



# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## Who Likes Getting Old?

I am currently in my extremely late 20's or early 30's (depending on how you count time). Regardless what my age is there are things happening to me which I thought and hoped were several years away. My right shoulder and knee will both hurt for no real reason. Sometimes jogging or lifting weights contributes, but normally there is mild pain for no apparent reason. Not to be outdone my left elbow entered the competition this week. While putting a child's bicycle in the back of a vehicle I felt a strain. I have been told since it is tendonitis. I asked, "when will it go away?" The answer was, "When you stop using it." So I guess I'll have to get used to tendonitis now.

Signs of our physical aging are never welcome. While growing older can be undesirable we must welcome our spiritual aging and growth. Paul wrote: "**When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.**" (1 Corinthians 13:11) As you grow in Christ you ought to be able to recognize the journey from childhood to adulthood. You will know and understand the scriptures better. Using the scriptures to guide you through life's demands and experiences you gain wisdom. Temptations never go away, but some which used to constantly plague you will lose their appeal as you grow closer to and more like Christ.

The obvious difference between physical and spiritual maturity is how it comes about. Without trying your body will grow older, slower, and grayer (if there is any hair left to turn gray). But spiritual maturity is a never ending process which requires your constant effort. Job was a very mature man in God who still had room for growth. Even after all Job suffered when God spoke to him, God's first statements and rhetorical questions were: "**Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now gird up your loins like a man, and I will ask you and you instruct Me!**" (Job 38:2-3). Job grew from that, and he continued to be blessed by God (Job 42:10). If you are not at a level spiritually where you know you should be or are expected to be; it's time to examine your efforts. God cannot grow for you. But if you demonstrate a desire for spiritual maturity you will indeed mature.

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

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

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### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen— Simple Church is Better Church

PM: Ed Kelleher— Abraham—An Example for Faith

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” - Ephesians 1:3

“And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things to the church*, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” - Ephesians 1:22,23

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

- Our sister **Dorothy Gray** came forward Sunday morning requesting the prayers of the church for strength.
- The **Brisbons** moved back to NY safely and Sabrina landed a job right off. Keep these young Christians in your prayers that they grow in Christ.
- **Jan Kelleher** is still traveling and **Sharon Mancuso** will leaving again for Greenville on business, Sunday afternoon.
- **Anna Porter** is in Still Hopes rehabilitation center, Rm 257 and **Tommy White** continues in rehab at Agape, Rm 106A
- Remember **Dorothy Gray** and family, also **Grant Parks** and family; **Margaret Herring** who is also suffering many ills, and **Gwen Pittman, Floyd Richbourg** with knee problems, **Stephanie Rigney** with severe neck pain.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."  
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

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

- **Singing! Twin City church**, Sunday, 2-4 PM. Ed will driving his van if anyone wants a ride, let him know.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." - Matthew 24:1

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## **Sun AM Sermon— *Simple Church is Better Church***

New Testament Christianity is an uncomplicated pattern and message. But people have always felt the need to add to it for the sake of appeal, to add numbers, to entertain, and for countless other reasons. Unfortunately the additions work as they do indeed attract people who say they want to follow Christ. However, at the same time all of these additions greatly complicate the pure message of the New Testament. Simple church will always be better, here are a few reminders of why:

1. The protection of [from] error through autonomy.
2. Our operation in the reality of scripture.
3. God-centered worship to please Him, not ourselves.

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ “ 2 Cor 11:3

## **MARKS THAT IDENTIFY THE CHURCH OF GOD'S CHOICE**

1. The Builder of the church is Jesus Christ Himself (**Matthew 16:18**).
2. Christ said it belongs to Him and so it is designated "the church of Christ" (**Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16**).
3. His shed blood was to purchase the church (**Acts 20:28**).
4. The church is described as His bride (**Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:22-32**).
5. Christ, not any human living or dead, is her head (**Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23; Colossians 1:18**).
6. It is a Kingdom over which Christ is the King (**Matthew 16:18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25**).
7. The church is only one and has no earthly headquarters; it is registered or enrolled in heaven where Christ her Head resides (**Ephesians 2:16, 4:4; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 12:23**).
8. Its terms of entrance remain the same as it was on the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection as shown in **Acts 2**. They include the following:
  - Hearing the Gospel (**Mark 16:15-16**);
  - Believing the Gospel (**John 8:24, 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16**);
  - Repenting of one's sins (**Luke 13:3-4, 24:47**);
  - Confession of Christ as the Son of God (**Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:10**);
  - and being Baptized (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16**).
9. Items that accompany her worship include:
  - Teaching/Admonition (**Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 2:2**);
  - Prayers (**Acts 2:42; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6**);
  - Breaking of bread/Communion or Lord's Supper (**Acts 2:46, 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29**);
  - Singing, unaccompanied by mechanical instruments of music (**Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19**);
  - Contribution/Collection based on freewill (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7**).
10. It does not allow women to teach or have authority over the men, hence women evangelists or elders/pastors have no place in it (**1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:8-15**).

No church founded by man adheres to the whole marks identifying the church of God's choice, the church of Christ (**Romans 16:16**). If the church of which you are a member does not conform to the marks outlined above, then you need to rethink because it is not the church of Christ.

“ ... The churches of Christ salute you.” - Romans 16:16

Felix O. Aniamalu, Voice of Truth International I

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