



WEST COLUMBIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## Church Growth Is Not An Accident

When a congregation of the Lord's church increases in number it is no sequence of random events. If visitors were to come and become engaged in a Bible study leading to their salvation, it would not be accidental. To become engaged in Bible study members of the church have to be intentional about sharing their faith. Or perhaps someone visits and hears the right message at the right time. This as well is not an accident. The scriptures are powerful and sermons are intended to generate action. The word of God will always convict the honest heart (this is by no means limited to obeying the gospel message of Jesus).

Sometimes a congregation increases in number, but it does so at the expense of another local body. This is not church growth by any Biblical definition. The new faces are encouraging for the group whose size has increased because there are more workers, more relationships to enjoy, etc... But this is an example of relocation, not growth. The church as a whole is has not profited nor have souls been added. The only occasion in which a matter of this nature is useful is when those leaving a particular group are doing so because of error which they are certain they cannot reverse. Paul warned of departures from truth brought about by those within the church (Acts 20:28-30).

True church growth is always intentional (Acts 6:7; 1 Cor. 3:6-7). Individuals in the church must make conscious decisions to grow in and live by the word of God. God will use people who make themselves available to Him in His service. Are you doing your part to help bring more souls to Christ by doing what is necessary to reach greater heights in your faith? If your ears are dull, if you're stuck on milk and not moving on to solid food (Hebrews 5:11-14); you're not doing your part. We all have different roles, that is how God designed the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12). But we also have shared responsibilities as well. Growing spiritually is one of them. You may have never realized before how important you are, how important each individual is to the health, well-being, and growth of the local body and therefore the entirety of the church. You are. Christ died for you, and that was no accident.

- **T.J. Bolen**, Gospel Preacher, West Columbia church of Christ SC

## NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” - 2 Timothy 2:15

Are you working? Will you be ashamed in front of God?

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 46 November 16, 2014

### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J Bolen— Elements of Faith Versus Substitutes of Faith

PM: T J Bolen— Momentary Light Affliction, 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

**"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil:  
he preserveth the souls of his saints;  
he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked." - Psalms 97:10**

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

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

The Bulletin  
(USPS-994-500)  
Periodicals Postage Paid  
West Columbia, SC  
Published Weekly By:  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169

JOIN US IN  
PRACTICING  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY

### 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*

*Informal Bible Study*  
*Everyone Welcome!*  
Bring your Bible questions  
Saturdays 3 pm

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Margaret Herring's** first cousin **Douglas Cannon** passed away suddenly last week, and her brother **Julius Guyton** is gravely ill. On top of all this, **Margaret** has numerous serious health issues, which seem to be multiplying. Pray for her in her struggles, that the Lord will be merciful.
- **Tommy White** was admitted to LMC Nov 11 with severe bleeding ulcers but seems to be doing better. **Pat Joyner** is having severe leg pains.
- **Adler Kennedy** is still having ear problems despite the tubes.
- **Janet Boyd** is recovering from skin surgery. **Margie DeYoung** is failing slowly
- MRI reveals **Stephanie Rigney** has severe arthritis in her neck, pray for her relief.
- **Erin Baughcome** (daughter of **Gail & Harvey Allen**) will have an exploratory surgery for endometriosis on Tuesday.
- Keep **Grant Parks** in your prayers as he is having problem dealing with juvenile diabetes. Remember **Faye and Ken** and the family also.
- **Anna Porter** is sleeping much better with her new bed for which we are thankful.
- **Gwen Pittman** continues to be unable to get out to be with us.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, let them know you love them. **Remember to be thankful to God when our prayers are answered!**
- Remember also, **Keith Carter** and sister, **Dorothy Gray, Margaret Gamble** (**Jones' sister**), and **Floyd Richbourg**.

**"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous" - 1 Peter 3:8**

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **Harvey Allen** will be preaching for us Sunday AM Nov 30th and **Ed Kelleher** will be preaching Sunday PM's Nov 23rd and 30th ... Lord willing.
- **BIBLE BOWL 2015**—BOOKS 1st and 2nd Corinthians (**NKJV**)—Sign up sheets in the foyer for youth and adult teams. We need people to write out practice questions
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

**"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" - Luke 16:10**

**NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!**

### **AM Sermon Outline: Elements of Faith Versus Substitutes of Faith**

This lesson is not intended to provide a comprehensive list of all that could be said are "elements" of faith. Instead this lesson will focus on some which are plain in scripture. If mankind does not use these essentials as prescribed by God then we will substitute them and/or trick ourselves into thinking we have them.

1) Intellect 2) Trust 3) Obedience 4) Completion

## **When Love is Bad**

Even though Jesus taught that love is the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:36-40), we are also warned that there are certain types of love that are unprofitable and evil. The following are examples of love that we should not have:

**Love of money** – *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (1 Timothy 6:10 ASV).

**Love of the world** – *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* (1 John 2:15).

**Love of prestige** – *“It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory”* (Proverbs 25:27); *“For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted”* (Luke 14:11).

**Love of idols** – *“Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you”* (Deuteronomy 6:13, 14).

**Excessive love of self** – *“For men shall be lovers of their own selves...”* (2 Timothy 3:2); *“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again”* (2 Corinthians 5:15); *“...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”* (Philipp. 2:3, 4).

**Love of strife** – *“As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife”* (Proverbs 26:21); *“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work”* (James 3:14-16).

**Love of sin** – *“That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”* (2 Thessalonians 2:12); *“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them”* (Romans 1:32).

**- Jason Hilburn, Minister, Luverne church of Christ, Luverne Alabama**

### **WE MUST KNOW GOD'S WAYS AND WANT TO DO THEM!**

How important are the thoughts of our hearts as compared to our actions—what we do? Look what the Lord said was the Israelites' problem:

**"Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways." - Psalms 95:10**

Is your heart different from God's, are you erring? Better check before it's too late!