIZE AND KEEP WITH YOU

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” - Psalm 100

JESUS: OUR PERFECT STANDARD

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52)

There are many outstanding traits that Jesus possessed that would be good for all of us to have as part of our basic character. As a child, he was subject to His parents (Luke 2:51; Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20). He was about His Father's business at an early age, i.e., He was interested in spiritual things while just a youth (Luke 2:49; Eccl. 12:1). He lived, not selfishly, but for others (Mark 10:45; Phil. 2:4). He accomplished God's will in His life (John 6:38). He left an example that all can follow (1 Pet. 2:21).

In this article, though, we want to look at His development that is related in Luke 2:52. The four areas in which Jesus grew that are revealed in that passage -- wisdom, stature, favor with men, and favor with God -- are those areas we must emphasize as we look to our own lives.

WISDOM—To advance in wisdom is to grow intellectually or mentally. Wisdom is "the quality of being wise; the power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, experience, understanding." Wisdom's importance is emphasized by Solomon in Proverbs 3:13-26.

While one should give attention, especially when young, to his education, he should "give diligence" (2 Tim. 2:15) to gain knowledge of the Bible. A good understanding of its teachings is far more valuable than an education at the finest academic institutions.

STATURE—To advance in stature is to develop physically. Jesus developed a strong, healthy body. Our bodies are to be instruments of our service (Rom. 12:1; 6:12-13), temples of God (1 Cor. 6:18-20).

There are three essentials to a strong body: eat proper food, exercise moderately (1 Tim. 4:8) and keep it free from diseases.

FAVOR WITH MEN—This is to develop socially. It has to do with human beings living together as a group in a situation which requires they have dealings with one another. Man is created a social being: to live one with the other. It is not in man's nature to live alone (Gen. 2:18). He is to be a gregarious being.

We need to learn to love people. It makes it easy to live with them. Jesus associated with all kinds of people -- publicans, sinners, Samaritans -- because He loved them (John 3:16). Jesus always tried to influence those with whom He associated to be better people setting the proper example of behavior before them.

FAVOR WITH GOD—This is the spiritual development that ought to characterize every child of God. The importance and value of the soul is seen in Matthew 16:26 where it is shown to be of greater value than all the amassed wealth to be found in the world.

Basically, the essentials for spiritual development are the same as those for physical growth: proper food, exercise and freedom from disease. The correct spiritual food is the Bible (Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 2:1-2). Spiritual exercise is the application of the word of God to one's life which results in proper character development and worthwhile service to the Lord and others. Freedom from disease is being pure and "unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27) by keeping one's lusts in check.

- Gene Taylor, elder, evangelist, Centerville Road Church of Christ, Tallahassee, Florida

“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:” - Ephesians 4:13