

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 7 February 25, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Wallace Beasley

PM: Wallace Beasley

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

ARE YOU GROWING?

**"We are bound to thank God always for you brethren, as it is meet,
because that your faith groweth exceedingly,
and the charity of every one of you all toward one another aboundeth;"
- 2 Thessalonians 1:3**

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
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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

BEARING FRUIT

Bearing fruit is something **all** Christians **must** do. Jesus wasn't giving an *agriculture* lesson when he said: "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." - Matthew 7:19

Usually we jump right to the harvesting stage, wanting to pull good fruit out of thin air, much like the rich young ruler who asked Jesus, "What good thing shall I do ..." (Matthew 19:16) as if that were all there was to it. Like him, to be fruitful we should first think instead about how to **prepare** ourselves to be **able** to bear good fruit. If we prepare properly, we'll bear fruit; good fruit, and lots of it. Think for a moment on how you'd go about getting some apples:

First and foremost, you must **want** the fruit, else you won't put out the effort. If you don't like apples, would you buy an apple tree, dig a hole, plant it and water it etc.? You wouldn't, you'd quit first. We also must **know and be fully convinced** the work is worth the effort: "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:" - Romans 2:7

Second, we must get the ground ready—us! You wouldn't drop a tree on the ground in your backyard and expect it to grow. Look at the **qualities** a Christian must cultivate **in order to** bear fruit (they aren't fruit of themselves): "add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful ..." - 2 Peter 1:4-8.

Then we must plant the right seed – in us! Apples don't come from kudzu. If we want **good** fruit, we must plant **good** seed, i.e., God's word and wisdom, not man's: "The seed is the word of God" - Luke 8:11, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;" - Romans 1:16

The seed must then be watered and nurtured and cultivated while waiting for the harvest. You don't plant a tree then harvest the next day. We also ought to have patience and faith in God. Tend to your faith. Study to do His will. Wait on the Lord, don't be discouraged, it will be **worth** it! "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - Galatians 6:9

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

Examine yourself, whether you are in the faith ... or not! (2 Cor 13:5)

“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.*

- **Lauren** has another cardiologist appt. on March 27th. She is praying for some answers to her problem.
- Little **Evie** Strickland has been having ankle, foot and leg pain for a month. She has had xrays but they were normal. She is still in pain.
- **Amy and Edward Carlton** welcomed child #9 on Monday February 19th. It was a boy and his name is **Tucker**.
- **Marshall Turbyfill** was in the hospital on Sunday, problem with his diabetes.
- Prayers are working and much appreciated for **Jan and Ed's** new grandson **Michael**, 6 weeks old now and his system continues to develop producing hemoglobin as it should.
- **Jan Kelleher** continues to be in pain from bone cancer and the chemotherapy she is taking. All thanks and glory to **God** that the cancer is still not spreading, she is really enjoying her new grandchildren.
- Also remember **Margaret Herring** and family with many ills. **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.

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" - 1 Peter 1:7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday next week!**
- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jason, Jones** or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **ALL! Contact** those on the Directory list you've not seen recently (like last Sunday).
- **MEN! Save the Date! Carolina Men's Fellowship**, Saturday 3/10/18 at church of Christ at Gold Hill Rd, Fort Mill, SC. **Ed** may still be out of town then and not able to drive up as he has before. Hopefully someone else can give **Tommy** a ride.
- **ALL! 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.

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. “ - Galatians 5:14

THE GOSPEL—1 Corinthians 15:1-4

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

“The Truth is What Makes Men Free”

Sometimes apparently, the religious people around us seem to have some success. At least they gather people together. Whether these people are saved, forgiven of God, is another matter. But the apparent success in some such religious circles deludes some of our preachers, it seems, and they begin to chant or speak the denominational world's doctrine & principles.

I almost cried outwardly last Sunday night upon hearing a man of the church on a radio broadcast after giving some good moral lessons and sound principles apart from how to be saved from sin, then conclude his discussion with this expression: “If you haven't made known your faith in Christ, why don't you seek or find opportunity to do so soon.”

I thought to myself that this couldn't be coming from a gospel preacher, yet it was. At least he has been recognized as a gospel preacher. Yet in this closing exhortation to people of the world the best he offered them was the exact same thing that the denominational preacher offers them – “Profess your faith in Christ.” It's the same thing that they've been telling people, erroneously, for decades. It is not with scriptural foundation, no matter how learned the speaker may be, nor how well known or famous. It simply is not the gospel of Jesus and it hurts - really hurts, and hurts deeply — to hear it expressed by a gospel preacher, or one who is entrusted with the opportunity to preach the gospel, yet in such a spot as this does not preach the gospel.

Many thoughts ran through my mind upon hearing this via radio. I doubt if one little fellow could stem the tide of such departures, or cause such a broadcast to change from its course. But I can tell you few who read this of the error; I can apologize for the speaker; for the people who put the sermons on the air; tell the few who read this of how that is not scriptural and leads souls away from the Truth; and that the Truth is what makes men free. It is not a wide spread popular doctrine or expression that saves or frees — NEVER! Only obedience to the gospel of Jesus saves or forgives or adds one to the church which belongs to Jesus. I don't know why there are brethren in the church or who have long past obeyed the gospel, who take up these worldly ways, but they do — I heard it myself. Reject this kind of thing, no matter what mouth it comes from. Learn, love and obey the gospel for this is the way of salvation. Never does the gospel say, “Accept,” “Profess” nor “make known” and by so doing you're saved.

C.R Franks, Gospel Preacher, from West Columbia church of Christ Bulletin,
Feb 27, 1975

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