

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

REQUISITES OF ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

“*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*” - John 4:24

Three requisites of acceptable worship are set forth in this verse: 1-We must worship God. 2-We must worship God in spirit. 3-We must worship God in truth.

The first commandment forbade the worship of any other being. It said, “**Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**” (Deut. 5:7). Verse 9 of Deuteronomy 5 reads, “**Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I, Jehovah, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me.**” Hence, however sincere might be the idol worshipper, his worship is highly displeasing to God, because it fails in the first of the requisites above given. It is not directed to God.

Secondly, the worship must be in spirit, i.e., proceeding from a sincere heart and rendered with attention and understanding. This forbids worship that is merely formal—worship that consists of rites and ceremonies in which the worshipper may engage without attention. Catholicism is a system of such worship where the worshipper may not know, and indeed is not expected to know, the significance of much in which he engages.

There is some danger that this type of worship should come to obtain in Christ’s church. The unvarying routine of services, the formal and mechanical participation in song, prayer, and the Lord’s Supper, the failure to give attention and enter heartily into the worship leads to that which is not in spirit.

This is that which Jesus rebuked in the Pharisees in Matthew 15:9—vain worship. Such people as this worship him with their lips and give utterance to phrases of worshipful nature, but the heart is not in it, and God is not pleased. We should ever be on our guard that we do not fall into a mechanical, formal, heartless type of devotion to God.

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EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 37, NUMBER 8 February 20, 2011

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

AN APPROPRIATE APOLOGY

PM: Harvey Allen

ANOTHER LOG ON THE FIRE

“IF ANY MAN OFFEND NOT IN WORD,
THE SAME IS A PERFECT MAN” - JAMES 3:2

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

**COME JOIN US THIS
NEW YEAR!**

**CAROLINA MEN’S
FELLOWSHIP
Rock Hill Sat 3/12**

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

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SERVICES

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

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Margaret Herring, Jean Godley, Amy Wintermute, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Jones Gamble’s dad** fell and cracked his head last week. He has a slight skull fracture and needed stitches to close cuts on his head and arms. He’s doing well, all things considered. Keep him and the family in your prayers. Courtney and K.C. are getting married in June.
- **Tommy White** requests prayers for **Dortha Williams**.
- **Deborah Stoyk** is in still in Lexington hospital with complications from her cancer treatment and broken shoulder and arm. She’s undergoing physical therapy also.
- **Dawn Gamble** is recovering well from her broken foot and is much happier with it.
- Remember **Dale Smith, Faye Parks’** brother, who is having hard times, and that he be receptive to the Gospel.

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever." - Psalm 73:26

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Bible Study!** 10 am Saturdays at **Trevia Parks’** home, informal, informative, useful!
- **BIBLE BOWL 2011**—book of Matthew—**NEXT SATURDAY!** Feb 26, 9am.
- **Carolina Men’s Fellowship** in Rock Hill Sat 3/12/11 9am-3pm. Details in foyer.

"They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever." - Psalm 125:1

THINK YOU’VE DONE ENOUGH?

We all have work to do. We need to support our families and raise and look after them. We have much work to do in the Lord’s church also. Often this work keeps us from doing things we’d rather do—things of a good, Godly nature, and things that please us otherwise. Trying to balance all these things is a trial; it requires mature judgment, which we obtain over the course of time by wrestling with these very things:

“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” - Hebrews 5:14

And to add to the difficulty, Satan is there pitching hard through the world, trying to get us to make the wrong choices. They often manifest as: *“I’ve done so much already, what more could anyone ask?”*. If you find yourself thinking that, remember Jesus, and the example He set for us—that we’ll follow if we are His disciples:

“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” - Matthew 20:28

Jesus knew he was going to give his life for us—yet ministered continually anyway. Let’s do the same. Keep on doing good and don’t be discouraged.

—**Ed Kelleher**, West Columbia church of Christ

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

REQUISITES OF ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP —(Continued from page 1)

Finally, worship, to be acceptable, must be in truth. To be “in truth” is to be according to God’s word. Jesus said, *“Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.”* (John 17:17). Any act of worship—however sincere might be the worshipper—is not acceptable to God if it is not in harmony with the scriptures. This teaches us that God will accept only that which he has specifically set forth in the scriptures for us to do in worship. We walk by faith and not by sight, (2 Cor. 5:7), and since faith comes by hearing God’s word, (Rom. 10:17), we can offer in faith only that which is set forth in his word.

This will exclude from our worship everything not specifically mentioned therein. By this rule, we can never use instrumental music in worship, because it is nowhere commanded or even mentioned in Christian worship. Therefore, we cannot engage in it “by faith.”

True, David used instrumental music, but he also offered animal sacrifices and burned incense in worship. We do not take our orders from David today. Christ is our lawgiver and guide. (Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Heb. 1:1-2). He has nowhere authorized instrumental music, the Holy Spirit-inspired apostles did not sanction it, no New Testament writer mentioned it in Christian worship, and no apostolic church practiced it. To engage in it is to fail to worship “in truth.” But God is pleased when one only worships in truth. Therefore, instrumental music is not pleasing to him.

The items of worship are set forth in Acts 2:42 and Eph. 5:19. These are (1) teaching, (2) singing, (3) prayer, (4) the contribution, and (5) the Lord’s Supper. These items were observed on every first day of the week by the church in apostolic times. (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

The disciples were directed by men who were empowered with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:42; 2:1). We can do no less than this and be assured to pleasing God today. What pleased him then will surely please him today. All else must be rigidly excluded from worship and service to God.

“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

1 Samuel. 15:22

- H. Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel teacher

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

Brother **Harvey Allen** will preach for us Sunday morning and evening, Lord willing. Harvey came to West Columbia many years ago, after graduating from Freed Harde-mann University. He worked here awhile as associate minister with brothers C.R. Franks and Dennis Johnson before moving to Clinton to preach full time for a congregation there. We look forward to his sermons from God’s word.