

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 35, September 23, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: David Paher

PM: David Paher

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

DO YOU BELIEVE THE WRITINGS OF THE APOSTLES?

**"Neither pray I for these alone,
but for them also which shall believe on me
through their word" - John 17:20**

You have an advocate then with the Father, make sure he's still on your side.

Examine yourself! Whether you [still] are in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
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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

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

Truth IS Stranger Than Fiction (2)

Casual observation and surface thinking demonstrate that by no means can all the teaching and practices in churches, be from God. One group (church) says a person cannot fall "from grace"; another says a person can fall. Can both teachings be from God? One group (church) says that baptism has nothing to do with one's forgiveness; another says baptism is for the remission of sins. Can both teachings be statements of God? To the person who has believed Truth (the simple, or simply, the Word of God), the teachings of error are very strange. To the person who has accepted human tradition (error, or unscriptural teachings), the Truth (statements of God's Word) sounds very strange.

On the number one teaching above, the truth is stated many times in the gospel of Jesus. Perhaps nowhere more clearly than in Galatians 5:14, **"Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace."** Well, that's the TRUTH that God gives to all mankind. But to the person who has already believed that one cannot fall, that's a strange teaching - hence TRUTH is stranger than fiction especially to the one who has sincerely believed the fiction.

On the second teaching above, perhaps almost all the religious realm, at least in the United States, believes most sincerely that to be baptized has nothing whatever to do with a person's salvation or forgiveness of sins. So very many have believed with all earnestness and sincerity that if they just "accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior", then they are saved and forgiven. All else, to such a person, is non-essential and does not really matter.

But God has somewhat to say on that subject. Since it is God's to forgive sin, then it follows that God has all right to set before humans the condition or conditions for a person to receive that forgiveness of His.

So notice - man says, "Only accept." God says: A person must repent, after he believes in Jesus as the Son of God (John 8:32, Luke 13:3 and 5); that a person must confess his faith in Jesus (not that he believes God has already pardoned his sins for Jesus' sake—a purely human statement) (Acts 8:37); then a person must be baptized in order to be forgiven of his past sins (Acts 2:38, Matt. 28:18-20, 1 Peter 3:20-21).

When one does these, he is forgiven. Truth is stranger than fiction.

C.R. Franks, Gospel preacher, West Columbia church Bulletin, Jan 30, 1975

Examine yourself! Whether you be in the faith (2 Cor 13:5)

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

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

- Remember **Amy Strickland** who wasn't well Wednesday.
- **Judy** is doing well after her first carpal tunnel surgery, but she's not able to drive.
- **Pat Joyner** is still having dizzy spells and pain but was able to be with us Wed.
- **Lauren** asks to continue to remember in prayer her friend **Frankie**, who broke both hips, has cancer, is 40 with children at home.
- **Jan** and **Paula** will be traveling this weekend. **Hugh Parks** is traveling also.
- The Lord was merciful, Hurricane Florence had little effect in the midlands.
- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**
- Remember 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.

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

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **David Paher** and family are with us. We help **David** in his Guyana mission work. He will have table displays setup describing the work.
- **ALL! Contact** those on the Directory list you've not seen recently (like last Sunday).
- **ALL! 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.

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much:" - Luke 16:10

WHAT CAN THE WORLD DO FOR YOU?

KILL YOU!

“..., which, when they have heard, they go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection” - Luke 8:14

Which you might be ok with, till you consider this:

**“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”
- Matthew 7:19**

Knowing the world can kill you then, for eternity, don't you think you'd rather:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” - 2 Timothy 2:15

Which is why we remind you to ...

Examine yourself! Whether you are in the faith (2 Cor 13:5)

Dishes, Pots, Pans and US

Choosing a dish, a pot or a container isn't something we think much about. If asked, I'd bet you'd say, "Well, I just look for one large enough for what I want it to hold." But there are other things we consider, though we're likely not aware of them.

For example, does it **leak**? A dish with a crack might be alright to hold candy but we wouldn't use it for soup. Is it **strong**? Something strong enough to hold popcorn might not hold sand or dirt from the garden. Is it **clean**? A glass with a lipstick stain will likely go back in the sink. Is it **appropriate**? A dish the dogs have eaten from probably won't find it's way to the table when company comes for dinner. When we look for a container to use, there's actually quite a bit we look for.

It's the same with **us** and the Lord. The Lord thinks of **us** as **vessels** He can use in different ways to carry things—or not at all. Do we **leak** and lose what the Lord has given us, or do we hold fast the faithful word? Are we **strong** and able to bear up under heavy loads or do we fail at the mildest of temptations? Are we **clean** or have we soiled our clothes like children with the cares and things of this world? Are we appropriate, **are we holy**, or have we fallen back to sinful ways as pigs returning to wallow in the mire? The Lord has much work he wants done. God is not willing that any perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9) . Who will be able to **help** with that work? If we want to be useful to God, we need to remember that we've repented from dead, unfruitful works and instead do the works of God. The Lord chose Paul to write much of the New Testament. Why? There was a reason. He can choose us too, or not.

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth, and some to honor and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." - 2 Timothy 2:20,21

Which are you? Which to you want to be? Let's be faithful, and hold fast what the Lord has given us: His **word** and the **hope of glory** with Him in heaven. Let's **purge** ourselves of the things of this world and not dirty ourselves with them. If we do, God will be pleased to use **us** as vessels of honor, for His glory, by putting opportunity in our path and there will be many jewels in our crown when we are able to use those opportunities.

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, SC

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” - 2 Timothy 2:3,4

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)