

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 49, December 30, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Wallace Beasley

PM: Harvey Allen

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

**"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your FAITH groweth exceedingly, and the CHARITY of every one of you all TOWARD EACH OTHER aboundeth;" 2 Thessalonians 1:3**

**Is this you?**

**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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[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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

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**

## **Sir, you're smart; why do you believe this?**

This was a question asked by a good friend of mine, and more importantly a brother in Christ (I will refer to him as Fred to conceal identity but also to avoid the repetition of saying "my friend"). Fred was in a conversation with the passenger next to him on an airplane when the question was asked. I do not remember what this gentleman's occupation was, but do recall it was one which required a great deal of education; some sort of doctor I want to say. I do recall what his religion was, but that's of no consequence in this article, sadly it was not faith in Christ.

About as soon as Fred made the statement "Sir you're smart," and then the subsequent question "why do you believe this?" he realized it may have sounded insulting. I can assure you that was not his intention. Rather it was a quick verbal reaction upon hearing the particulars of his airline neighbor's faith. Before the topic found its way to religion my friend listened to the backstory of this gentleman's aforementioned occupation and education. It was also clear during their talk that this man was well-spoken, and had good sense about him. It was also very clear he was deeply committed to what his religion.

Part of his downfall was his intelligence. Being one who made his living from a great deal of mental work he was accustomed to study and reaching conclusions. But he had never done this with the Bible. For some reason the Bible does not receive attention from those who would seem very capable of seeing and grasping the gospel of Jesus rather quickly. This must be part of the reason for the words of Jesus recorded in **Matthew 11:25 "I thank You, Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children."** Also, as written by Paul in **1 Corinthians 1:20 "Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?"**

Sometimes humanity just can't get out of its own way because we think we know so much. Think Christianity is too complicated? You're looking at man's distortion of it, not what Jesus established. Think Christianity is too simple; doesn't explain enough? You're accepting humanism without considering God's Word. Think Christianity is inconsistent? Eternal punishment is rather consistent - you'd better take another look. Don't reason yourself away from Christ. There's a good chance you're too smart for that. - **T.J. Bolen**, Gospel Preacher, West Columbia church of Christ, SC, 2014

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

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## **“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.*

- **Michael Mancuso** had a planned surgery Thursday, remember him and the family in your prayers.
- **Paula Kennedy** continues to have great difficulty with shingles and much pain. **Pat** continues to have spells of great dizziness and pain also.
- Also remember in prayer: **Connie, Amy Strickland; Lauren's** niece, 3, with a brittle teeth condition, and **Lauren** also.
- 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.

**"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses:  
but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." - Psalms 20:7**

## **“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;” - 2 Corinthians 13:5**

### **Challenge For One Month**

1. Resolve not to miss or be late to a single service of the church. No excuses this time but, for a change, make a few sacrifices for the Lord.
2. Try praying every time you have a problem or decision to make. If you feel the slightest need, pray! And while you're at it, try praying for your enemies (those with whom you don't get along too well).
3. Make it your responsibility to bring at least one visitor to services, preferably a family. Don't just invite them, make a date with them.
4. Take at least one afternoon or evening to go visiting. Not with the ones you know and like best. This time, visit someone you do not know too well, perhaps someone with whom you feel a 'little "strained." Get to know them and see the difference it makes.
5. Read and study your Bible every day, even if you have to turn off the TV.

Follow these simple rules, and you might be surprised at the results.

**-Clyde Freeman**, Preacher, 9th and Main St. church of Christ, San Antonio, Texas

**“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” - Titus 2:14**

Jesus died for us—what does He not have a right to expect from **us**?

## **Little things are GREAT!**

Sometimes we're overwhelmed by the size of a job we have to do. We wonder **“where do I start?”** Sometimes we spend so much time wondering, getting ready, and looking for the best thing to do, that we never do anything at all. Nothing gets done, and then we get even more discouraged and quit all together.

However, that's a problem we've made for ourselves. The Lord didn't lay such a great burden on us. He didn't tell us we had to do it all at once! He gave us time: **“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow me.” - Luke 9:23**

A little fruit, every once and awhile, is **so** much better than **no** fruit at all! Let's start right now. There are people we can call or visit. We can think and pray for one another. We can read a book, a chapter, a verse from the Bible. But if we don't plant the seed, how can we expect fruit to grow? If we don't sow, we can't reap. Seeds are little things that grow. So should our actions be.

Let's trust God. He didn't tell us **we** were responsible for the **increase**, that's His job. We're just to plant and water (1 Corinthians 3:6). Let's take care of the **little** things, and leave the GREAT things to God. Let's not be discouraged, remember what God told Paul: **“My grace is sufficient for thee: for MY strength is made perfect in WEAKNESS” - 2 Corinthians 12:9**

Heaven isn't something attained by just one action. The rich young ruler asked "What good thing shall I do, that I may inherit eternal life?". He had the wrong idea. Do you? Why do you think our life here is "Three score years"? We have to develop, to grow, to build. We can't just do one GREAT thing and then quit. The temple of the Jews was made with many stones. Laid up one at a time. So are we. It takes time and effort. Let's not be discouraged, our **little** efforts will add up! A kind word here, a visit or call there, a mention of the church and the bible to a neighbor. Noticing a small thing to be done, and taking care of it. These are good works which will bear eternal fruit:

**“To them who by patient CONTINUANCE in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life.” - Romans 2:7**

Let's start the new year, honoring our God by **doing** the **little** things He asks.

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

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **First Sunday! All are invited to stay after the morning assembly to share a meal with us. Men's meeting afterwards.**
- **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.

**“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” - Hebrews 6:10**