

THE BULLETIN—VOL 47, NUMBER 20 June 6, 2021

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM:

PM: no assembly

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

IS JESUS YOUR LORD?

**"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord,
and do not the things which I say?" - Luke 6:46**

Give our shut-ins, Pat Joyner and Barbara Reeder a call.

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

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 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

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

A Leader Gone Astray

"But there was none like unto Ahab, who did sell himself to do that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up" (1 Ki. 21:25 ASV).

Leaders have a great responsibility, because they have a great deal of power. Ahab, the king of Israel, began his reign with very little conviction in his heart. His wife was Jezebel, a foreign woman who worshipped idols. When she came to Samaria, she brought her idol worship with her. Ahab's religion meant very little to him, so it was not much of a sacrifice of conviction for him to give up the worship of God and worship Baal along with his strong minded wife. She ruled Ahab and Ahab ruled the nation.

The religion of Baal became the dominating religion of the kingdom. All the court lords and ladies followed the lead of the king and queen, and all the people who loved to be in style — and that was most of them — followed the lead of the king and court. Of course they all knew that the religion of Jehovah was the true religion, but it was not the style any more to worship God. So nearly all of them went the popular way.

The Stubborn Prophet: Elijah was not a crank. He was not stubborn for the mere sake of being different or odd. He was not anxious to stir up trouble. He loved peace and harmony, but he loved God more. His conscience would not allow him to forsake Jehovah.

His courage led him to stick by his convictions, even though it meant a break with the king and even though it made him a social outcast. He had sense enough to look beyond the authority and demands of an earthly king to the authority and will of the King of the universe. He had discernment enough to see through the glamour and show of unthinking multitudes to the real principles of conduct and teaching. He could see the paltriness and emptiness of Baal's religion in contrast with the genuineness and abiding quality of the religion of Jehovah. To Elijah, persecution and even death were minor things as contrasted with loyalty to God.

Misrepresentation And Ill Treatment: Of course Elijah was misrepresented. At court he was spoken of as, "the troubler of Israel." He was so hated by the queen that she planned constantly for some means to get him out of the way. At times it was necessary for him to flee for his life; but while that was extremely discouraging, it did not take away his loyalty to God.

He preferred to eat the scraps of the ravens' food in the dark canyon near the Dead Sea than to sit as a liveried nothing in the palace of Ahab in Samaria. He chose rather to hear the voice of Jehovah in the lonely mountain cave than to listen to the empty jabber of Queen Jezebel.

It cost Elijah just about everything that flesh holds dear to maintain his religious and moral integrity, but he knew that the reward was worth far more than the price he had to pay. Every age has its Elijahs, unpopular, misrepresented, and abused while they lived, but the foundation stones upon which humanity has been enabled to step across one swirling crosscurrent after another down through the stream of time.

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

"PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER" - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Barbara and Melvin Reeder, Pat Joyner, Merrie Chrismus, Margaret Herring, Jan Kelleher*

Pat Joyner is having terrible dizzy spells and can't get out,
Barbara Reeder is shut-in also with a variety of ills. Both miss being with the church. Please give them a call or send a card. It would mean a lot to them. And to you also!

"It is a faithful saying: for if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: If we deny him, he also will deny us:" - 2 Timothy 2:11,12

"AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY" - Acts 2:42

- **Ed** was down temporarily Wednesday and didn't arrange a substitute to teach the Bible Class.
- **Meeting each week now!** At the building, Sunday AM and Wednesday PM.
- **Bible Studies!** Please join us Sunday 10am in Psalm 35 and Wed 7pm in Acts.
- **FIRST SUNDAY! - June 6,** No meal is scheduled. Maybe a men's meeting.
- **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**

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." - Revelation 21:3

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

IF YOU ARE GOING TO SERVE GOD, SERVE!

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him." - 1 Kings 18:21.

If you've made the choice to serve God—Good! That's what God wants, because by serving, we'll make it to the end. But, then watch out for this one:

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." - 2 Peter 2:20-22

Remember! He said we need to take up our cross **daily**—to die to self daily. It isn't done all at once, baptism is the beginning, not the end. Do something for God **each day**. It will build you up. Otherwise, we'll windup as He says.

A Leader Gone Astray-(Continued from page 1)

The Real Test: Pomp and pageantry and show are not a test of principles, but they do command a big following. What is in style and what is right are often two different things. The real test is the will of God! Just as the Rock of Gibraltar still stands, though it has been obscured by many a cloud and lashed by many a storm, so the will of God is supreme and eternal, though often clouded and lashed by the conflicting currents of earthly leadership and popular clamor.

Ahab and Jezebel were drunk with power. The nation reeled like a drunken man in the intoxication and revelry of Baal worship. But out on Mount Carmel one day the proud king and his clamoring followers saw Baal's worship go down in defeat (1 Ki. 18). They saw the prophets of Baal — 400 of them — work themselves up in an all-day frenzy of pleading and shouting and bodily mutilation, but no answer came from their idol.

Then in the evening they heard the prayer of faith borne from the heart of Elijah to the throne of God. They saw the answer of Jehovah as the fire fell and consumed the sacrifice, the altar of stone, and even the water in the trenches. Fallen to the earth in penitence and humility, the people acknowledged their wrong. From their hearts went up the cry, "Jehovah, he is God" (1 Ki. 18:39 ASV).

A Modern Application: Baal is abroad in the land today — not the old fish god of the Philistines and Sidonians, but the god of human exaltation and lust of the flesh. His religion is voiced in the maxim, "Whatever is, is right." It is further explained in the teaching, "Follow the earthly great and powerful, no matter what they do. Do not be out of style." This is the philosophy of "Political Correctness."

This god has all but taken possession of even the religion that claims to be Christian. He has branded the God of the Bible as "out of date" and fit only for the age of superstition. He is proclaiming from the ivy towers of educational institutions and from the centers of social prominence that to be religious in the Bible way is a matter of ignorance and lack of sense. Like the Pied Piper of Hamlin, he plays his tune in the halls of colleges, in the pulpits of fine churches, and echoes his claims from the lips of the prominent and powerful among religious denominations.

But men and women of Elijah's type will fear God and keep His commandments, though ostracized socially and belittled religiously. We must not think that days like Elijah's are gone. There is plenty of opposition now, and discouragement and persecution for people who love the Lord and are willing to serve Him. It takes different forms, but it is just as effective and deadly. A good old song says,

"Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb;
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?"

The Lord Himself has issued this challenge:

"For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of man also shall be ashamed of him, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mk. 8:38 ASV).

- **Batsell Barrett Baxter**, 1916-1982, Preacher, teacher, elder, church of Christ