



WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

God’s Plan For Spiritual Learning

God’s prophet Jeremiah wrote the following inspired words over 2000 years ago:

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.” - Jeremiah 6:16

There many great spiritual lessons we can derive from this one verse, but in this short article, let’s consider the following thoughts regarding God’s plan for spiritual learning:

“Stand in the ways and see” — If we want to learn anything, we have to go where the information is — to “stand in the way” where that knowledge travels. For example, if we were interested in improving our math skills, we wouldn’t sign up for an English class. We would need to enroll in a math class, because that is the “way” in which math knowledge would be distributed.

Once in the right “way,” we need the ability to “see” — to open our eyes to the instruction being given. If we wanted to learn more about math, just being in a math class would give us very little math instruction unless we opened the textbook, studied the lessons, and did the homework exercises.

“Ask for the old paths” — Adequate learning is facilitated by our willingness to receive instruction from someone who has been studying the subject longer than we have. An individual might be able to teach themselves mathematics, but they would gain that knowledge more rapidly by studying with a knowledgeable math teacher. Fortunately, mathematicians have been kicking numbers around for thousands of years, so everything we would ever want to know about math is already out there in “the old paths” of math instruction — we just need to ask someone to point us in the right direction.

“Where the good way is” — Here’s where matters can get complicated. If we want to learn math, even enrolling in a math class, studying diligently, and making use of the available instruction isn’t enough. Unfortunately, there are good math teachers and poor math teachers. If we were tutored by a math teacher who didn’t know any more about math than their students, we would find ourselves no better off than when we started, or worse, hopelessly confused. We need to seek out a good math teacher, one who really knows his or her subject — one who understands the subject material backward and forward, and will teach us “the good way” as it pertains to mathematics. *(Continued on Page 3)*

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 25 June 22, 2014

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J BOLEN—

PM: T J BOLEN—

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning that we, through patience and comfort of the scriptures, might have hope.” - Romans 15:4

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The Bulletin
(USPS-994-500)
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

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EVANGELIST

T.J. Bolen
(803) 807-2754
Email: TeJayBolen@gmail.com

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: *Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Judy Walker, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- Sister **Anna Porter** was not able to have the procedure to shock her heart back into rhythm done last week, her condition was not right. The doctors will wait two months, one last time, for Anna's condition to improve so she might have the procedure. Anna is greatly disappointed and still very weak. Pray for her.
- **Harvey** and **Gail Allen** request prayers for their daughter, **Erin Baughcome** who is to have some tests run.
- **Margaret Herring** is having severe foot problems and is in much pain.
- The mailing address for **Hannibal Davis** is posted in the foyer. He is at Marine Corps recruit training in Parris Island. Encourage and help him by sending a card.
- Remember these in your prayers, and also: **Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Stephanie Rigney, Floyd Richbourg** and **Carolyn Stidham** as they continue on the road to recovery from various ills.
- Remember to pray for and send cards to those we've not seen for awhile.
- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**

“Brethren, pray for us” - 1 Thessalonians 5:25

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**
- We need **volunteers** to take the DVD and the Lord's supper to our shut-ins.

"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

Is your heart like Paul's, whose heart was like Christ's?

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. ... For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. ... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” - Romans 10:1-14

People believe in God, but they have not obeyed the Gospel, because they have not heard the whole counsel of God preached. They will hear it here! Tell them of it! Invite people to attend or join us on a Saturday afternoon Bible study. Follow up with them, to see they come **hear—that they might be saved!** Remember ...

“... know ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” - Luke 2:49

God's Plan For Spiritual Learning—(Continued from Page 1)

“And walk in it” — Our long-term success in any study of math, depends upon our putting into action what we learn. Many of us have taken algebra or geometry in high school, but can we solve an algebra or geometry problem today? Most of us don't have the ability to do so, because we haven't used any higher math in our everyday vocation. We didn't “walk in it,” so all of our learning received years ago has little or no practical value for us at all.

What is true of mathematics, is even more true of spiritual truth. If we want to know more about God and His word, we have to “stand in the way” where the knowledge of God and His will exists, and “see” what is there to be discovered. We can't make it up as we go along (even though some very “*religious*” folks try). Rather, we must be willing to “ask for the old paths” and be instructed as to what God reveals to us in His word (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We must make certain we are taught in “the good way,” and the only way to do that is by comparing what we are taught by the holy Scriptures (Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1).

“You will find rest for your souls” — As we learn from God's written Word, we must be willing to implement the spiritual wisdom we learn, and diligently “walk in it” (cf. Luke 11:28; James 1:22). Only when we make daily personal application of God's plan for spiritual learning, will we truly find rest for our souls: **“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.” - (Matthew 11:29).**

- Mike Riley, teacher, Montana St. Church of Christ, El Paso, Texas

Who haven't you seen lately? Our Lord gave us many examples of a good heart. One was in **praying** for others. Jesus prayed for the disciples many times. He also prayed for us—you and me! **“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word” - John 17:20**
Can we do any less, and still call him Lord? Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ, that all will come to that perfect man the Lord wants—as He prayed for:

“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. and all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” - John 17:8-17