

THE BULLETIN—VOL 45, NUMBER 30, August 4, 2019

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland

PM: Harvey Allen

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

**ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR BRETHREN?
CAN THEY BE THANKFUL FOR YOU?**

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;” - 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Test all things; hold fast that which is good. - 1 Thess 5:21

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 man wanted

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

Can't Plead Ignorance

As a sophomore in high school, I had a football coach who was what most people would describe as a good person. Our fathers had worked together years ago so our families had a connection. My dad had known this coach since the coach's childhood. I did not meet the coach until high school. He had a vested interest in seeing that I stayed out of trouble. Not because I was any good at football, but because of the friendship our families already had.

I began hanging around an individual whom my coach and family friend did not care for. This friend and I were walking around the school building one morning before classes began and we went down one of the main hallways in the athletic area. Unbeknownst to me that area was off limits prior to the start of the school day. However, my friend was aware of this limitation as this same coach had previously run him out of there. The coach spotted us, and after his reprimand I informed him I did not know the area was off limits. Being unaware certainly helped my case but he still told me very sincerely, “I expect you to know better.” I'm not sure how he expected me to know better since there was never any sort of public proclamation of this rule by the school. I saw no point in pushing the issue; even though I was unaware of the rule I understood my coach had my best interest at heart. Furthermore, even though it was done in ignorance there was genuine disappointment in my coach that I broke a rule.

Leviticus 5:17 reads, “Now if a person sins and does any of the things which the LORD has commanded not to be done, though he was unaware, still he is guilty and shall bear his punishment.” Being forgetful can indeed lead to failure. A major difference between my school and God is that God has ensured humanity has access to His standards, He has proclaimed it. Ignorance will not be an excuse before God, and God has our best interest at heart all the time; more so than any person ever could. “I didn't know” will help us from time to time on earth, it will not help you when your time is up.

- T.J. Bolen, Formerly Gospel preacher at West Columbia South Carolina

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; ... and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:” - 2 Peter 1:5-10

“Test all things; hold fast that which is good.” - 1 Thess 5:21

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Don Blackwell, Merrie Christmus, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Barbara and Melvin Reeder, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Margaret Herring** had more bad news about her health. Send her a card, pray for her, encourage her how you can.
- **Pat Joyner** had some good news for her doctor, is still ailing but managing to attend.
- **Barbara Reeder**, wife of **Melvin**, is starting dialysis. **Hailey Johnson**, one of those who care for **Barbara Reeder**, suffered a house fire and burns several weeks ago, in Cayce. She is unable to work. Remember her.
- **Lauren Beard** requests continued prayer for her family.
- Also, continue to remember: **Laura Nichols, Pat Joyner, and Steve Rigney.**
- **Keep ALL these in your prayers**, that the Lord be merciful and pray also that we **all** grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this;
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” - Galatians 5:14

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Pray earnestly that our search for a sound preacher bears fruit!**
- **What does God Require of us?** Check the bulletin board for member's responses to this question, and add your own.

"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" - Colossians 1:10

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

- **Richard Ramkinson**, former preacher at the Windsor Lake church passed away. Remember the family in your prayers.

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:

- **Judy's niece Dawn** has been alcohol free for 1 year now.

“For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.” - Romans 14:8

Are you doing all you can? If so, be happy for God knows! If not ... God knows!

But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” - Hebrews 6:9,10

The New Testament — Our Guide

When the church was established and began to work, Paul wrote 14 letters to churches and preachers telling them how to live. James wrote one letter, Peter two, John three, and Jude one. These are all letters of church discipline and government, telling church members how to live.

The last book in the New Testament was written by John. The Revelation not only tells of the past and the present in the first century, but crosses the river of death and tells us of the future home God has prepared for those who love Him and do His commandments. He tells us that on the other side of the river of death there is no night, but one eternal day; no sickness, sorrow, pain, or death. The river of life and the tree of life are found there. So the New Testament — properly divided, read, understood, and obeyed — is a safe guide to lead us into the city whose Builder and Maker is God.

In summary, there are 27 books in the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell me what I must believe in order to be saved. Acts of Apostles tells me what I must do to be saved. The 21 letters of Christian instruction that follow tell me how I must live and work after I am saved in order to finally reach the heavenly home we read about in the last book of the Bible.

My brethren are often condemned for preaching so much in Acts of Apostles, but this will be our leading book as long as we teach salvation to a dying world, for this is where we find the plan of salvation first taught by the apostles after they had Holy Ghost baptism which qualified them to preach the gospel to all the world. As long as we teach the same things the apostles taught them to do, we are sure we are teaching the word of God, and we are also sure we will be rewarded at the last day for so doing. So, let all be satisfied with the simple word of God, to teach and fight it out along that line, knowing that if we do this, heaven will be our home.

- **J. D. Tant**, 1861—1941 Gospel preacher

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” - John 17:17

“Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.” - Psalm 73:24

Faith Alone Is Not Belief In God

“He that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life” (John 3:36 ASV). This truth is seen when “Jehovah said unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed not in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel” (Num. 20:12 ASV). They had not the “conviction” to do just what God said do. God said unto them, “...speak ye unto the rock before their eyes” (Num. 20:8 ASV). But they “smote the rock” (Num. 20:11). Hence God says, “Ye believed not in me” (Num. 20:12 ASV).

What is it to “believe in” God? It is to do trustingly and lovingly just what He says. This “faith alone” system is the popular doctrine in pulpits and on rostrums of the modern pastor and money-loving evangelist. There is nothing that they put over with a show that is more deceiving and soul-blighting.

- **A. G. Freed**, 1863—1931 Gospel preacher