

THE BULLETIN—VOL 43, NUMBER 31 August 21, 2017

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: David Paher

PM: David Paher

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

**"Wherefore comfort yourselves together,
and edify one another,
even as also ye do." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11**

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

BULLETIN EDITOR

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



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Baptism: What it is and does.

Of all Biblical subjects, the most controversial is baptism. But it needn't be so if we understand what the Bible teaches regarding it. In this treatise, we intend to answer two questions from the Bible. The first is, "What is baptism?" and the second is, "What is the purpose of baptism."

Now, Jesus thought baptism was important, because he told the apostles to *"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost,"* (Matt. 28:19). Friends, if Jesus thought enough of baptism to include it in his last words to the apostles, shouldn't we diligently search God's word to find out why he considered it so important?

What is baptism? Now, we aren't interested in what the world thinks, what you think or what I think. The important question is, "what does the Bible say baptism is?" If you were to ask some denominational preachers what baptism is, they would say it is a sprinkling or pouring of water on a person. Many denominations practice sprinkling and call it baptism. Is that what the Bible teaches? Let's study together and arrive at the Bible answer to our question.

The word "baptize," itself is a transliterated word. That simply means that the translators of the Bible didn't use an English word for the Greek *Baptizo*. They simply dropped the "o" from the end of the word and replaced it with an "e". Thus a Greek word became an English word with the alteration of only one letter. The definition of the Greek word "baptizo," from which we get "baptize" is "to dip or immerse" and James Strong's Greek Dictionary of the New Testament says it means "to make whelmed." The word "whelm" means to cover or immerse completely - so if the translators of the Bible had translated the word *baptizo* instead of transliterating it they would have used the word *immerse*. That's why baptism is called a burial by the apostle Paul in Romans 6: 3 and 4. *"Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

Paul says baptism is a burial. Sprinkling or pouring water on one does not fit with that Biblical description of baptism. In fact, those who administered Bible baptism never handled the element of baptism. The element is water and in sprinkling and pouring the administrator handles the water within a container. *(-Continued on page 3)*

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 8/27/2017

“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.

- **Stuart Schurr**, preacher at the Plaza church in Sumter has a serious cancer.
- **Trevia Parks** had unexpected surgery on her lip. **Judy Cornelius**' son is doing better. **Also remember in prayer Stephanie Rigney** suffering from a recurrence of cancer; **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.
- **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.

“Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them,

This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” - John 6:28,29

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **David Paher**, missionary to Guyana will be speaking this Sunday and **Ron Fleet**, potential new evangelist for us, will be speaking Sunday 9/3/17.
- **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.

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” - Acts 20:35

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

HOW DO WE LOVE?

“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” - 1 John 3:18

God has told us He wants us to **do**, not just **say**. Remember the parable of the 2 sons? (Matthew 21:28) One said he would—but didn't. The other son said he wouldn't—but he did. Which was better? The latter son who **did** his father's will. Let's be wise and not kid ourselves. Sitting in the chicken coop, calling yourself a chicken and going *cluck cluck* occasionally won't make you a chicken. Neither will sitting in a church building, calling yourself a Christian and occasionally going through some acts of worship make you one either. Let's not **say**, let's **do!** It's the, "I'd rather **see** a sermon than **hear** one" idea. Study God's word diligently and **do** what He says out of love for Him. Tell others, invite them to visit, bring them to our Bible studies, bring yourself!

“If you love me, keep my commandments.” - John 14:15

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia SC

Baptism: What it is and does. —(Continued from page 1)

This was not the case in the New Testament. Baptism was always a burial and for those who seek to know God's will today, baptism is exactly what the Bible says it is.

John 3:23 says John the Baptizer was *"baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there."* Baptism requires much water. It also requires a "going down into the water and a coming up out of the water. The account of the Ethiopian and his conversion in Acts the eighth chapter indicates this. Philip the evangelist preached to the Ethiopian nobleman and as they came to some water the Ethiopian said, *"See, here is water. What doth hinder me to be baptized?"* (Acts 8:36). *"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip..."* (Acts 8:38-39). The baptism taught in the New Testament is a burial or immersion in water.

But now, let's turn our attention to our second question. We know that Jesus commanded baptism and that it was practiced in the book of Acts by the very first disciples of Christ. For what purpose did they preach and practice baptism? The simple answer to that question is found in Mark's account of the Great Commission. In Mark 16:15-16 Jesus said, *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned."* This passage gives us the importance and purpose of baptism. Jesus commanded it because he requires it of those who want to be saved. Baptism, according to this passage is for the purpose of salvation. This is one of those un-get-around-able texts. It is so patently plain that one would need help to misunderstand it, yet there are multitudes who deny its plain statement — *"he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."*

- Jerry C. Brewer, Gospel Preacher, publisher

Be Neither Weary Nor Compromising

Some, and perhaps all of us, need the exhortations, **"Let us not be weary in well doing; for...we shall reap if we faint not"** (Gal. 6:9), and **"Let us go on unto perfection..."** (Heb. 6:1).

A crown of life awaits those who are faithful to the end (**Rev. 2:10**). The faithful are those in the front line. We are soldiers of the cross, and the fight is on. Our greatest victory is to bring our own being into subjection to the Lord's will.

Satan is pleased when he sees a man who claims to be a Christian compromising between truth and error. The truth must stand and the error must fall. There can be no compromise if we are to please God (**Gal. 1:10**). Satan will fight as long as we stand for the truth, but he relents and is pleased when we give in to those in error.

Regardless of how much we may be attached to a man, we should remember that the truth is greater than any human being.

- E.M. Borden, Gospel preacher, late 1800's– early 1900', in Texas