

THE BULLETIN—VOL 47, NUMBER 18 May 23, 2021

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ethan Allen  
PM: no assembly

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



# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## ASCENDING TO HIM

**"Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully" Psalms 24: 3, 4.**

This is a question that many people have forgotten to ask themselves today. They believe everything is all right. Others do not believe that there is a God or an afterlife.

There is a God, though, and we need to find out what it takes to be able to approach Him. David doesn't leave us without the answer. He tells us what it takes to be acceptable to God. He uses some symbols which make it easy for us to remember and understand who may come into God's presence. The hands symbolize our actions, work, that which we do. The heart symbolizes our motives, intentions, attitudes and thoughts. Lifting up the soul symbolizes our worship and adoration of that which is greater. Swearing deceitfully reminds us of our speech.

Do you want to come into God's presence? Make sure then what you do is right and acceptable to God. Do you want to come into God's presence? Make sure your thoughts and intentions are proper and acceptable to God. Do you want to come into God's presence? Make sure your worship is pleasing and acceptable to God. Do you want to come into God's presence? Make sure the words of your mouth are true and acceptable to God.

- **Bryan Naugle**, Evangelist, Sebring Parkway church of Christ, Florida

**"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly , nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." - Psalm 1**

"God will render to every man according to his deeds" - Romans 2:6

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org) South Carolina 5/23/2021

**JOIN US IN  
PRACTICING  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY,  
COME SEE!**

West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study  
Sunday 11 AM Assembly  
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study  
Office Phone (803) 794-5320  
*Nursery provided*

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Any Time On Request  
*Everyone Welcome!*  
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members  
none at present time  
Full time position open

BULLETIN EDITOR

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## "PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER" - James 5:16

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Merrie Christmus, Margaret Herring, Jan Kelleher*

- **Sydney Allen** is still recovering from her broken wrist and arm, but doing better.
- **Martha Geiger** is hoping to be with us this Sunday after surgery.

**"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." - Philippians 4:6**

## "AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY" - Acts 2:42

- **Meeting each week now!** At the building, Sunday and Wednesday.
- **Bible Studies!** Please join us Sunday 10am in Psalm 35 and Wed 7pm in Acts.
- **FIRST SUNDAY!** - June 6th, we'll resume sharing a meal after the morning assembly. All are invited to stay after the morning assembly to share a meal and time together, Men's meeting to follow.
- **MEN! Contact Jones** and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **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.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer**

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

**"God will render to every man according to his deeds" - Romans 2:6**

## **WE MUST KNOW GOD'S WAYS AND WANT TO DO THEM!**

How important are the thoughts of our hearts as compared to our actions—what we do? Look what the Lord said was the Israelites' problem:

**"Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways." - Psalms 95:10**

Is your heart different from God's, are you erring? Better check before it's too late!

## **GOOD TO MEMORIZE AND KEEP WITH YOU**

**"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." - Psalm 100**

## JESUS: OUR PERFECT STANDARD

**"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52)**

There are many outstanding traits that Jesus possessed that would be good for all of us to have as part of our basic character. As a child, he was subject to His parents (Luke 2:51; Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20). He was about His Father's business at an early age, i.e., He was interested in spiritual things while just a youth (Luke 2:49; Eccl. 12:1). He lived, not selfishly, but for others (Mark 10:45; Phil. 2:4). He accomplished God's will in His life (John 6:38). He left an example that all can follow (1 Pet. 2:21).

In this article, though, we want to look at His development that is related in Luke 2:52. The four areas in which Jesus grew that are revealed in that passage -- wisdom, stature, favor with men, and favor with God -- are those areas we must emphasize as we look to our own lives.

**WISDOM**—To advance in wisdom is to grow intellectually or mentally. Wisdom is "the quality of being wise; the power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, experience, understanding." Wisdom's importance is emphasized by Solomon in Proverbs 3:13-26.

While one should give attention, especially when young, to his education, he should "give diligence" (2 Tim. 2:15) to gain knowledge of the Bible. A good understanding of its teachings is far more valuable than an education at the finest academic institutions.

**STATURE**—To advance in stature is to develop physically. Jesus developed a strong, healthy body. Our bodies are to be instruments of our service (Rom. 12:1; 6:12-13), temples of God (1 Cor. 6:18-20).

There are three essentials to a strong body: eat proper food, exercise moderately (1 Tim. 4:8) and keep it free from diseases.

**FAVOR WITH MEN**—This is to develop socially. It has to do with human beings living together as a group in a situation which requires they have dealings with one another. Man is created a social being: to live one with the other. It is not in man's nature to live alone (Gen. 2:18). He is to be a gregarious being.

We need to learn to love people. It makes it easy to live with them. Jesus associated with all kinds of people -- publicans, sinners, Samaritans -- because He loved them (John 3:16). Jesus always tried to influence those with whom He associated to be better people setting the proper example of behavior before them.

**FAVOR WITH GOD**—This is the spiritual development that ought to characterize every child of God. The importance and value of the soul is seen in Matthew 16:26 where it is shown to be of greater value than all the amassed wealth to be found in the world.

Basically, the essentials for spiritual development are the same as those for physical growth: proper food, exercise and freedom from disease. The correct spiritual food is the Bible (Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 2:1-2). Spiritual exercise is the application of the word of God to one's life which results in proper character development and worthwhile service to the Lord and others. Freedom from disease is being pure and "unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27) by keeping one's lusts in check.

- Gene Taylor, elder, evangelist, Centerville Road Church of Christ, Tallahassee, Florida

**"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**