

THE BULLETIN—VOL 43, NUMBER 39 October 29, 2017

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

Do You?

"YE THAT LOVE THE LORD, HATE EVIL" - PSALM 97:10

"ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL" - 1 THESS 5:22

The Lord knows!

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

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

BULLETIN EDITOR

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

VERBAL INSPIRATION

Once upon a time religious people could discuss the Bible from a common perspective. While they may have twisted it to suit denominational theology, most of them believed it to be God's word. Even the great denominational debaters like Bogard, Norris and Rice defended their doctrines against such giants as N. B. Hardeman, Foy E. Wallace, Jr. and Alexander Campbell from that perspective. But the world has changed since then. Permeated with secular humanism, most of the denominational world, and many within the church, deny not only the doctrine of Christ, but the inspiration of the very Book in which it is revealed.

A constant in an ever-changing world of human philosophy, the Bible remains as verbally inspired on the threshold of the second millennium as it was when it resided in the "earthen vessels" of the first millennium. Jesus said, "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away,**" (Matthew 24:35), and Peter affirmed that "**the word of the Lord endureth forever.**" (1 Peter 1:25).

The claim of verbal inspiration is a claim that the very words of the Bible are those which the Holy Spirit caused the writers of the Sacred Volume to select in conveying God's will to man's mind. That doesn't mean the writers were mere amanuenses in the production of the Bible, styled by some the Mechanical Theory of inspiration. God does not circumvent the natural faculties of his creatures. This view of inspiration renders the writers mere machines and eliminates the exercise of their own distinctive writing styles which are evident in the Bible. The eminent J. W. McGarvey rejected this theory for additional reasons.

The theory fails to account for the play of the writer's human feelings; and for the obvious fact that in recalling to their memory what Jesus had said the Spirit only recalled what they did not already remember; and in guiding them into all truth he did not guide them into that which they already possessed. (*Evidences of Christianity, Part IV, Ch. VII, p. 212*).

Neither does the claim of verbal inspiration allow for the selection of words by the writers themselves. The Thought Inspiration theory holds that the writers were given God's *thoughts* and allowed to select the words by which they were to be expressed. But words are vehicles of thought and it would have been impossible for finite men to select the words by which the mind of the Infinite God was adequately conveyed. The theory of Thought Inspiration is espoused by so-called translators of modern perverted texts of the Bible and couched in the term Dynamic Equivalence. .

-(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, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Continue** to remember **Amy Strickland** in your prayers as she continues to suffer and is not with us. **Jan Kelleher continues** to suffer the cumulative effects of chemo and had to cancel a trip to Nashville. Keep **Jason Parks** in your prayers too.
- **Linda Floyd (nee Baroody)** has been diagnosed with Stage 1 cancer. Surgery is planned for early November. Keep her and the family in your prayers.
- **Faye Parks** brother, **Dennis Smith** is recovering from esophageal surgery.
- **Margaret Herring** is recovering from a broken leg. **Pray for all these**, and our search for an **evangelist** to help us with the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

“For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.” - Psalms 22:24

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Sign up** to provide food for the **College Age Class** each Wednesday.
- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jones Gamble** or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **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.

“Who will render to every man according to his deeds:” - Romans 2:6

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

The Claims Of The Bible

The Bible claims to be the word of God. And not that only; it claims to be the inerrant word of God, the infallibly and verbally inspired word of God. "All Scripture is given by inspiration" — Theopneustia, God-breathed words. "Unto us God revealed" these things "through the Spirit... Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words" (1 Cor. 2:10-13 ASV). Divine thoughts and divine words to convey them is Paul's statement, with emphasis, of the verbal inspiration of the Bible.

Who says it is not the inerrant word of God? The devil (Gen. 3:3-4) and worldly-wise men of today (Rom. 1:22); but we are warned against such and should shun them, for they cannot be converted (2 Thess. 2:10-11) and may destroy faith in you "through philosophy and vain deceit" (Col. 2:8).

- **Foy E. Wallace, Jr.**, 1896-1979, Gospel preacher

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” - 2 Timothy 3:16,17

VERBAL INSPIRATION—(Continued from page 1)

Verbal inspiration consisted of the Holy Spirit exerting an influence upon the writers of the Bible, without circumventing their natural styles and personalities, and giving them the very words by which God's will is expressed to man.

“But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.” (Mark 13:10-11).

“And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say for the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.” (Luke 12:11-12).

Expressly forbidden to "premeditate," the apostles could not have selected the words they spoke. Those were supplied by the Holy Spirit and that is illustrated by Luke's record of Peter's reply to the Sanhedrin in **Acts 4:8**.

Quoting **Isaiah 64:4**, Paul said the things which "**eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man,**" (**1 Corinthians 2:9**), referred to the gospel plan of salvation which was unknown to the patriarchs and prophets. Moved by the Spirit of God, they foretold those things, but their full revelation was reserved for Christ's witnesses. (**1 Peter 1:10-12**).

“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

“All things” and **“the deep things of God”** refer to scheme of redemption or the gospel plan of salvation which was conceived in the mind of God. Having said that, Paul then defines the means by which that plan was made known to man.

“Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” (1 Corinthians 2:13).

“Which things also we speak,” refers to the **“things which God hath prepared for them that love him,” (v.9)**, which was the gospel scheme of redemption. Both the plan and the words by which it was made known to man were breathed out from God. That is **verbal** inspiration.

God's word expressed in the Bible is as inspired as it was when it reposed in the minds of inspired men in the first century. That great truth is one of the foundation stones upon which our faith rests. If the very words of the Bible weren't breathed out from God, then is our faith vain and our hope lost.

- **Jerry C. Brewer**, Gospel Preacher, publisher

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)