

THE BULLETIN—VOL 42, NUMBER 29 August 28, 2016

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **Spencer Strickland**—Making Preparations for a New Preacher, 1 Cor. 3:9-10

PM: **Spencer Strickland**—Maintaining Christianity in a Worldly Workplace, Col 3:23

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

WANT TO GET TO HEAVEN? START NOW!

“Whatsoever a man soweth,
that shall he also reap.” - Galatians 6:7

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

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

BEARING FRUIT

Bearing fruit is something all Christians must do. Jesus wasn't giving an agriculture lesson when he said: "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." - Matthew 7:19

Usually we try and jump right to the harvesting stage, wanting to pull good fruit out of thin air, much like the rich young ruler who asked Jesus, "What good thing shall I do ..." (Matthew 19:16) as if that were all there was to it. However, like him, to be fruitful we should instead first think of how to prepare ourselves to be able to bear good fruit. If we prepare properly, we'll bear fruit; good fruit, and tons of it. Think for a moment on how you'd go about getting some apples:

First and foremost, you must *want* the fruit, else you won't put out the effort. If you don't like apples, would you buy an apple tree, dig a hole, plant it and water it etc.? You wouldn't, you'd quit first. We then must also know and be fully convinced the work is worth the effort: "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:" - Romans 2:7

Second, we must get the ground ready—us! You wouldn't drop a tree on the ground in your backyard and expect it to grow. Similarly, there are qualities a Christian must first cultivate in order to bear fruit (they aren't fruit of themselves): "add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful ..." - 2 Pet 1:4-8.

Third, we must plant the right seeds. Apples don't come from kudzu. If we want good fruit, we must plant good seed—God's word and wisdom, not man's: "The seed is the word of God" - Luke 8:11, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;"- Romans 1:16

Lastly, the seed must then be watered, nurtured and cultivated while waiting for the harvest. You don't plant a tree then harvest the next day, it must be tended; the better the care, the better the fruit. We also must have patience and faith in God. Wait on the Lord, don't be discouraged, it will be **worth** it! "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - Gal 6:9

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

“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.*

- The **Bolen** family has moved to Knoxville, TN. We wish them well. **Michelle** is still experiencing bouts of weakness. Keep them all in your prayers.
- Prayers are requested for **Lee** a young man with family, who has been diagnosed with bone cancer. Also for **Jan Kelleher**, who has started a new chemo drug that she be able to tolerate it. **Floyd Richbourg's** older brother has been bitten by a water moccasin. This happened to him several years back and he almost died.
- Remember also **Judy Cornelius' niece Karen** with metastatic breast cancer.
- **Pray for all these;** those listed above and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." - 1 Peter 5:6,7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **No First Sunday luncheon** next week, Labor Day weekend also.
- We're looking for a new evangelist, suggestions welcome!
- **Meals for College Students**—To be provided in conjunction with class taught by Spencer Strickland, every Wednesday. Sign up sheet in foyer.
- **Church Family Pictures**—**Marshall Mancuso** will have his camera with him every Sunday. Be prepared and please see him to get your picture made.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them. *Why are there cards left?*
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- **Scrap Booking class**, at the building 4th Saturdays 12-3, see **Paula or Faye.**
- The Saturday **Bible studies** have resumed with Ed's return.
- **Men!** Check bulletin board for worship assignments—if you can't make it, find someone to fill in. We're counting on you.

"IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME" - MATTHEW 16:24

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

WHY WAS JESUS A MAN OF SORROWS AND GRIEF?

“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:” - Isaiah 53:3a
Here's one reason, people ignored him:

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!” - Matthew 23:37

Don't YOU add to His sorrow! Be involved in the Lord's work. Do more! He knows.

A SURPRISING WOE

Normal human nature craves friends, and delights in being well spoken of. One of the basic passions is a feeling of self-importance. To be sinned against in this respect is as grievous as going hungry. It is the more surprising, therefore, that Jesus said, **"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for in the same manner did their fathers to the false prophets."** (ASV Luke 6:26).

It is commonly considered a compliment to a man if he has no enemies. But militant goodness is offensive to some and makes enemies "for righteousness' sake." The Lord Jesus was wholly clear of all manner of sin, and yet He began to make enemies as soon as He came into the public eye. His very righteousness was a rebuke to a selfish, scheming class, and His teaching met the most violent opposition. He was subjected in turn to ridicule, opposition in debate, and death. The worst passions of depraved hearts were loosed in fury upon Him. He had friends, but His enemies were many and powerful.

And it is interesting to note how many reacted to Paul. If there was ever a good man, praiseworthy in all respects, Paul was one. After he became a Christian, a search for sin in his life would yield meager results. And yet from the very beginning of his ministry in the gospel he was harassed as few men have ever been. Some of his enemies were members of the church — "false brethren," he called them. From one place he fled with a companion **"when there was made an onset both of the Gentiles and of the Jews with their rulers, to treat them shamefully and to stone them."** (ASV Acts 14:5). He was beaten and put in jail on a charge that he taught unlawful customs. He was charged with turning "the world upside down." His enemies said he taught "men to worship God contrary to the law." "Some mocked" in the face of his most brilliant sermons. A hired orator, speaking for a powerful group, called him, "a pestilent fellow," said he ought to be in a pesthouse somewhere, and stigmatized him as a ringleader of a sect which stirred up trouble all over the world.

Jesus and Paul made enemies for a great cause, and their enemies emphasized their greatness and righteousness. **"Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you."** (ASV Matt. 5:11-12).

- Cled E. Wallace, Gospel preacher

**So, what do men think of you? ... What does God think of you?
Which matters?**

**“What shall we then say to these things?
If God be for us, who can be against us?” - Romans 8:31**