

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

REQUISITES OF ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

“*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*” - John 4:24

Three requisites of acceptable worship are set forth in this verse: 1-We must worship God. 2-We must worship God in spirit. 3-We must worship God in truth.

The first commandment forbade the worship of any other being. It said, “**Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**” (Deut. 5:7). Verse 9 of Deuteronomy 5 reads, “**Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I, Jehovah, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me.**” Hence, however sincere might be the idol worshipper, his worship is highly displeasing to God, because it fails in the first of the requisites above given. It is not directed to God.

Secondly, the worship must be in spirit, i.e., proceeding from a sincere heart and rendered with attention and understanding. This forbids worship that is merely formal—worship that consists of rites and ceremonies in which the worshipper may engage without attention. Catholicism is a system of such worship where the worshipper may not know, and indeed is not expected to know, the significance of much in which he engages.

There is some danger that this type of worship should come to obtain in Christ’s church. The unvarying routine of services, the formal and mechanical participation in song, prayer, and the Lord’s Supper, the failure to give attention and enter heartily into the worship leads to that which is not in spirit.

This is that which Jesus rebuked in the Pharisees in Matthew 15:9—vain worship. Such people as this worship him with their lips and give utterance to phrases of worshipful nature, but the heart is not in it, and God is not pleased. We should ever be on our guard that we do not fall into a mechanical, formal, heartless type of devotion to God.

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KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 39, NUMBER 8 February 24, 2013

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **ED KELLEHER**

PM: **ED KELLEHER**

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:” - Ephesians 4:13

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

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

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SERVICES
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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

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- Little **Adler Kennedy** is not happy having breathing treatments and **Kelly** was fighting a sinus infection as well.
- **Dawn Gamble** was in and out Sunday fighting a fever. **Melanie Zwan**, a friend of the Allens is having severe nausea in the 11th week of her pregnancy.
- The **Richbourgs** request prayers for **Trudy Johnson** of Lower Richland who is in Hospice care. **Faye Parks** is recovering from dental surgery.
- **Judy Walker** is in Baptist Hospital with severe bronchitis. **Stephanie Rigney** has started chemotherapy, **Gail Allen** did well on her stress test.
- **Margie DeYoung** is in Lexington Medical Center, **Dana Willoughby** requests prayers for her grandmother.
- Keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here. To those faithful in visiting and attendance, encouraging others by talking with them. To those quietly doing the many jobs necessary to keep the congregation functioning.

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." -
Psalm 27:13

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Our thanks to brother **Gamble** who made an excellent presentation on the work here at West Columbia. Remember to pray that we all might strive to grow in faith and zeal for our lord and in His image ... so people see Him in us.
- **SAVE THE DATE! CAROLINA MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, SATURDAY MARCH 9th.**
- Remember to send cards and letters to our sister **Lorraine Porter** who is unable to get out or receive visitors or phone calls due to her medical condition and sorely needs the encouragement.
- **BULLETINS BY EMAIL** sent each Friday. To subscribe, send email address to Ed.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors.** **Marshall Mancuso** had had a bunch of nice cards printed, and **Jones Gamble** faithfully gets visitor cards posted with addresses. So help out yourself! Send a card, invite people to visit, then send more cards! Postage for a post card is \$.32, Send 3 for a dollar and keep the change!

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" - 2 Corinthians 9:6

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- **Some Good News!** **Brian Parks** and **Jen Grimsly** announce their engagement to be **married** after they graduate from college.

REQUISITES OF ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP —(Continued from page 1)

Finally, worship, to be acceptable, must be in truth. To be “in truth” is to be according to God’s word. Jesus said, *“Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.”* (John 17:17). Any act of worship—however sincere might be the worshipper—is not acceptable to God if it is not in harmony with the scriptures. This teaches us that God will accept only that which he has specifically set forth in the scriptures for us to do in worship. We walk by faith and not by sight, 2 Cor. 5:7), and since faith comes by hearing God’s word, (Rom. 10:17), we can offer in faith only that which is set forth in his word.

This will exclude from our worship everything not specifically mentioned therein. By this rule, we can never use instrumental music in worship, because it is nowhere commanded or even mentioned in Christian worship. Therefore, we cannot engage in it “by faith.”

True, David used instrumental music, but he also offered animal sacrifices and burned incense in worship. We do not take our orders from David today. Christ is our lawgiver and guide. (Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Heb. 1:1-2). He has nowhere authorized instrumental music, the Holy Spirit-inspired apostles did not sanction it, no New Testament writer mentioned it in Christian worship, and no apostolic church practiced it. To engage in it is to fail to worship “in truth.” But God is pleased when one only worships in truth. Therefore, instrumental music is not pleasing to him.

The items of worship are set forth in Acts 2:42 and Eph. 5:19. These are (1) teaching, (2) singing, (3) prayer, (4) the contribution, and (5) the Lord’s Supper. These items were observed on every first day of the week by the church in apostolic times. (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

The disciples were directed by men who were empowered with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:42; 2:1). We can do no less than this and be assured to pleasing God today. What pleased him then will surely please him today. All else must be rigidly excluded from worship and service to God.

“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”
1 Samuel. 15:22

H. Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel teacher

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CAROLINA MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Saturday March 9, 2013, 9:00am-3:00pm, at Rock Hill. It’s an encouraging thing for young and old. Just ask **Tommy White!** Men, let’s especially try and encourage our young men to go - with us. **Ed Kelleher** plans on going and has room in his van for 7. We’ll leave from the church building about 6:30 am, Lord willing.