

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

IS GOD’S LOVE ENOUGH?

Solomon was a man that God loved. Did you know that Solomon even had another name; one specially given by God? It was **Jedidiah**, which means "Beloved of the Lord" (2 Samuel 12:24-25). But was that enough to keep Solomon secure? Was he free from care about his relationship with God? *"After all, God LOVES me!"*

No, it wasn't enough. We know that Solomon fell away from God, that God's love **wasn't** enough. Solomon needed to love God also. It was the love of other things which turned Solomon away from God. A wiser man there never was, nor a richer. Yet it wasn't enough.

"For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God" - 1 Kings 11:4

The Jews were the same way. God loved them, they were His people. The Lord sent prophets to them, time and again, to warn them and bring them back. He sent JESUS to them. But it wasn't enough. They didn't love God in return. Listen to Jesus' lament, and the condemnation at the end:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together; even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and YE WOULD NOT!" -Matthew 23:37

God wanted them, but they didn't want God—at least not on God's terms. They lost. So can we. Are we wiser than Solomon? God told us how to know we love him:

"If ye love me, keep my commandments. ... If a man love me, he will keep my words: ... He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:" - John 14:15,23,24

God's love is enough, if we'll love Him. Then we'll show our love by obeying His commands. So, first and foremost, let's get our HEARTS right, loving God, wanting to please him. The actions will follow. Like Jesus said:

"... cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also." - Matthew 23:26

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 9/1/2013

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: HARVEY ALLEN

PM: HARVEY ALLEN

A SIMPLE TEST

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If a man love me, he will keep my words: ...

He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:” - John 14:15,23,24

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JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

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

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- **Tommy White** requests prayers for **Jack** who was in a car accident.
- **Richard Ramkinson**, preacher at Windsor Lake, was ready to receive a kidney from his brother, but as they operated on his brother, they found his kidneys weren't usable. Richard has a sister who may be able to donate a kidney.
- **Jan Kelleher** is doing getting used to her new medicine and doing some better.
- Please keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks to those faithful in visiting and attendance, encouraging others by talking with them. To those quietly doing the many jobs necessary to keep the congregation functioning.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." - Isaiah 40:31

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Please sign up to clean the building some time.**
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors!** Brother **Gamble** posts a list each week of visitors and those of our number who need encouragement.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." - Matthew 5:6

HALFWAY! TJ Bolen (and family) will be here at the end of September (Lord willing) as evangelist to help us here in West Columbia. We're making plans for classes and a **Gospel Meeting in October** some time. It will be good to bring people to visit, as we'll then have a full time man to study with folks. Be inviting people to come visit!

Preaching The Truth In Love

Much is said about preaching the truth in love, and so it should be preached. But in love of what? The preacher should so love the truth that he will not sacrifice any of it nor pervert it, and he should so love people that he will not withhold from them even an unpleasant truth. He that does either of these things loves neither the church nor the people.

We frequently fool ourselves, thinking we do thus and so to spare the feelings of others when it is our own feelings that prompt us. **"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables"** (2 Tim. 4:2-4).

- R. L. Whiteside 1869-1951, Gospel Preacher

FAITH ALONE IS NOT BELIEF IN GOD

"He that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life" (John 3:36 ASV). This truth is seen when **"Jehovah said unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed not in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel"** (Num. 20:12 ASV). They had not the "conviction" to **do** just what God said do. God said unto them, **"...speak ye unto the rock before their eyes"** (Num. 20:8 ASV). But they **"smote the rock"** (Num. 20:11). Hence God says, **"Ye believed not in me"** (Num. 20:12 ASV).

What is it to "believe in" God? It is to **do** trustingly and lovingly just what He says. This "faith alone" system is the popular doctrine in pulpits and on rostrums of the modern pastor and money-loving evangelist. There is nothing that they put over with a show that is more deceiving and soul-blighting.

- **A. G. (Arvy Glenn) Freed**, 1863-1931, Gospel Preacher, educator

"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" - James 2:20

Justification By Faith Includes Baptism

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians as-saying to do were swallowed up" (Heb. 11:29 ASV). The Israelites crossed the Red Sea "by faith," but they were not on the other side the moment they believed. They spent a night of anxious toil and great fear before they could sing the song of deliverance on the other side. Here the phrase "by faith" spans the Red Sea, and includes every step they took in crossing.

By some it is thought that because Paul says we are "justified by faith" (Rom. 5:1) that baptism is excluded. But the phrase "by faith," instead of excluding the acts of faith, which, in reality, make faith perfect, actually includes obedience. And it can be plainly shown that "by faith" in this case includes baptism. Paul says, **"For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea"** (1 Corinthians 10:1-2 ASV).

They crossed the Red Sea "by faith," and in crossing they were baptized. "By faith" includes what was done in crossing. But in crossing they were baptized. Therefore, "by faith," in this example includes baptism.

- **C. R. Nichol**, 1876-1961, Gospel Preacher

**Abraham believed God—and Obeyed! Noah believed God— and Obeyed!
Want to be like them in God's sight? Have you—Obeyed?**

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." - James 2:17,18