

THE BULLETIN—VOL 43, NUMBER 29 August 6, 2017

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

Who do you prefer to be with? What are you telling God?

**"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;
in honor preferring one another." - Romans 12:10**

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

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

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time position open

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WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

SACRIFICES AND REWARDS

Ever since man sinned, God has been exacting a sacrifice from man. These sacrifices have been required as a penalty for sin and an offering unto God. Man has come to look for a reward for his sacrifices. Oftentimes the sacrifices are made with the hope of reward. The sacrifice loses its sting in the anticipation of a reward. A patient goes to the operating table and willingly sacrifices a limb or an organ in order to be relieved of pain and prolong his life. The hope of reward is present as the sacrifice is made. One wonders if there had been any sacrifice if there had been no sin. One also wonders if there had been any reward if there had been no sacrifice.

The First Sacrifices: When Adam and Eve sinned, it cost them the Garden of Eden. They were separated from the tree of life, gave up their state of innocence, and became guilty before God. Little reward came to them. They gained a knowledge of sin. Their "eyes" were opened and they were **"as God, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:5 ASV). "And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil" (Gen. 3:22 ASV).** This knowledge was the reward that followed that great sacrifice. The reward was not commensurate with the sacrifice that was made.

The first sacrifice as made by man in worship to God is recorded in **Genesis 4**. Cain and Abel stood at the first altar that we read about in the Bible and made their respective offerings. Cain sacrificed **"of the fruit of the ground,"** and Abel **"brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof" (Gen. 4:4-5).** Cain pleased himself in his sacrifice, but Abel pleased God, for he made his offering by faith. **"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain" (Heb. 11:4).** The reward that Cain received was his banishment and punishment. Abel's reward was the blessings of Jehovah. Both these worshippers received their just recompense of reward.

Animal Sacrifices: In God's dealing with man, He has called upon man to make sacrifices and He has instructed man as to the kind of offerings which He will receive. Man knew the kind of sacrifice that would bring to him a blessing. He also knew the kind that would bring condemnation.

God has required certain animals to be offered to Him as sacrifices. The blood of these animals represents the life. When they were offered according to the will of God, the worshipper was blessed. When they were offered according to the wisdom of man, man was condemned. Only "clean animals" were permitted to be sacrificed. The hope, reward, and fear of punishment were impressed upon the children of Israel by means of their sacrifices. Certain portions of the sacrifice were placed upon the altar and burned. Other portions of some sacrifices could be eaten by the worshipper.

The rewards of these sacrifices encouraged obedience upon the part of man. The animal sacrifices were slain and offered unto Jehovah. In a sense, the animal took the place of the worshipper. Hands were laid upon the head of the animal and it was appointed as a substitute for the worshipper. Man is a sinful being and is worthy of death because of his sin. But in His goodness and mercy, God accepted a substitute and permitted man to sacrifice an animal instead of dying himself. Here we see not only the sacrifice made by man, but we see the goodness and mercy of God in permitting man to offer a substitute for his own life. In this way, God prepared the mind of man for the coming of Christ. — *Continued on page 3*

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 8/6/2017

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Richard Ramkinson, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Paula Kennedy's** cousin **Janette Lockey**, in Pennsylvania, is still doing some better, but still on dialysis continually.
- Remember in prayer **Stephanie Rigney** who was out last week; **also: Margaret Herring** with many ills; **Dorothy Gray** dealing with the many needs of her family; **Pat Joyner**, greatly concerned about leg problems; **Jan Kelleher** continuing in chemotherapy and a painful fight with metastatic disease; **Ken Parks** traveling and working in Kentucky.
- **Pray for all these**, and our search for an **evangelist** to help us with the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." - 2 Timothy 1:7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday!** All are invited to stay after the morning assembly to share a meal and get to know one another better; men's business meeting afterwards.
- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jason**, or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **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.

“With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:” - Ephesians 6:7

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- **Kelly Kennedy** and **John Beasley** are to wed, 2 PM, Sunday 8/20 at the River Center at Saluda Shoals, 5605 Bush River Road. RSVP: 803-261-6362. They are registered at Bed Bath and Beyond, and Target. Pray the very best for them!

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

SACRIFICES AND REWARDS—Continued from page 1

Christ As A Sacrifice: In the wisdom of God, the idea of a sacrifice has been impressed upon man. The need of a sacrifice or substitute for sinful man is made clear throughout the Bible. Christ came on a mission of love to offer Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world. **"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"** (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:15). **"For there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all"** (1 Tim. 2:5-6). Hence Jesus has become the propitiation for the sins of the world. **"He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world"** (1 John 2:2).

Christ has become the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world; He has become the great sin offering for the world. The rewards of His sacrifices cannot be estimated. The redemption of the human family, the salvation of souls, has become a measure of the reward to those who will accept Him. The condemnation of the unbeliever becomes the reward of those who reject Him.

As we read the Bible, we see the blood of sacrifices running from the first altar to the shed blood of Christ on Calvary. The red blood of sacrifice runs through the whole fabric of God's dealings with man. We rejoice in the atoning blood of our Lord. The rich rewards are received by the faithful in heaven. Many blessings cluster around the faithful life in the service of God here and the heavenly home awaits them hereafter. The sacrifices and rewards of Christ become the measure of the blessings of man.

The Sacrifice Of Christians: **"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service"** (Rom. 12:1 ASV). In order to receive the many rich rewards that come from the sacrifices of Christ, we must make sacrifices ourselves. The sweetest joys that we may have as heirs of the eternal kingdom will be experienced in our suffering and sacrificing for our Saviour. **"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"** (Matt. 5:11-12 ASV).

One cannot live for Christ without suffering for Him. We must die to sin, be buried with Him in baptism, in order to be raised with Him to the reward of a new life. **"We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein? Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized unto his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: and like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away, that we should no longer be in bondage to sin; for he that hath died is justified from sin"** (Rom. 6:2-7 ASV). Throughout the above quotation we have a vivid picture of the sacrifices that Christians must make and the rewards which follow those sacrifices.

Sacrifices For Others: The review of sacrifices is not complete without a brief consideration of vicarious suffering. In every form of nature we have examples of sacrificing for another. The old plant dies in order to produce another seed. The parent animals sacrifice and die for the reproduction of their young. Our mothers step down into the very jaws of death that we may be born, and they suffer, serve, and sacrifice that children may be reared.

The Son of God died that we might live. All present life exists because of the death of some other life. It seems to be a law of our being to suffer and sacrifice for others. We become more like Christ when we sacrifice for others. **"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church"** (Col. 1:24 ASV).

Jesus rejoiced in suffering and dying for others. We are to run with patience the race that is set before us, **"looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"** (Heb. 12:2).

- **Henry Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel Preacher**