



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

GIVE IT UP!

We all have desires and things we want. Some are good, some not so good. We choose the ones that are most important to us. Hopefully, we're all wanting to be with our Lord some day. This is a **good** desire! The Lord told us to "**Covet earnestly the best gifts**" - 1 Cor 12:31.

When we have something we **really** want—we work to get it. The more important it is to us, the harder we work. As we work though, we should also think about how we can work **more effectively**. We don't want to take two steps forward and then three steps backward! We want to make every step count. The Lord gave us some advice on this: " **lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**" - Hebrews 12:1

The Lord tells us to get rid of or **give up** the weights we carry with us, the things that **hamper** us, that **tire** us, that keep us from going as fast and as far as we should. These are the **cares** and riches of this **world**. He told us not to worry about these, to care instead for **spiritual** treasure, things like: **patience, mercy, forgiveness, justice and gentleness**. On Judgment day, wouldn't you like the Lord to extend those things to **you**? Well, He wants **us** to have these spiritual qualities also. Which leads into another area of **giving it up**.

We all know we ought to give up the **bad** things, the weights that hinder us, but what about the **good** things we have? I.e., In the sense of sowing; we need to give up our **good** things also—we need to share them with others. But, in order to sow, you have to have something to sow. If the farmer ate all of his corn, he wouldn't have any left to plant. We must work to build up these qualities in ourselves, that we'll have some to share with others. The Lord wants us to give away, to others, the **good** things (SPIRITUAL, see list above) we have, so we'll have **even more!**

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" - 2 Corinthians 9:6

Sure, give up the bad things like selfishness, harshness and envy, —but let's **also** give **to** others, the **good** things the Lord has given to us: **patience, mercy, gentleness, etc.** Do that, and we'll find ourselves much closer to obtaining that thing we **really** need:

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. “ - James 4:8

- Ed Kelleher, elder, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

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RECORDS 11/20/05

SERMONS 11/27/05

Sun 10 AM Bible Study:	35	AM	Ed Kelleher
Sun 11 AM Assembly:	86		
Sun 6 PM Assembly:	61		
Weds 7 PM Bible Study:	51		
CONTRIBUTION:	\$1541	PM	Donald Klieves

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” - Romans 8:31,32

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services!

Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

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“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY”

- Remember those who are traveling over this Thanksgiving holiday. **Carolyn Lee** and **Donald and Marcella Klieves** requested prayers during their travels.
- We need folks to **sign up to clean the building**. If you want to **team up** with some others, jot your name down on the special list on the bulletin board.

“IS ANY SICK AMONG YOU?”

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: RON BANKS, BERYL PARKS, MARY HONEYCUTT, HAGOOD GODLEY** and our shut-ins **JESSICA HERRING, ZUDORA CLEGG, PHYLLIS JOHNSON** and **VIOLET BRUNSON**. Prayers are also requested for **NINA RUTH MEADOWS** (Marcella Klieves' mother), **JAMES MATHIAS** (Tommy White's brother-in-law), **KATHYRN HALL** (Melissa Parks' sister), and **FRANCES GRIFFIN** (Melissa Parks' aunt).
- **ALMA BERRIER**, next door neighbor to Anna Porter, is not at all well and might need amputations. Her husband Jack is also not well. They were members here at West Columbia many years ago. Remember them.
- **ASHLEY WILLIAMS'** grandmother, a member of the church in Greenwood, is fighting cancer.
- **BETTY MATHIS** has been ailing and hasn't been able to get out this last week.

"Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you." - 1 Corinthians 11:2

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS”

- Lord willing, **Scott and Tricia Parker** will start the New Year here with us January 1, 2006! Scott and Tricia both are **very** excited about coming to work with us here. They **beg that we remember them in our prayers** as this is difficult time for them—leaving all they've known, friends and the church in Denver to come here to South Carolina. They plan to spend the holiday at Tricia's parent's home in Kansas City, Mo. and get here a few days after Christmas. They'll need **help unloading their rental truck** that Tue. or Wed. (December 27, 28) and moving into the church residence. **Many hands make light work!** There'll be plenty for everyone to do and of course, we'll need **food** for the Parkers and the workers — and the supervisors too. ☺ Make plans to come help if you can, it will be a good time of fellowship.

“For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.” - Mark 13:34-36

A LEAVING, A LIVING AND A LOOKING

The blessings of God's grace are overwhelming. It is through the grace of God that salvation and redemption is made available for all men. Our Lord tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9). It is his will that all men come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4) and he is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). We've often correctly defined grace as "God's unmerited favor." It is getting something that we do not deserve (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 5:6-8).

There is no doubt that the grace of God blesses, but equally so, the passage of scripture in Titus 2:11-14 demonstrates that the grace of God also obligates. It requires and teaches certain responsibilities for all who would enjoy its favor. The meaning of Titus 2:11-14 can be summed up with three main points, all beginning with the letter "L."

I. A LEAVING First of all, the grace of God demands that we leave behind certain practices of the past and begin walking in the righteousness of God. We must leave behind ungodliness, worldly lust, and works of the flesh (Titus 2:12; Gal. 5:19-21). After we have become recipients of the benefits of God's grace, it is the cross before me, the world behind me, no turning back (Luke 9:62; Luke 17:32). We must remember to leave the "old man" behind in the watery grave where he was buried (Romans 6:4ff). Those who come to God must remember to love not the world neither the things that are in the world (1 John 2:15). We must leave behind fleshly lusts which war against the soul (1 Peter 2:11). Thus, first of all, the grace of God that brings salvation also brings the responsibility to leave ungodliness behind.

II. A LIVING The grace of God not only demands that we leave ungodliness but that we live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12). It is not sufficient merely to eliminate evil from our lives; we must replace the evil with good.

Jesus told the story of the unclean spirit gone out of a man, walking through dry places, seeking rest and finding none. The unclean spirit then decided to return to his former residence. When he arrived, he found it empty, swept, and garnished. Thus finding the vacancy, he went and took with him seven spirits more wicked than himself and they entered in and dwelled there again. Jesus said that the last state of this man was worse than the first (Matt. 12:43-45).

The obvious point of this declaration by our Lord is that it is not sufficient to merely eliminate evil from our lives. We must replace that evil with good. We must "put on" as well as "put off" (Col. 3:10,12; Eph. 4:24; 2 Pet. 1:5-11). We must be different or peculiar from the world not only in what we don't do, but also in the things that we are doing. We must be sure to give attention to the "thou shalt" of the gospel as well as the "thou shalt not" (James 4:17; Matt.25:31-46; Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 3:14-19). Jesus is certainly the best example of what it means to live soberly, righteously, and godly. He kept Himself pure and went about doing good (1 Pet. 2:21; Acts 10:38).

III. A LOOKING Not only must we leave behind ungodliness and worldly lust, and live soberly, righteously, and godly, but furthermore, we ought also to look for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior (Titus 2:13). This passage is a reference to the second coming of Christ.

A companion passage that emphasizes the importance of living and looking is found in 2 Pet. 3:10-14. In view of the fact that this world and all that is in it will someday perish in fire, Peter asked the question, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God?"..."Wherefore, beloved, seeing that we look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

Therefore, righteous living must precede confident looking. Are you looking forward to the second coming? Can you, with Paul, say "Oh Lord, Come" (1 Cor. 16:22).

CONCLUSION The grace of God that brings salvation brings a host of blessings. But it also brings responsibility. We must never forget that the grace of God obligates us to leave, to live, and to look. Let us be diligent in making certain that we have met the demands of leaving and living so that we might confidently be looking for the second coming of Christ.

— by **B. J. Clarke**, minister, Southhaven church of Christ, Southaven, Mississippi