



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." JOHN 8:32

"YOU HAVE CANCER."

Those are dreaded words. In an instant our world is turned upside down. All our plans and dreams vanish as a puff of smoke. Long, arduous, uncomfortable, even painful treatment may lie ahead. Surgery to remove parts of our body may be necessary. We won't be as we were before. They are words **no one** wants to hear.

So then, do we **avoid** the doctor? Or, do we **hate** the doctor for telling us? One moment life is good, we are happy. The next we are cast down, wracked by uncertainty and fear. It is natural to **deny** the reality, to lash out in our frustration. We want so desperately for someone to tell us the doctor is wrong. Like a drowning person we might panic and cast about wildly for something to cling to – and that panic, that **denial** of reality, will **seal our fate!** Panic and denial will lead us to hasty, ill considered decisions and rash actions which will be **hard** to undo. **Only** careful, prayerful consideration of the situation will let us take the steps that are necessary to deal with the cancer. To overcome the cancer we can't ignore it – we must face it and wrestle with it.

So too in the church when there are difficulties: When discipline is required; When rebuke is needed; When long time ties must be severed. We want someone to tell us **it isn't so**. We might hate the messenger and deny his message. We might make hasty, rash decisions. Faced with uncertainty and fear: We **don't want** to know; We **don't want** to change our plans or routines; We **don't want** to be uncomfortable. But that's the mind the Israelites had, who fleeing slavery in Egypt, **didn't want** the troubles in the desert but rather to return (Exodus 16:3). But if we are to **survive**, if we are to continue, if we are to **prosper** in the future, we must **face** the reality. We must deal with it – as Abraham dealt with the call of God to leave his family and country (Hebrews 11:8); not an easy thing to do. However, to be acceptable to God, we **must** do as He, through Paul, commanded:

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. – I Corinthians 5:7, 8

— Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ

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RECORDS 8/14/05

SERMONS 8/21/05

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 40
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 79
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 58
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 55
CONTRIBUTION: \$2150

AM Donald Klieves

PM Ed Kelleher

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

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SERVICES

Sunday

10:00 AM Bible Study
11:00 AM Assembly
6:00 PM Assembly

Wednesday

7:00 PM Bible Study

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays 10:00 AM

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“AND LET US NOT BE WEARY IN WELL DOING”

- Thanks to all who've returned their Lord's Work sheets. Lot's of good suggestions were made. We'll be getting them organized in the next few weeks. Till then, don't wait for someone to ask you to do something. If you see something that needs doing and feel you can handle it—have at it!
- We keep a pantry at the church building with food, toiletries and other things to give to those who have need. We need someone to organize the pantry and get to the bulletin editor each week an item needing to be replenished.
- We are actively seeking a new minister, an Evangelist to help **us** to reach out and bring people in the area to Christ. We've had 4 men contact us already.

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE”

- Patricia Kelly has found her favorite red bible.
- Jan and Sarah Kelleher got home safely from taking Julia to Lipscomb University in Nashville. Sarah will leave shortly though to start the Fall semester of her Senior year at Lipscomb.
- It was good to see Ray Wilson with Holly and Kade Weds. Night.
- Elgene Sanders is doing well after cataract surgery Tuesday and was with us Weds. Night.

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT DO WEEP”

- Let's continue to remember in our prayers those hurt by the resignation of Bro. Richards. Give them a call, or drop them a note reassuring them of our love and concern for them.

“IS ANY SICK AMONG YOU?”

- **Remember in prayer: MARGARET HERRING, VIOLET BRUNSON, BUDDY PARSON, BERYL PARKS, ETHEL SMITH, MARY HONEYCUTT,** and our shut-ins **JESSICA HERRING, ZUDORA CLEGG, PHYLLIS JOHNSON.** Prayers are also requested for **SCOTT MAY** (Anna Porter's nephew), **NINA RUTH MEADOWS** (Marcella Klieves' mother), **JAMES MATHIAS** (Tommy White's brother-in-law), **KATHYRN HALL** (Melissa Parks' sister), and **REGINA GIST** (Jimmy Gist's mother).
- **Margie DeYoung**, mother of **Carolyn Stidham**, visited last week but is now in Lexington Medical Center Room 313 with some heart problems. Let's remember her, and Carolyn and **Ted Stidham** in our prayers.

“Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.” - Galatians 6:9,10

The Hearts of God's People

The **hearts** of people have always been important to God. Not that physical blood pump in our chest, but that *spiritual* heart that moves us. This is more important to God than the physical, or outward, man. After all, it's our heart (the spiritual one) that we'll take with us to eternity, not our bodies.

The Lord had these words for Samuel when he had been sent to choose a new king (David) to replace Saul:

“Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature;... for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.” - I Samuel 16:7

Seeing then that we want to spend eternity with our God, it would be wise for us to be looking at our **own hearts**, to see how we can better **form** them. But, it's a hard thing to do, to see our own heart and how to change it:

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doing.”
- Jeremiah 17:9-10

The way for us then to learn about hearts is from God's Word. He's recorded for us there many different **people** and types of hearts, some good, some not so good, and some bad - and a way for us to see and understand them.

“For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh.”
- Matthew 12:43

As you read in your Bible then, especially in the book of Acts, look for the **people** and ask yourself these questions:

- What did this person (or people) **say**, what did they **do**?
- Was it good or bad? Did God approve or not? **Who** benefited?
- **Why** do we have their example recorded? What can we learn from it?
- What made them do it? What reward could they expect? If a physical reward, were they doing right?

Trying to search out the hearts of people in the scripture **won't be easy**. But it will be rewarding (“Seek and ye shall find”, Matt 7:7) and will help us come to a better understanding maybe of **our hearts** and of **Godliness**. — Ed Kelleher