

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

PATIENT CONTINUANCE

Have you ever had a long job in front of you? Like maybe 50 shirts to iron, or a couple of acres of grass to mow, or a mile or two of fence to paint? How did you go about getting it done? Did you just dig in and start doing what you could, and then suddenly find you were done? Or, did you fret and complain, "Oh, I'll NEVER get done ..." and spend time looking for the "easy way"? How long did it take in that case? Which situation would you rather be in? There's a lot to be said for just getting on with it, using the tools you have and letting the end take care of itself. In fact, the Lord said it:

"To them who by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:" - Romans 2:7

The Lord has promised us these good things in heaven with Him. He's given us everything we need to attain them, in His word, The Bible.

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,

through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:” 2 Peter 1:3

The Lord has given us the all tools we need and expects us to use them:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, THOROUGHLY FURNISHED UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS." - 2 Timothy 3:16,17

David found **grace** in God's sight by meditating on His word—so can we!

“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” - Psalm 119:103-105

God has told us the scripture, His word, will furnish us to **all** good works. That's the "**well doing**" that will gain us eternal life. What else do you want? Don't slap God in the face and say you don't believe Him by going elsewhere. Be content with what He has given us, His WORD. Read it, study it, meditate on it—every day ("**patient continuance**") in order to attain "**immortality, eternal life**".

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

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 27 July 22, 2012

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **ED KELLEHER**

PM: **ED KELLEHER**

**“FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITTED,
IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD,
AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?”- MATTHEW 16:26**

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

**JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!**

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

The Bulletin
USPS-994-500
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

To be announced

EVANGELIST

BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier* and *Phyllis Johnson*.
- **Trevia Parks** is doing very well after her second cataract surgery.
- **Jones Gamble** has been spending a lot of time in Manning with his father who is declining.
- **Connie and Floyd Richbourg** request prayers for **Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins**, friends of theirs who recently lost a grandson.
- Remember **Jill Kelleher** who is at Carolina Bible Camp, **Ethan Allen**, Harvey and Gail's son who is at yearly training at Fort Gordon, and **Gail Allen's** mother in Arizona who has gotten shingles.
- We regret to announce that **Claudia Pinkston** passed away after a long illness.
- Brother **Richard Ramkinson**, minister at the Windsor Lake church, is in very ill health. He's on dialysis and has some heart problems as well as diabetes. He's a diligent servant of God, please remember him in your prayers.
- Also remember **Anna Porter** as she slowly recovers from her surgery.
- Give thanks to God for His mercy, and pray for all these, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." - 1 Peter 5:6,7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Bible Study at Church Building, most Saturdays at 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It's a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.

"Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - Galatians 6:9

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP

“... was well adapted to churches founded on the **Jewish** pattern of things and practicing infant sprinkling. That all persons singing who have **no spiritual discernment**, taste or relish for spiritual meditation, consolations and sympathies of renewed hearts should call for such an aid is but natural. So to those who have **no real devotion and spirituality** in them, and whose animal nature flags under the opposition or the oppression of church service I think that instrumental music would... be an essential prerequisite to fire up their souls to even animal devotion. But I presume, that to **all spiritually-minded** Christians, such aid would be as a cow bell in a concert.” — **Alexander Campbell** (from Robert Richardson's biography, *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell*, Vol. 2., p366)

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

**“And take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: “ - Ephesians 6:17**

"In conversion and sanctification, the Holy Spirit operates on the hearts of men only through the word of God." A burr under the Calvinistic saddle, that truth can be unwittingly diluted by a misapplication of Ephesians 6:17. The argument is sometimes made that Holy Spirit wields the sword of the Spirit in conversion and sanctification, thus proving the Spirit's work through the medium of the word. That argument not only fails to prove the proposition, but actually concedes the Calvinist's position. In his 1938 debate with N. B. Hardeman, Ben M. Bogard made that very argument in his affirmation that the Spirit exerts a direct influence upon man.

"The Spirit works as if there were no word and the word is used as if there were no Spirit. Not separate and apart from each other but together, side by side on the same thing. The gospel is the sword of the Spirit and as the sword is distinct from the soldier and the soldier distinct from the sword, yet both soldier and sword work together to slay the enemy, even so the Spirit and the word work together to save the soul." (Ben M. Bogard, 2nd Affirmative, "The Work of The Holy Spirit, Hardeman-Bogard Debate, Gospel Advocate Co., Nashville, 1938, p. 31).

Those today who say the Holy Spirit wields the sword make the same fundamentally flawed argument. In the context of Ephesians 6:17, Paul delineates the defensive and offensive items of spiritual warfare to be utilized by the Christian soldier. The truth is girt about his loins, he wears the breastplate of righteousness, is shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, holds the shield of faith, wears the helmet of salvation and wields the sword of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit wears none of the armor, nor does He wield the sword.

"It is said that the Word is the sword that the Holy Spirit uses. Rather, the Word of God is the sword that the Holy Spirit forged for us to use. The Spirit does not wield the sword — we ourselves wield it, and if we do not wield it, then it will not be wielded. If the Holy Spirit performs some direct operation in wielding the sword, the action and method should be subject to definition and description, and demonstration...

As the smith forges instruments and weapons, the Holy Spirit by inspiration in the apostles of Christ forged the sword of the Word for us to wield." (Foy E. Wallace, Jr., *The Mission and Medium of The Holy Spirit*, Foy E. Wallace, Jr. Publications, 1967, p. 85).

If the Spirit wields the sword, advocates of the direct operation of the Holy Spirit are correct in their assertions and Bogard was right in his debate with Hardeman. But they argue from a faulty premise. The Holy Spirit does not wield the sword any more than God wears the "whole armor of God." (Ephesians 6:11). The "armor of God" is the armor God provides and the "sword of the Spirit" is the sword the Holy Spirit forged. If the "sword of the Spirit" means the Spirit wields and uses the sword, then the "armor of God" means God wears the armor as a defensive measure. If not, why not?

- **Jerry C. Brewer**, Gospel Preacher, publisher