

THE BULLETIN—VOL 45, NUMBER 15, April 21, 2019

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Wallace Beasley

PM: Harvey Allen

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

**“EXCEPT THE LORD BUILDETH THE HOUSE,
THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT” - PSALMS 127:1**

**WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
WOULD THE LORD REJECT IT?**

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain! (Rev 3:2)

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

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

Christian, Not Church of Christ

This is an article in the bulletin for the West Columbia church of Christ. The name “West Columbia church of Christ” is the way the local body (a congregation) of Christ here in West Columbia identifies ourselves. The title “Church of Christ” is not something which the Bible deems necessary for the followers of Jesus to call themselves. It is one of the many names used for the church in the New Testament (Romans 16:16). In the Bible there is no formal name given to the church Jesus established. This title came to be used of those seeking to use only the Bible as their guide and authority. In the 1800's several men throughout our country began to notice the problems with so many different churches. There were different messages being taught regarding salvation, church leadership, methods of worship, and authority as some created creeds and rule books apart from the Bible. As a result of this some began to plea for a return the simple teachings of the Bible. Those who made this plea had come to understand that throughout all the various religious organizations Christianity had become more so a product of men and not of God. Something which became known as the Restoration Movement was gaining momentum, as the goal was to “restore New Testament Christianity.” One of the major results was the Church as seen in the New Testament was finally, at least in noticeable way, here in the U.S. They chose to identify themselves by the name “church of Christ.” This is a possessive term; it's Jesus' church. This distinction was necessary in a time when so many of the groups in existence were identifying themselves by the names of men, in terms not found in scripture, or by misapplying scriptural descriptions. Unfortunately in the last few years it has become more and more popular and accepted within the church of Christ for people to say “I am church of Christ.” That is not correct. You are a Christian, and a member of the body of Christ. To say “I am Church of Christ” is to denominate the name, just making it one of several thousand “churches.” church of Christ identifies Who we belong to, not what we are. The word Christian is what we must use when we tell people “what we are”.

- T.J. Bolen, Gospel preacher, West Columbia South Carolina

“And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” Ephesians1:22,23

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain! (Rev 3:2)

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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.*

- **Amy Strickland** has had some much better days, surely due to concern and prayers of the church. Be thankful to God for his mercy, and keep praying.
- **Laruen Beard** requests the prayers of the church for her and her family.
- **Stephanie and Pat** both made it to services on Wednesday night, but **Jamie Sheppard** is ill as is little **Evie**.
- **Trevia Parks** is home gaining strength daily; **Laura Nichols** continues to get better at home. **Judy Cornelius** is slowly, but steadily recovering from a torn Achilles tendon. Remember her friend **Wayne** in Georgia
- Remember also in prayer: **Margaret Herring** with multiple ills; **Janet Boyd** recovering from a sprained her ankle; **Keep ALL these in your prayers**, and pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge**.

“For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” - Matthew 7:8

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Lord willing**, we will have a man preaching for us the first Sunday in May, who is interested in helping us with the work here in West Columbia.

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain! (Rev 3:2)

HOW DO YOU 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 two sons? (Matthew 21:28) One said he would go work—but didn't. The other son said he wouldn't go work—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, come yourself!

Do you love Him? Show Him! Get involved! Do something ... before it is too late.

“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” - Matthew 7:19,20

Does the Bible Authorize the Observance of Easter?

Easter represents a convergence of three particular events: the *Hebrew passover*, the *resurrection of Christ*, and a *pagan festival of Spring*. These three events became associated with the unauthorized festival of the resurrection which was celebrated at the time of the Jewish passover.

The council of Nicaea (325 A.D.) decreed Easter should be on Sunday but did not specify which Sunday. It was not until the 7th century that a rule was finally set and adopted as to when Easter would be observed. It was determined to be *the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of Spring*. Using this rule, it could fall anywhere between March 21 and April 25—a period of 35 days.

The observance of Easter as a special holy day is not found in the Bible; therefore, it is the invention of man and will perish along with all of man's doctrines and works (*Matthew 15:8-9*). There is **no command, no example**, or anything **implying** its observance. There is absolutely NOTHING in Scripture that authorizes its observance with any religious significance. The Bible teaches Christians to observe and commemorate the death of Christ every Sunday (the first day of the week) in the partaking of the Lord's supper (*Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*).

The demand of *Colossians 3:17* must be ever before our minds: *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus”* -- i.e., by his authority. We must only do what Christ has authorized us to do in His Word, the Bible. Since there is no authority to celebrate Easter or any other special time or day in a religious way (*Colossians 2:16*), then it cannot be done “by faith.” *Romans 14:23* says, *“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”* Faith comes by hearing God's Word (*Romans 10:17*), yet God's Word does not instruct us to observe Easter. Therefore, it cannot be done in faith. We cannot observe this day with any religious significance because we cannot do so by the authority of Christ.

We will not be judged by what uninspired men have decided through the centuries (*John 12:48; Revelation 20:12*). As for me and my house, show me in the Bible where it is to be celebrated and I will happily comply!

Garland M. Robinson, Gospel Preacher, Woodbury, TN

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.” - John 12:48,49

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain! (Rev 3:2)