

THE BULLETIN—VOL 42, NUMBER 04 January 24, 2016

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen—Inventory

PM: T.J. Bolen—Standing Strong Against Strong Evil

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

**"I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." - Romans 12:1**

**Why Reasonable?**

**"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 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 5:14,15**

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

West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

**JOIN US IN  
PRACTICING  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY,  
COME SEE!**

**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**

Saturdays 3 pm  
*Everyone Welcome!*  
Bring your friends & Bible questions

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# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## WHAT IS BIBLICAL FAITH?

**"Without faith it is impossible to please God" - Hebrews 11:6.** Since we must have faith to please God, we must know what faith is. Some in the religious world believe that faith and evidence, or faith and knowledge, are not compatible. That is, they believe that knowledge, or knowing, destroys the whole idea of faith. Faith to them is nothing more than a "leap in the dark," a trust based not on evidence but on pure "hope" without proof. With that as the criteria, it could be observed that one could just as easily be a Buddhist or a Mormon, or any other type of religious category in life and be justified in so doing. But, Biblical faith is not held with a lack of evidence! It is precisely held because the evidence proves that it must be. Some might suggest that the very nature of "faith" necessarily involves doubt. Thomas Warren said of such an idea, "This claim, in the light of James 1:6, is indeed a strange one. James said, **'But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubteth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed'**" (Warren, "Logic and the Bible," p.118). We are commanded to walk by faith and the Bible does not teach that "faith is the acceptance of that for which one does not have adequate evidence" (Warren, 117).

The Bible teaches that faith is a law (Rom. 3:27), a system (Acts 6:7), and a choice (Acts 2). The Bible uses the word "faith" as a noun, never as a verb. What is Biblical faith? It is hearing and obeying God. Joseph Thayer in his Greek Lexicon says that "faith" is "trust...conjoined with obedience." Hebrews chapter eleven fully demonstrates that faith is hearing and obeying God.

Some suggest today that if a miracle were to really occur, witnessed by many people, it would be possible to bring many to Christ. However, even in the days of miracles (First century) people believed due to the testimony of others (John 4:39), due to the Old Testament writings of God (Luke 16:31), and due to that which was written by the Apostles (John 20:30- 31). Apart from miracles, we have all of these avenues available today, and God says it is enough to know the truth (John 8:31-32).— **(Continued on page 3)**

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[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org) South Carolina 1/24/2016

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

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Merri Chrismus, Dorothy Gray and family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- Prayers are requested for: **Jack Berrier**, in **LMC**, a neighbor to **Anna Porter** ; **Jeannie Caldwell** with cancer, a friend of **Keith Carter**; **Barbara Shives**, with cancer, a friend of the Gamble family; **L.D. Sayer**, a pillar of the church in Elisabethton TN, who is in the final stages of Alzheimers. ; and **Mary Ann Mancuso**, **Marshall’s** mom undergoing physical therapy at home.
- **Give thanks to God and pray for all these**, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia.

**"There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee:  
neither is there any rock like our God." - 1 Samuel 2:2**

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

- **NOTE!** Evening Assembly 1/31 **cancelled** so members can attend the **Twin City church Singing Sunday 2pm Jan 31 and Gospel Meeting, following.**
- **SAVE THE DATES!** 3/12/16 **Carolina Men’s Fellowship**; and **Ladies Day 4/9/16 at Plaza church in Sumter.**
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It’s a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong’s Concordances.
- **Bible Bowl—Sign Up! Books are Daniel, Jonah, Ruth (correction)**
- **Men!** Check bulletin board for worship assignments—if you can’t make it, find someone to fill in. We’re counting on you. See box below.
- Please bring **Pantry items**, pop-top canned items are good.

**“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” - 1 John 4:11**

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

## **WHEN YE PRAY**

We are praying the wrong kind of prayers when we endeavour to reverse the proper relationship between God and man. Properly speaking, God is the Creator, man is the creature. If this is true, as we glibly assert, then our prayers should respect and exemplify that relationship.

But how often are we found praying as if God lives to provide us with what we want; so that, instead of seeking divine guidance, our obvious efforts are to obtain divine reinforcements. Prayers which are "thing-centered" or "self-centered," rather than "God-centered" are wrong kinds of prayers.

**- Leslie G. Thomas, 1895-1988, Gospel Preacher**

**“ ... and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;  
That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:” - Matthew 5:44,45**

## **WHAT IS BIBLICAL FAITH? — (Continued from page 1)**

Faith is not mysterious. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), for God chose preaching to save them that believe (1 Cor. 1:20-21). We are defended by faith (Eph. 6:16) and we can defend the faith (Jude 3). Biblical faith involves six facts that can be proven beyond any doubt: (1) God exists; (2) Man exists; (3) God can and has revealed Himself to man; (4) Man has the ability to respond to God; (5) The Word of God is God’s only revealed Word; (6) Evidence is necessary to have faith.

Faith can be misplaced, and misplaced faith will not save (Deu. 28:52; Luke 18:9). The only faith that will benefit us is faith that is “in Christ” (Gal. 3:26; Eph. 1:3).

There is no shame in wanting evidence for what one believes. Jesus never rebuked Thomas for wanting to put his hand on Jesus’ nail pierced body before he would believe. Thomas merely wanted as much evidence as was possible. When Thomas saw and accepted the evidence he said, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28). Jesus said, “Because thou hast seen me thou has believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed (John 20:29). Though some had not seen, they did have evidence—from the testimony of others, from the Old Testament, from the disciples, from the empty tomb, and from the many eyewitnesses. Today, the evidence which we must acknowledge is the Word of God, and when we accept the evidence therein, we will be able to walk by faith (evidence) even though we cannot see (physically those events that are recorded) (2 Cor. 5:7; John 20:30-31).

**- Mike Dugger, minister Nettleton church of Christ, Jonesboro, AR**

**“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.  
For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”  
- Galatians 3:26,27**

**“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:  
for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”  
- Revelation 3:8**

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