

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 44, November 25, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

PM: Ed Kelleher

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

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” - 1 Corinthians 1:10

What was Paul begging for? Are you helping?

Examine yourself! Are you in the faith, or not? (2 Cor 13:5)

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

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

On Request
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

That's a Know No

Matthew 22:28-32 records a parable often referred to as "The parable of the two sons." A father asked both of his sons to work in his vineyard. The first son said he would not go, but later changed his mind and went to work in the vineyard. The second son answered his father favorably but never went to the vineyard. While not the point of the parable I often wonder why the second son simply did not tell his father "No" when asked if he'd go work in the vineyard. While parables do not necessarily involve real people they do portray real circumstances from which Jesus would always teach a spiritual truth. Being asked to do something you're not willing to do is a very real possibility. Responding as the second son did is also realistic. His response was to give a false answer to avoid something he'd rather not do.

We people have a way of not answering questions correctly when being asked to do something we'd rather not do. Why not simply say "No"? More than likely it's because we know we shouldn't say "No." A request to do something undesirable is hardly a request to perform a task we are incapable of doing. So instead of being honest we may say yes at the moment, only to find an excuse later when it's time for the job or completely flake out altogether. An answer of "No" to the person asking the favor would certainly be disappointing, but at least it's not dishonest. If we will not do what is asked, we can at the least be truthful.

Why is it hard to give the honest answer in this case? Are we afraid of confrontation? Do we not want to hear the disappointed tone of voice or see the disappointed expression of the one who is asking for our help? Or is it because we truly know we should be willing to perform undesirable tasks, and if we hear ourselves say "No" out loud we'd have to confront ourselves? Undoubtedly you'll be asked to help at times when your schedule is full, and you really can't be there. Other times you may truly be asked to do something you're not ready to handle. In those cases you'll answer "No" and that will be proper. But when we know we are capable and give the false "Yes" or at best provide vague, non-committal answers; we all know better.

- T.J. Bolen, Gospel Preacher, West Columbia church of Christ SC (2014)

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.*

- Also remember in prayer: **Connie**, in pain with no apparent relief at this point, **Pat** also with no relief at this point; **Gail Allen** recovering from surgery; **Spencer** and **Amy** ask for prayers for **D.J.**; **Lauren’s** friend **Ashten** (13 years old) as she is to have stomach surgery and then possibly another eye surgery, Lauren’s grandmother, and **Lauren** also Remember **Janet** and her **mother** and **Linda Floyd** after a knee cap replacement.
- **Jones Gamble** has been working on the road quite a bit, remember all our first responders, our front line of security and peace. They give up a lot, and risk all.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

- 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 of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,
all ye that hope in the Lord.” - Psalms 31:24**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **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, **be faithful** to use them.

EXAMINE YOURSELF

This command from God was given for our own good. On Judgment Day, God doesn’t want us to be found wanting (and surprised); wanting of what He expects of us as His children!. Everything we need to know is in His word, **2 Peter 1:3**, read it!

We examine ourselves by studying that word and comparing ourselves to what we find there. There is no other standard. Jesus said we will be judged by the Word He has spoken, **John 12:48**. Then we need to test ourselves: Am I serving God? Am I laying up treasure in Heaven? Do I see spiritually, what is of value to me? Do I act and think as if Jesus is in me? Am I looking up, reading and memorizing the scriptures given here?

Satan is working to pull the wool over our eyes so we won’t see ourselves as God sees us. Don’t be deceived. God isn’t. You will reap what you sow. Start reading at **Galatians 6:7** and start examining yourself ... before it’s too late.

It’s your choice. You’ll be reminded. But it’s up to you. No one will force you to do this. However, if you don’t want and work to obey God as He has said you should—you have chosen, unwisely. If you’ve read this, ignorance will be no excuse, so study! You are in the faith, or you are out, there is no in between. Which are you? Remember:

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;” - 2 Cor. 13:5

THE VALUE OF ENDURANCE

The conquest of nations, mountains, and other goals can be attributed to endurance regardless of external problems and difficulties. Jesus challenges us with these words found in **Matthew 10:22**, **“He that endures to the end shall be saved.”**

To turn back because of problems would be cowardly and vain. To persevere regardless of the difficulty is the mark of courage and victory. To overcome obstacles is the background of heroic victory for athletes and explorers. Often success is a marathon and not a sprint is a message we all need to learn. Some one has well said, "A person lost in his work probably found his future!"

Christ warns us to put our hand to the plow and never look back (**Luke 9:62**). When the men sailing with Columbus as he explored the new world wanted to turn back home, Columbus gave a restless urgency to "sail on and on and on." Heaven is a far greater destination than America, and we dare not seek the comfort of temporary ease and lose the glory that awaits us on eternal shore

To overwhelm the toils and woes of this wicked world may be arduous and demanding but very much worth our diligent efforts. To surrender to Satan might be easy but never profitable. **“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23).**

The great apostle Paul was in jeopardy every day because he faithfully walked with the Lord, but he knew if there were no difficulties there could be no triumphs! In **2 Timothy 4:7**, we thrill to his famous departing words, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”**

A wise statesman reminds us that the world is not interested in the storms you encountered but whether you brought in the ship. So many people spend their days talking about problems they encountered in life rather than how God blessed them with joy and peace and purpose day by day.

“For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it” (Romans 8:24-25). The abundant life Christ provides gives us meaning and depth in our sojourn here below and urges us to press on to a far better place (John 10:10). **The value of endurance will mean heaven for us!**

- **Johnny Ramsey**, Gospel preacher, 1930—2006, Texas

“And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” - Hebrews 11:15,16

Are you enduring? ...

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;” - 2 Cor. 13:5