

THE BULLETIN—VOL 45, NUMBER 4, January 27, 2019

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

PM: Ed Kelleher

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

WHERE ARE ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS?

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:” - Ephesians 1:3

WHERE’S THAT EXACTLY?

“And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” - Ephesians 1:22,23

HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” - Galatians 3:27

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

Who Likes Getting Old?

I am currently in my extremely late 20's or early 30's (depending on how you count time). Regardless what my age is there are things happening to me which I thought and hoped were several years away. My right shoulder and knee will both hurt for no real reason. Sometimes jogging or lifting weights contributes, but normally there is mild pain for no apparent reason. Not to be outdone my left elbow entered the competition this week. While putting a child's bicycle in the back of a vehicle I felt a strain. I have been told since it is tendonitis. I asked, "when will it go away?" The answer was, "When you stop using it." So I guess I'll have to get used to tendonitis now.

Signs of our physical aging are never welcome. While growing older can be undesirable we must welcome our spiritual aging and growth. Paul wrote: "**When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.**" (1 Corinthians 13:11) As you grow in Christ you ought to be able to recognize the journey from childhood to adulthood. You will know and understand the scriptures better. Using the scriptures to guide you through life's demands and experiences you gain wisdom. Temptations never go away, but some which used to constantly plague you will lose their appeal as you grow closer to and more like Christ.

The obvious difference between physical and spiritual maturity is how it comes about. Without trying your body will grow older, slower, and grayer (if there is any hair left to turn gray). But spiritual maturity is a never ending process which requires your constant effort. Job was a very mature man in God who still had room for growth. Even after all Job suffered when God spoke to him, God's first statements and rhetorical questions were: "**Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now gird up your loins like a man, and I will ask you and you instruct Me!**" (Job 38:2-3). Job grew from that, and he continued to be blessed by God (Job 42:10). If you are not at a level spiritually where you know you should be or are expected to be; it's time to examine your efforts. God cannot grow for you. But if you demonstrate a desire for spiritual maturity you will indeed mature.

- T.J. Bolen, Gospel preacher, West Columbia church of Christ, SC, 2015

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these ...” Matt 6:33

“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.*

- **Paula’s** daughter **Anne** is undergoing tests for an unknown illness. **Paula** continues to cope with the difficulty of shingles and much pain.
- **Margaret Herring** is suffering from multiple debilitating conditions, send her a card or give her a call to go visit.
- **Judy Cornelius’s** son fell off a ladder, but was not seriously hurt.
- **Connie** is to have a YAG (laser) treatment on her other eye next Friday.
- **Paula** continues to have great difficulty with shingles and much pain.
- **Pat Joyner** continues to have spells of great dizziness and pain also.
- Also remember in prayer: **Carolina Strickland, Amy Strickland;** and **Lauren.**
- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **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, **be faithful** to use them.

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."- Matthew 24:1

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- **Stewart Schnur’s**, daughter **Caroline’s** husband, 44 passed away. **Caroline** has lost here husband, father and mother in the last 18 months

“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.” John 14:2

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

MARKS THAT IDENTIFY THE CHURCH OF GOD'S CHOICE

1. The Builder of the church is Jesus Christ Himself (**Matthew 16:18**).
2. Christ said it belongs to Him and so it is designated "the church of Christ" (**Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16**).
3. His shed blood was to purchase the church (**Acts 20:28**).
4. The church is described as His bride (**Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:22-32**).
5. Christ, not any human living or dead, is her head (**Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23; Colossians 1:18**).
6. It is a Kingdom over which Christ is the King (**Matthew 16:18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25**).
7. The church is only one and has no earthly headquarters; it is registered or enrolled in heaven where Christ her Head resides (**Ephesians 2:16, 4:4; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 12:23**).
8. Its terms of entrance remain the same as it was on the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection as shown in **Acts 2**. They include the following:
 - Hearing the Gospel (**Mark 16:15-16**);
 - Believing the Gospel (**John 8:24, 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16**);
 - Repenting of one's sins (**Luke 13:3-4, 24:47**);
 - Confession of Christ as the Son of God (**Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:10**);
 - and being Baptized (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16**).
9. Items that accompany her worship include:
 - Teaching/Admonition (**Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 2:2**);
 - Prayers (**Acts 2:42; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6**);
 - Breaking of bread/Communion or Lord's Supper (**Acts 2:46, 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29**);
 - Singing, unaccompanied by mechanical instruments of music (**Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19**);
 - Contribution/Collection based on freewill (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7**).
10. It does not allow women to teach or have authority over the men, hence women evangelists or elders/pastors have no place in it (**1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:8-15**).

No church founded by man adheres to the whole marks identifying the church of God's choice, the church of Christ (**Romans 16:16**). If the church of which you are a member does not conform to the marks outlined above, then you need to rethink because it is not the church of Christ.

“ ... The churches of Christ salute you.” - **Romans 16:16**

Felix O. Aniamalu, Voice of Truth International I

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these ...” **Matt 6:33**