

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland

PM: Spencer Strickland

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

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” - 2 Corinthians 9:8

How do you say, “Thank you!”?

Examine yourself! Whether you are 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

On Request
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

THE LOVE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

“Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved”
- Acts 2:43-47

Luke records that the apostles performed many miracles (by the Spirit's power). The result of these signs and wonders upon the people was fear (i.e., a healthy respect and reverence). There was no doubt in their minds regarding the genuineness of the miracles being performed. The people knew that God was with these men and enabled them to perform such mighty acts and preach a divine message.

Luke also paints a beautiful image of the fellowship that existed in the early church. Note the following seven descriptive phrases:

1. "All who believed were together" - They were united in thought and action (cf. Rom. 15:6). It is likely that many of them lived together in temporary quarters or in the homes of natives of Jerusalem.
2. "Had all things in common" - They did not consider their earthly possessions as just their own but were willing to share with their brethren (cf. Acts 4:32).
3. "Sold their possessions and goods" - They were willing to sell what they had that they might distribute the proceeds to needy fellow believers (e.g., Acts 4:34-37).

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Examine yourself! Whether you be in the faith (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.*

- **Gail Allen** is to have in-patient surgery November 15.
- **Lauren** ask for prayers for her friend **Ashten** (13 years old) as she is to have stomach surgery and then possibly another eye surgery. Also continued prayers for her Grandma who is better.
- **Spencer** and **Amy** ask for prayers for **D.J.**
- **Pat** is to go to the doctor tomorrow (Nov.8) to find out the results of her MRI.
- Continue to remember **Janet** and her **mother**.
- **Linda Floyd** had a knee cap replaced and requests prayers as she goes through rehab, very painful. **Jason** had his staples out on Tuesday.
- **Laura** ask for prayers that she make the right decision in deciding to sell her house.
- **Judy** had a good report from the heart doctor and saw a foot doctor Thursday.
- **Connie** went to a second pain doctor who said there was nothing else he could do.
- **Paula** got the results from her CT scan; she has a torn rotator cuff with surgery scheduled for January.
- **Katie** and **Paula** will be traveling Nov.14-18; **Jan** and **Ed** Sunday 11/11.
- Pray also that we **all** grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge**.
- Remember 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.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." - Psalms 27:14

“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.

""Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

Editors note: In this bulletin's article, *The Love of the Early Church*, item 7, "simplicity of heart" means "smoothness" of heart, without contention or difference—things to rub or bump against one another. They simply had the love of Christ—nothing else, no other complications. They got along and fit together well—being in Christ.

“Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:” - Romans 2:6,7

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;” - 2 Corinthians 13:5

THE LOVE OF THE EARLY CHURCH (continued from page 1)

4. **"Divided them among all as anyone had need"** - Those Christians in Jerusalem who had a genuine need were provided for by their brethren who had means (cf. I John 3:17). One might rightly ask: "Why was the need for benevolence among these Christians so great that it compelled some to sell possessions and property?" Although no specific answer is revealed, it seems reasonable to suggest that many of those who were converted to Christ on Pentecost had come from many nations and had planned to be in Jerusalem for a short time during Pentecost. However, after being converted to Christ, they remained in Jerusalem much longer than initially planned and consequently had needs arise for which they had not prepared. This situation presented a unique opportunity for Christians to voluntarily help other Christians. The **voluntary** nature of this sharing among all must be stressed (cf. Acts 5:4). They were not practicing communism, as some have alleged. Neither the church nor the government owned or demanded all the possessions of Christians in this situation. No one was forcing an **equal** distribution of economic goods to all. In fact, there is no indication that the distribution was equal at all. Rather, some generously volunteered to help others meet their basic **needs** which was a wonderful way to show their love and unselfishness (cf. James 2:15,16; John 13:34,35). In that era, benevolence of this kind among Jews was not common and was practically unheard of among Gentiles. Those who witnessed these acts of love would have been favorably impacted. No wonder the church grew so rapidly initially!
5. **"Continuing daily with one accord in the temple"** - They were together daily in the temple (presumably for prayer and to receive encouragement and further teaching from the apostles). Their unity is again reiterated by Luke.
6. **"Breaking bread from house to house"** - The wording here is different from 2:42. It appears that this refers to common meals which they shared together in their homes.
7. **"They ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart"** - How did they eat their meals together? With abundant joy and delight! Their meals would have been simple, no doubt, but they were content with what they had (cf. Heb. 13:5,6).

The love of these Christians toward each other is plain to see, is it not? These followers of Christ praised God, and, as a result of their conduct, were viewed with approval by the people of Jerusalem (cf. Matt. 5:16). Eventually, this "honeymoon period" would end and the Christians would be scattered abroad due to persecution (cf. Acts 8:1ff).

- **Stephen R. Bradd**, Gospel preacher, Clinton Illinois