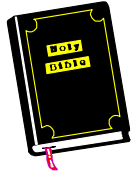


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“but every disciple that is perfect, shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40

## CAN I DO RIGHT WHEN I'VE BEEN DONE WRONG?

Text: **James 5:7-11** We've all experienced the hurt of mistreatment, misunderstanding, intolerable work situations, family conflicts, etc. Our natural tendency is often to retaliate, return evil for evil, to get back, or hold a grudge and become bitter in our soul. When we're hurt, taken advantage of, or used by others, our nature says, “strike back.” But God's approach is patient endurance. Anyone can submit to one who is considerate, gracious and gentle. There is no virtue in such submission because there is no threat of mistreatment. But trials of the sort mentioned above, as trying as they are, must still be endured (James 1:12).

How should we react when we have been done wrong? James says first in verses 7 & 8 to be patient. Why? Because God is not going to right all wrongs until Jesus returns; so believers must be patient. Patience means to stay put and stand fast when you'd like to run away. How can we as Christians experience this kind of patience as we wait for Christ's return? Like the farmer who waits for the seed to grow and produce plants, Luke 8:11 says our hearts are the soil and the word of God is the seed. Time and work precede the harvest (1 Cor. 3:6). This is the secret to endurance (5:11). God is producing a harvest by allowing trials and troubles in our lives.

Second, when being patient and holding back a reaction for a long time, we become discouraged and filled with self-pity. James says, “strengthen (establish) your heart.” You can't enjoy the harvest unless your hearts is established.

Third, we are not to complain (vs.11). We shouldn't complain because complaining conveys the idea of sighing or groaning, and suggests bearing a grudge. God has a way of balancing privileges with responsibilities, blessings with burdens. If it were not so, you and I would be spoiled, pampered children. In the story of Job we see distress, defense, and deliverance. Job did not realize what was going on behind the scenes with God and Satan. He lost his wealth, health, and children. His wife, and friends were against him, and it even seemed God was against him. (continued on page 3)

“Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned:  
behold, the judge standeth before the door.” - James 5:9

1701 AUGUSTA ROAD ♦ WEST COLUMBIA ♦ SOUTH CAROLINA ♦ 29169

## VOLUME 31, NUMBER 38 SEPTEMBER 18, 2005

### RECORDS 9/11/05

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 53  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 81  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 55  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 68  
CONTRIBUTION: \$1683

### SERMONS 9/18/05

AM Ed Kelleher  
PM Frank Allen

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" - Hebrews 12:1,2

#### SERVICES

Sunday  
10:00 AM Bible Study  
11:00 AM Assembly  
6:00 PM Assembly  
Wednesday  
7:00 PM Bible Study

**A Warm Welcome awaits you at all  
our services!**

**Bible Classes for all ages  
Nursery provided  
LADIES CLASS  
Tuesdays 10:00 AM**

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## “AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY”

- **Our Elder Search** current status is posted on the bulletin board. This includes biographical information on our elder candidates. Elder comment forms for **all church members** to fill out are in the foyer. Please take 2, 1 for each candidate, and fill them in if you wish too. These need to be completed and turned in by Sunday 10/2/2005.
- **Join our church email group!** A good way to stay in touch, see Ed Kelleher.
- At the suggestion of one of the members, we've made a new **Invite Sheet** (like our Visitors Sheet). Take some to hand to friends and relatives, co-workers, and other people you meet **to invite them to come visit us.**

## “IS ANY SICK AMONG YOU?”

- **Remember in prayer:** **MARGARET HERRING** who is still in some pain, **BERYL PARKS, ETHEL SMITH, MARY HONEYCUTT,** and our shut-ins **JESSICA HERRING, ZUDORA CLEGG, PHYLLIS JOHNSON and VIOLET BRUNSON.** Prayers are also requested for **SCOTT MAY** (Anna Porter's nephew), **NINA RUTH MEADOWS** (Marcella Klieves' mother), **JAMES MATHIAS** (Tommy White's brother-in-law), and **KATHYRN HALL** (Melissa Parks' sister).
- **Jimmy Gist's** mother, Regina, is gravely ill in Alabama, but still hanging on. Pray that they will be comforted and kept safe on their travels.
- **Prayers** have been requested for the families of **Marc Westbrook**, Lexington circuit court judge and his clerk **Randy Davis** who were both killed in an automobile accident.

“I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee ... sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” - Matthew 25:35-40

## “REJOICE WITH THEM THAT REJOICE!”

- God is merciful and is blessing us greatly with growth and renewed zeal and dedication. Twenty one members from West Columbia attended Monday and Tuesday nights at the **Gospel meeting** being held at the **North Columbia** church. They were encouraged, and so were we. Pray that we'll grow more!

"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 one another aboundeth;" - 2 Thessalonians 1:3

## **CAN I DO RIGHT WHEN I'VE BEEN DONE WRONG?**—Continued from Page 1

What did the story of Job mean to the believers James wrote to and to us today? It means that some trials of life are caused directly by Satan, and God will allow this but with limitations. Satan wants us to be impatient with God. The answer for us is found in 2 Cor. 12:7-9, God's grace is sufficient.

Last of all, James says in verse 12, do not swear. The Greek term translated "swear" means to, "grasp something firmly, or sacredly for the purpose of supporting what one is saying or doing." When we suffer we should not try to tie God into our explanations. It's easy to say things we don't mean or even bargain with God when difficulties come.

The application is simple:

1. Don't focus on the situation or we'll become angry.
2. Don't focus on ourselves or we'll become filled with self-pity.
3. Don't focus on someone to blame or we'll begin complaining.
4. Don't focus on the present, or we'll miss the point of what God is trying to achieve in our lives.

—Bill Young, St. Andrews Road Church of Christ, Columbia, SC

## “PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS”

Details of area events are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

- **Windsor Lake** Gospel Meeting Fri 10/28 –10/30.
- **Youth Rally**, St. Andrew's Road, Saturday October 1, 2005.
- Gospel meeting Augusta Road church Greenville with **Mel Futrell**, 9/25-29/05.
- Remember the new **Visitor's Sheets** we have in the foyer. Take a few, and hand them to visitors when you greet them. Look for **NEW Invite sheets** too!
- Let's continue to **remember in our prayers** and show the sincerity of our love to those hurt by the resignation of Bro. Richards. Give them a call, or drop them a note reassuring them of our love and concern for them. Names & addresses are posted in the foyer.

And Saul said to David, “Thou *art* more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.” – 1 Samuel 24:17

- Victims of **Hurricane Katrina** are making their way here to the Columbia area. Many thanks to the ladies who are volunteering to help at Lexington Medical Center. If you'd like to help, see Jan Kelleher for details. We've posted lists of items that are needed by hurricane victims. Dave Watkins of the North Columbia congregation is planning a trip down there. If you drop items off at the building, we'll get them to where they'll do some good. We've also listed congregations of the church in Louisiana and Mississippi who are directly involved in relief work that could use contributions.