

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland

PM: Spencer Strickland

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

DO YOU WANT TO WIN HEAVEN?

**"Let us lay aside every weight,
and the sin which doth so easily beset us,
and let us run with patience the race
that is set before us," - Hebrews 12:1**

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

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WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

PRISON DID NOT ROB PAUL!

Paul used every situation to advance the borders of Christ's kingdom; he even used prison as an opportunity to further the cause of Christ. While prison robs a person of freedom, family and choices, Paul was not robbed of certain things, such as:

1. **HIS PEN.** The prison epistles (Eph., Phil., Col. & Philemon) were all written while Paul was in a Roman jail.
2. **HIS PURPOSE.** Paul had been chosen to spread the name of Jesus to the Gentiles, Kings and children of Israel (Acts 9:15). His purpose was to preach and his life was for Christ (Phil. 1:21).
3. **HIS PULPIT.** Paul was successful in preaching to the elite Praetorian Guard (Phil. 1:14), something possibly unattainable had he been a free man. He capitalized upon every situation for sake of Jesus.
4. **HIS PRAYER.** While in prison Paul prayed for the brethren. Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Phil. 1:9-11 and Col. 1:9-12 illustrate his prayer life on behalf of the saints. Cf. Rom. 10:1; 2 Thess. 7:17; 1 Tim. 2:1-8.
5. **HIS PRAISE.** Paul and Silas sang praises to God at mid-night while in the Philippian jail (Acts 16). Although they were confined, their hearts were full of joy and thanksgiving in the form of melodious song.
6. **HIS PATIENCE.** Paul was confident in God's plan for his life, therefore he endured patiently. He was willing even to postpone going to heaven in order to help the Philippian Christians in their spiritual growth (Phil. 1:21-25).
7. **HIS PEACE.** Paul found peace in Jesus Christ. He said, "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" (Phil. 4:11). Furthermore, he wanted the Philippians to know that while prison was a place of capture the gospel was continually preached (Phil. 1:12).

Paul is a great encouragement to all Christians. Though in trials, he was triumphant; though in chains, he was challenged. Paul was confined, but not controlled; restrained, but not restricted; incarcerated, but not incapacitated. Paul was in prison, but prison did not rob him of the most important thing in life; his desire to spread the gospel. Therefore, Paul can be described as the Apostle of the heart set free.

- **Mark N. Posey**, Preaching minister, Austinville Church of Christ Decatur, AL

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:**
- **Amy** was able to attend Wednesday night but is still having up and down days.
- **Connie** is to have a shot for her back pain on Friday.
- **Jason** continues to recover from surgery. His friend **Steve** is home from the hospital.
- **Jan Kelleher** had good news from her latest scans, the cancer is not spreading. She and the family are very glad for everyone's prayers, please continue.
- 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.

**"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**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **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)

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:24

It's good to encourage our brothers and sisters with a kind word of recognition of their work—a Thank You! Being human though, we sometimes forget or worse, don't notice. This can discourage anyone—so tell them you care. To help those working, remember who it is we really are working for; **He** never forgets or doesn't notice:

**"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love,
which you have showed toward his name,
in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." - Hebrews 6:10**

But an even better way to say "thank you" is by pitching in and helping in the work yourself! This will be a great encouragement to others and of great benefit to you! We all need to help build up the church and spread the Gospel. Take some cards, give them to family, friends, acquaintances, people you meet.

**"... remember the words of the Lord Jesus,
how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35**

THE FACTS OF THE GOSPEL

1 Cor. 15:1-8 — Whatever else the Christian system unfolds in the New Testament, it is first of all a record of historical facts. It is a divine revelation, an unveiling of man, a body of ethical precepts — it became a religious system. In these scriptures a story of fundamental, primary facts are found:

“That Christ died.” This is recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The fact of His death, like the fact of His life, is universally conceded. The apostle Paul takes us back to the saddest scene ever enacted upon the earth, to the darkest day in the world's history. But, the greatest blessing ever offered mankind became available because of what happened that day.

- (a) As a sacrificial victim: "For our sins." Jesus did not die merely as a martyr, but also as an expiatory offering on account of our sins. John 1:29; 1 John 3:5; Gal. 1:4; Titus 2:14.
- (b) As a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy: "According to the Scriptures." It was not just the will of wicked men, but also in fulfillment of God's divine plan for saving man from our sins, that Christ died, Isa. 53:1-8

“That He was buried.” Jesus Christ, being human as well as divine, touched life at every point. He began as an infant at Bethlehem, and ended in a tomb just outside of Jerusalem. He was buried in a borrowed tomb — another point in His humiliation.

- (a) In a place of beauty. The tomb was in a garden, a lovely spot fashioned by the hands of a rich man. John 19:38-42.
- (b) In a place of purity. It was "in a new tomb wherein was never man yet laid." Matt. 27:60. He who came to resurrection and life, even his body did not see corruption. Psalm 16:10.

"That He was raised." Jesus' resurrection is declared in Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20. "On the third day". Jesus foretold this in Matt. 16:21. On the first day of the week, which became the day of worship for Christians. Acts 20:7, I Cor. 16:1-2

"That He was seen." By Cephas, by the twelve – by over 500 brethren, by James, by all the apostles, and the last by Paul. All of these were eye-witnesses to His resurrection.

The facts of the Gospel:

- **Believe in Christ, John 8:24;**
- **Repent Acts 2:38;**
- **Confess Christ publicly, Matt. 10:32;**
- **Be baptized into Christ, Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5.**
- **Live faithfully Rev. 2:10.**

Then enjoy the blessings of eternal life ...

— **Jerry Blount**, Pillar church of Christ, Wichita, Kansas