

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 24, July 1, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

ALL OF THE BIBLE IS PROFITABLE FOR US

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime
were written for our learning
that we, through patience and comfort of the scriptures,
might have hope." - Romans 15:4

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

West Columbia Church of Christ
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**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

God's Plan For Spiritual Learning

God's prophet Jeremiah wrote the following inspired words over 2000 years ago:

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths,
where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.
But they said, We will not walk therein." - Jeremiah 6:16

There many great spiritual lessons we can derive from this one verse, but in this short article, let's consider the following thoughts regarding God's plan for spiritual learning:

Stand in the ways and see — If we want to learn anything, we have to go where the information is — to "stand in the way" where that knowledge travels. For example, if we were interested in improving our math skills, we wouldn't sign up for an English class. We would need to enroll in a math class, because that is the "way" in which math knowledge would be distributed.

Once in the right "way," we need the ability to "see" — to open our eyes to the instruction being given. If we wanted to learn more about math, just being in a math class would give us very little math instruction unless we opened the textbook, studied the lessons, and did the homework exercises.

Ask for the old paths — Adequate learning is facilitated by our willingness to receive instruction from someone who has been studying the subject longer than we have. An individual might be able to teach themselves mathematics, but they would gain that knowledge more rapidly by studying with a knowledgeable math teacher. Fortunately, mathematicians have been kicking numbers around for thousands of years, so everything we would ever want to know about math is already out there in "the old paths" of math instruction — we just need to ask someone to point us in the right direction.

Where the good way is — Here's where matters can get complicated. If we want to learn math, even enrolling in a math class, studying diligently, and making use of the available instruction isn't enough. Unfortunately, there are good math teachers and poor math teachers. If we were tutored by a math teacher who didn't know any more about math than their students, we would find ourselves no better off than when we started, or worse, hopelessly confused. We need to seek out a good math teacher, one who really knows his or her subject — one who understands the subject material backward and forward, and will teach us "the good way" as it pertains to mathematics. (*Continued on Page 3*)

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.*

- Continue to remember in prayer:

Judy's sister Rose,
Connie with her back pain,
Jason recovering quite well from surgery,
Janet's mother,

Amy who is still not feeling well and has a doctor's appointment on Friday,
Paula Kennedy's friend **Lisa** with her many struggles. Her daughter was diagnosed with Lupus this week,

Jan Kelleher who is in continual pain from her cancer and also from a recent fall down some steps.

- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**
- Also for 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.

“Brethren, pray for us” - 1 Thessalonians 5:25

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday!** All are invited to stay to share a meal after the morning assembly. Men's meeting to follow.
- **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.

“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

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

GIFTS: OF GOD, OF CHRIST, OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God,” John 4:10
The gift of God is His grace that will save us—not God Himself.

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” - Eph 4:7 The gift of Christ is access to God's grace—not Christ himself.

“and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” - Acts 2:38 And in **exactly** the same way the gift of the Holy Spirit is the revelation of the Gospel, the Word of God, that will save us in the end—not the Holy Spirit himself. The original Greek language in all three cases is **identical**, and so is the meaning: the gift is **not** the giver.

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

Adapted from— *The Work, Mission and Medium of the Holy Spirit*

God’s Plan For Spiritual Learning—(Continued from Page 1)

“And walk in it” — Our long-term success in any study of math, depends upon our putting into action what we learn. Many of us have taken algebra or geometry in high school, but can we solve an algebra or geometry problem today? Most of us don't have the ability to do so, because we haven't used any higher math in our everyday vocation. We didn't “walk in it,” so all of our learning received years ago has little or no practical value for us at all.

What is true of mathematics, is even more true of **spiritual truth**. If we want to know more about God and His word, we have to “stand in the way” where the knowledge of God and His will exists, and “see” what is there to be discovered. We can't make it up as we go along (even though some very “*religious*” folks try). Rather, we must be willing to “ask for the old paths” and be instructed as to what God reveals to us in His word (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We must make certain we are taught in “the good way,” and the only way to do that is by comparing what we are taught by the holy Scriptures (Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1).

“You will find rest for your souls” — As we learn from God's written Word, we must be willing to implement the spiritual wisdom we learn, and diligently “walk in it” (cf. Luke 11:28; James 1:22). Only when we make daily personal application of God's plan for spiritual learning, will we truly find rest for our souls: “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” - (Matthew 11:29).

- Mike Riley, teacher, Montana St. Church of Christ, El Paso, Texas

Who haven't you seen lately? Our Lord gave us many examples of a good heart. One was in **praying** for others. Jesus prayed for the disciples many times. He also prayed for us—you and me! “**Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word**” - John 17:20

Can we do any less, and still call him Lord? Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ, that all will come to that perfect man the Lord wants—as He prayed for:

“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. nd all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” - John 17:8-17