

THE BULLETIN—VOL 42, NUMBER 11 March 13, 2016

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen— Book, Chapter, Verse?

PM: T.J. Bolen— Psalm 101

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

IT'S THE WORD!

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

- John 12:48

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
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

EVANGELIST

T.J. Bolen
(803) 807-2754
Email: TeeJayBolen@Gmail.com

BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher
Office Phone (803) 796-8858
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com



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

Man's Duty To "Prove All Things"

Men are prone to go to extremes. This has always been true. Paul seems to have been guarding against this tendency when he wrote, "**Despise not prophesyings; prove all things; hold fast that which is good**" (1 Thess. 5:20-21). In his day, there were those who claimed to "prophesy" by the Spirit, and did; and there were those who claimed to "prophesy" by the Spirit and did not. The result was that, at least, some "despised" all "prophesyings" by reason of the false claims of the pretenders. Such a wholesale rejection of all "prophesyings" was unreasonable and unsafe. It was wrong. It is not right either to reject the true because some is false or to accept the false because some is true. Paul indicated the safe course: "**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**" If there had been no evil mixed with the good, the admonition to "**prove all things**" and to "**hold fast that which is good**" would not have been necessary.

What is the meaning of the word "prove?" In this connection it cannot mean that the genuineness of "all things" is to be established, for the simple reason that the "all things" to be "proved" are not all genuine. It rather signifies to try, to put to the test. The word is employed elsewhere in the New Testament in this sense (**Luke 14:19**). It means that we should examine everything we hear before we receive it or reject it, as the case may be. At this point, Adam Clarke said, "Whatever ye hear in these 'prophesyings' or preachings, examine by the words of Christ, and by the doctrines which, from time to time, we have delivered unto you in our preaching and writings. Try the spirits — the different teachers — by the word of God."

In the words of the prophet, "**To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them**" (**Isaiah 8:20**). The conduct of the Bereans was in keeping with the spirit of the command under consideration, for we read, "**Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so**" (**Acts 17:11 ASV**). The people of Berea put what they heard to the test, using the scriptures as their standard of examination. They acted rightly and wisely.
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Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 3/13/2016

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

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

- Marshall's mom, **Mary Ann Mancuso** was unresponsive last week and is under going testing. Son **Michal** is recovering from an MRSA infection.
- **Jan Kelleher** is still in considerable pain after surgery and recovery may be slow.
- **Yvonne Louis**, a co-worker of Dorothy Gray suffered a mini-stroke.
- **Remember also:** **Betty** and **Bill Voss**, **Stephanie Rigney's** aunt and uncle; **Debbie Sightler**, daughter of **Vince** and **Helen Reusser**; **Elgene Sanders**; **Mattie and Suzie Charney**, relations of **Paula Kennedy**; **Barbara Shives**, a friend of the Gamble family; and **Mary Ann Mancuso**, **Marshall's** mom, diagnosed with Parkinson's..
- **Give thanks to God and pray for all these**, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing?

And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father." - Matthew 10:29

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Scrap Booking class**, at the building 4th Saturdays 12-3, see **Paula or Faye**.
- **BRIDAL!** shower for **Savannah Crews** and **Ryan Sheppard**, after the Sunday evening assembly **3/13/16**. See **Martha** and **Dawn** for details.
- **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.
- **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.

"But now has God set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased Him." - 1 Corinthians 12:18

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- **Dot Nimmons**, **Trevia's** daughter, **Kathy's** mother-in-law passed away last week. Remember the family in your prayers.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO THIS?

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:

and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" - 1 Peter 3:15

Saturday 3pm Bible studies will help you get ready!

Man's Duty To "Prove All Things" - (Continued from page 1)

Why will people not do the same today? It is common for the message of a modern preacher to be accepted without thought, testing or investigation by those who are his friends religiously, and just as common for the same message to be rejected, without consideration, by his prejudiced religious enemies. These two unreasonable extremes are two of the most unmitigated curses of Christendom.

Let it be observed that this passage which *allows the right* also *enjoins the duty* of proving, testing, and investigating what is heard. It does not permit one to be an indifferent and passive listener. This some seem to prefer. They attend the services, not to be taught, not to bring into use any faculty of discernment or testing, but to be impressed, and that without effort on their part. "**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world**" (1 John 4:1 ASV). All professed Christians should endeavour to become - "**fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil**" (Hebrews 5:14 ASV).

- **B. C. Goodpasture**, 1895-1977, Gospel preacher, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama

God's Changeless and Immutable Word

The word of God has the power to convict and convert, to sanctify and to edify. But it has another power and province. The Bible is the mirror of its Author, intended to reveal, unveil, magnify, and glorify Him from whom it originally came.

One of the main uses of the word of God is to supply us with a standard of both doctrine and duty. Therefore, there is no substitute for God's written word. Men may turn in every direction seeking for something to take the place of the word of God, but when their search is ended they remain empty-handed.

In every department of life, the need for a standard as exact and unvarying as those which measure weight, length and time compels one to resort to the word of God for guidance. Here alone, one finds perfect forms and changeless models. Man's best timepieces must be set according to those of God, who has appointed the sun, moon, and stars for time and seasons.

So, from all human oracles, however self-confident, we must turn at last to the inspired Word, where, instead of untrustworthy utterances, we find distinct, definite, authoritative, and infallible teaching.

- **Franklin Camp**, 1915-1991, Gospel preacher, Alabama

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12