

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **T.J. Bolen**—A Review of the Gospel

PM: **T.J. Bolen**—The Consistency of God's Wrath

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

**"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord,
and not unto men" - Colossians 3:23**

WOULD THE LORD LIKE WHAT YOU DO IN HIS NAME?

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
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**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

CHURCH ATTENANCE AND DAILY LIVING

I once heard a man say he went to church once a month to keep out of hell. He may not have been altogether serious, yet his saying implied the idea that many people have — that going to church gives them favor with God, apart from any benefit they may receive from the services. It is about like the notion that making the sign of the cross, or keeping a Bible on the parlor table, will protect from evil and harm.

Under a similar misconception, many believe they will get to heaven because they have held, as a mere conception of the mind, the belief that Jesus is the Christ. And still others, who ought to know better, cherish the illusion that they will be admitted into heaven on the ground that they have gone two steps further and added repentance and baptism to their faith — and there stopped.

Years ago I was troubled with the idea that millions of people would be sent to heaven, and other millions be sent to hell, just because the former had been baptized and the latter had not. I could not see the justice of making such a tremendous difference in their future destinies on such a slight basis. But I remember also that my mind was greatly relieved by some teaching of David Lipscomb on that subject. This teaching — now mixed with some of my own — was to the effect that God does not arbitrarily send anyone to either place, but each responsible person "sends" himself to his final destination by the kind of life he chooses to live.

We believe certain things to be true because the Bible teaches them. We can turn that statement around and say with truth that the Bible teaches certain things because they are true. For example, it is true in human experience that a certain way of living leads to (comparative) contentment and happiness, while a different way of living leads to discontent and unhappiness. These results are sure to follow in each case: No one can escape the consequences of an ill-spent life, nor can anyone obtain the rewards of a well-spent life without living such a life.

One thing, however, that we learn from the Bible and accept by faith is that God, knowing the great evil that men bring upon themselves and others by their ways of living, has pointed out to men the wrong way and the right way, and the consequences sure to follow in each case. Furthermore, in His mercy and love He has given man every incentive, encouragement, and help to induce him to turn away from the wrong way and walk in the right one. He does not propose to save man from the consequences of the wrong life.

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Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Betty Mathis, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Tommy White's** sister **Gloria**, who is a great help to him, might have shingles about the eyes—a serious condition.
- **Frank Shepherd**, a Gospel preacher who used to be at N. Charleston is in a serious fight with cancer.
- **Remember also:** **Anna Porter** at **Still Hopes**; **Betty** and **Bill Voss**, **Stephanie Rigney's** aunt and uncle; **Debbie Sightler**, daughter of **Vince** and **Helen Reusser**; **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..
- **Pray for all these**, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." - Acts 14:22

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday!** All are invited to stay to share a meal and to get to know one another better. Men's meeting following.
- **See thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- **Scrap Booking class**, at the building 4th Saturdays 12-3, see **Paula** or **Faye**.
- **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.

"Whatsoever thy hand findest to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, wither thou goest" - Ecclesiastes 9:10

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

GOOD TO MEMORIZE, TO KEEP WITH YOU

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” - Psalm 100

CHURCH ATTENANCE AND DAILY LIVING—(cont. from page 1)

The only way He can save man is to get him to find the right way and walk therein; for, **"whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"** (Gal. 6:7). Under these circumstances, if anyone refuses God's proffered mercy and walks in his own way, then he cannot blame God for the plight in which he finds himself.

The right way of living, of course, is the life which Jesus Himself lived and taught — a life of self-denial and service in behalf of others. **"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"** (Matt. 16:24). The only entrance into this life is through faith, repentance, and baptism; and the only way to continue this life is through the means which God has appointed in the church. Anyone who neglects these means is not even trying to live a life of self-denial and service. The blessings offered men in the gospel are not so much things that God will do for men as that they are the certain results or consequences of their way of living. These blessings are gifts of God, but men can obtain them only through the means which God has appointed. A loaf of bread is a gift of God, but men can obtain this gift only through the orderly processes of sowing, reaping, milling, and cooking.

God does not — I may even say cannot — hand out His gifts directly to men apart from a life of self-denial and service — a life of "faith which worketh by love." When He would give men the gift of fruit, such as apples or peaches, He does not bring the fully ripened fruit and hang it upon the barren branches of the trees.

The "good news" of Christ brings its gracious influence to bear upon the hearts of men. Their minds become filled with new objects of thought, new ideas and ideals, new attitudes toward life. The whole current of their thoughts, feelings, imaginations, desires, and purposes is changed. They have been "born again" and are made "new creatures." The tree has been made good, and henceforth the fruit will be good. And this bearing of fruit not only brings happiness to others, but brings the greatest possible happiness to the one bearing the fruit.

In one respect, living a life of self-denial and service may be compared to playing some game — tennis, for instance. In such a game, the players do not look upon the playing as a disagreeable task to be done for the sake of some external reward, but they expect their enjoyment from the playing itself. While the exercise lasts, the enjoyment lasts. When the game ends, the enjoyment ends.

Just so does happiness come from living a life of self-denial and service. And it is reasonable to suppose that if anyone finds his happiness in such a life here on earth, he will continue such a life with such a result in the world to come. But if he does not live such a life now, he will never do so later, and there is no hope of happiness for him either here or hereafter.

"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" - Matthew 7:21

- **E. G. Sewell**, 1830-1924, Gospel Preacher, Tennessee