

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## Preaching the Word

Over the next three months, perhaps longer, the sermons on Sunday morning will take us through some basics of New Testament Christianity and foundations for our faith. It is always wise for a church to work through such things periodically. Having been here for a couple of months now I thought it best to cover these topics not knowing to what extent they have been covered previously. This is not to assume such has not been covered previously but in looking to the future we want to build on a solid foundation. A solid Biblical foundation is based upon sound doctrine which begins with the "first principles" found in the scriptures.

The topics we'll cover over the next few months are grouped into three broad categories. The first is the Bible itself. We have to love the word of God and use it to live for and do anything for Him. The second category is the Church. We'll look at what the church is, how God planned and purposed it, and its distinctive nature. The third category will be called "Christian Practice," and this is the broadest of the three. Under this umbrella we'll examine items such as Christian worship, Christian living, and Spiritual Disciplines.

It is my hope and prayer that such lessons will help "*equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up the body of Christ,*" as the apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:12. Every sermon really and truly should seek to do that, but over the next few months the aim is to teach and remind the church of the foundations for which the body of Christ is built upon and was built for.

**TJ Bolen**, Gospel preacher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 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: That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine ...” - Ephesians 4:11-14

## KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org) South Carolina 11/24/2013

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### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: TJ BOLEN—Your view on the Bible and its effect on you.

JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

PM: TJ BOLEN—Begin new series from 1 & 2 Thessalonians

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;  
for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave,  
whither thou goest.” - Ecclesiastes 9:10

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*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

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### 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

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Anna Porter, Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.**

- **Gwen Pittman** has severe back pain due to spinal cord damage. Surgery might help, but with age has other problems preventing it. Caretakers, provided by her sons are helping her daily. Call her, see what you can do, send her a note of encouragement as she has been so encouraging to all of us. Pray fervently for her recovery so she may soon be us again as she so wants to be.
- Little **Zoey Sailors is doing better** and was with the family here last Sunday..
- **Judy Walker was with us also**, though suffering from some bad disks causing her severe back pain, pray for her relief.
- **Anna Porter** wasn't able to get out to be with us last week as she had hoped. Pray for her to recover her strength for she so wants to be with us.

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses,  
the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

- 2 Timothy 2:2

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

- **YOUNG ADULT** class Sundays, 10am in the upstairs classroom.
- Check bulletin board for those to whom it would be **especially** good to **send cards!**
- Get your **Bible questions answered** Saturdays at 3pm at the building.
- Sermons are available on CD and soon **DVD!** See **Jones Gamble** or **Ken Parks**.
- **Bible Bowl** Feb 22, 2014—Book is 2 Samuel, the New King James version.

“God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us;”

- Psalm 67:1

## **KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013**

### ***YOUR VIEW ON THE BIBLE AND ITS EFFECT ON YOU—TJ BOLEN SERMON OUTLINE***

#### **How do you view the Bible?**

1. It was given to the world unlike any other book.
  - a. 2 Timothy 3:16
  - b. 2 Peter 3:20-21
2. Do you understand what God expects the Bible to accomplish?
  - a. John 14:26, 16:13 leads to Jesus' prayer in 17:20
  - b. Ephesians 3:3-5

#### **How do you let the Bible affect you?**

1. Receive the word? 1 Thessalonians 2:13
2. Examine the word? Acts 17:10-12
3. Obey the word. Matthew 28:19-20

**All things considered; do you treat the Bible like it's from God or some where else?**

## **FORMING THE HEART**

Cut a tree and take it to the saw mill. The log is crooked with a limb here and a knot there. The saw squares the log and makes it straight as an arrow, but the **heart** of the tree is still crooked. **Judas** was like that. He **outwardly** conformed, but inwardly, his heart was still crooked (Matthew 26:14-16).

Many think if we **do** good things, we'll **become** good—our heart will become good. Some ask themselves: **WWJD**—What Would Jesus **Do**. And they're plumb **wrong!** If that were all it took, the **Pharisees** would have been **good** and **pleasing** in God's sight. But, they **weren't**, as Jesus told us in **Matthew 23:28**: ***“Even so you also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”***

Jesus told them to cleanse first the inside **so** the outside might be clean! **That** is the way it's done. But, we can't work directly on our hearts (Jeremiah 17:9,10). Instead we form our hearts by changing our **minds** as the Lord told us in **Romans 12:2**: ***“But be ye transformed by the renewing of your MIND”***

We need to empty our **minds** of thoughts of self and replace them with thoughts of God that we get **from His word**—the Bible. This is how God works on us—through His word. This takes time. We must work at it **every** day, purging ourselves of self and **reading** from God's word. Our Lord told us to do this **very thing** in **Luke 9:23**: ***“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”***

Jesus meant it! He took up his cross to **die!** So must **we** - daily! Die to self so we can **live** for God, feeding on His word so we might grow (1 Peter 2:2).

To form our hearts, it must be clear in our minds that we've been **bought!** ***“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”*** - 2 Corinthians. **5:15** By the grace of God we can be redeemed **if** we **do** His will. We can belong to God and gain victory over death. It's so easy to find rest:

***“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”—Matthew 11:29***

***“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”*** Matthew 5:6

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

***“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”*** - Jeremiah 17:9-10

**Go to God's word, to see as He sees.**