

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 11 March 18, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Tavaris Armstrong

PM: Tavaris Armstrong

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

ARE YOU FAITHFUL?

"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil:" - Psalms 97:10

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

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

Ed Kelleher
Office Phone (803) 796-8858
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com



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

Man's Duty To "Prove All Things"

Men are prone to go to extremes. This has always been true. Paul seems to have been guarding against this tendency when he wrote, "**Despise not prophesyings; prove all things; hold fast that which is good**" (1 Thess. 5:20-21). In his day, there were those who claimed to "prophesy" by the Spirit, and did; and there were those who claimed to "prophesy" by the Spirit and did not. The result was that, at least, some "despised" all "prophesyings" by reason of the false claims of the pretenders. Such a wholesale rejection of all "prophesyings" was unreasonable and unsafe. It was wrong. It is not right either to reject the true because some is false or to accept the false because some is true. Paul indicated the safe course: "**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**" If there had been no evil mixed with the good, the admonition to "**prove all things**" and to "**hold fast that which is good**" would not have been necessary.

What is the meaning of the word "prove?" In this connection it cannot mean that the genuineness of "all things" is to be established, for the simple reason that the "all things" to be "proved" are not all genuine. It rather signifies to try, to put to the test. The word is employed elsewhere in the New Testament in this sense (**Luke 14:19**). It means that we should examine everything we hear before we receive it or reject it, as the case may be. At this point, Adam Clarke said, "Whatever ye hear in these 'prophesyings' or preachings, examine by the words of Christ, and by the doctrines which, from time to time, we have delivered unto you in our preaching and writings. Try the spirits — the different teachers — by the word of God."

In the words of the prophet, "**To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them**" (**Isaiah 8:20**). The conduct of the Bereans was in keeping with the spirit of the command under consideration, for we read, "**Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so**" (**Acts 17:11 ASV**). The people of Berea put what they heard to the test, using the scriptures as their standard of examination. They acted rightly and wisely.

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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.*

- **Pat Joyner’s** dizziness has worsened. **Laura Beard** is seeing a new heart doctor. Continue to remember them in prayers to God, for His mercy, and their relief.
- **Ed Kelleher** made it back safely from Washington state where he as been the last month. Now Ed and Jan have flown to Nashville for their first grandson’s first birthday.
- **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,
- 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.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." - Romans 8:28

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- All are invited to stay after the morning to share a meal and fellowship, and consider **Tavaris Armstrong** as a gospel preacher, to help us in evangelism and growth.
- **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).
- **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.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." - 2 Corinthians 9:6

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

RULES

What would basketball or football games be with out rules? They’d be a mess. They might be fun to watch—if you didn’t care who, if anybody, won.

Why then do people think religion and the church Jesus purchased with His blood is different, i.e., it doesn’t need any rules—That anything is acceptable to God if we think it is “sincerely” good? Sure, it might be fun, but God has said what He thinks of it:

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matt 7:21-23

How do we know the “*will of my Father*” in order to do it? How do we not “*work iniquity*”, but do what is authorized? USE HIS rule book—the Bible. —Ed Kelleher

Man's Duty To "Prove All Things" - (Continued from page 1)

Why will people not do the same today? It is common for the message of a modern preacher to be accepted without thought, testing or investigation by those who are his friends religiously, and just as common for the same message to be rejected, without consideration, by his prejudiced religious enemies. These two unreasonable extremes are two of the most unmitigated curses of Christendom.

Let it be observed that this passage which *allows the right* also *enjoins the duty* of proving, testing, and investigating what is heard. It does not permit one to be an indifferent and passive listener. This some seem to prefer. They attend the services, not to be taught, not to bring into use any faculty of discernment or testing, but to be impressed, and that without effort on their part. **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1 ASV).** All professed Christians should endeavour to become - **"fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14 ASV).**

- B. C. Goodpasture, 1895-1977, Gospel preacher, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama

God's Changeless and Immutable Word

The word of God has the power to convict and convert, to sanctify and to edify. But it has another power and province. The Bible is the mirror of its Author, intended to reveal, unveil, magnify, and glorify Him from whom it originally came.

One of the main uses of the word of God is to supply us with a standard of both doctrine and duty. Therefore, there is no substitute for God's written word. Men may turn in every direction seeking for something to take the place of the word of God, but when their search is ended they remain empty-handed.

In every department of life, the need for a standard as exact and unvarying as those which measure weight, length and time compels one to resort to the word of God for guidance. Here alone, one finds perfect forms and changeless models. Man's best timepieces must be set according to those of God, who has appointed the sun, moon, and stars for time and seasons.

So, from all human oracles, however self-confident, we must turn at last to the inspired Word, where, instead of untrustworthy utterances, we find distinct, definite, authoritative, and infallible teaching.

- Franklin Camp, 1915-1991, Gospel preacher, Alabama

“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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12