



WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

WHY DO YOU TROUBLE HER?

Have you ever done something good and had others laugh or mock or criticize you for it? How did you feel about it? Did it make you want to do more? No, something like that tends to discourage us from doing more. That's too bad because that's **exactly** what Satan wants.

In the Bible (**Mark 14:3-6**) is the account of a woman that gave a tremendous gift to our Lord Jesus by anointing him with very precious ointment. (If a man worked a whole day for a penny back then, then 300 pennies worth of ointment would be worth at least a year's salary, very conservatively at least \$10,000.)

The Lord was pleased, but others criticized her and said "What a waste, this could have been sold and given to the poor". How do you think this woman might have felt at this. How would **you** have felt if you had just given \$10,000 to someone and were criticized for it?

This was a woman of great faith and understanding because she realized that Jesus was to die, something the other disciples hadn't quite grasped yet. Jesus spoke up for this woman, to encourage her (and us), saying, "Why do you trouble her?". He said that this thing she had done was a **good work**. One that would be remembered wherever the gospel was preached. And we know of it today. What a memorial, one that will never fade because she didn't let men trouble her.

The point is—we can have the same! **If** we don't let ourselves get discouraged in our good works and, in thinking of what others might say, not do them. Let's not consider the praise **or** the reproach of men. Instead, let's remember who our Master is, what He is like, and serve Him only:

"God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which you have shown toward his name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." - Heb. 6:10

Men may forget what we do. Men may misunderstand us. Men may criticize us for showing them up. But God knows our hearts and will **never** miss or forget what we do in His name. Let's take courage from this and not be afraid to do what we think is right and good. Don't let people trouble you—look to God for your reward.

Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **Guest speaker**

PM: **Guest speaker**

“And he said unto them,

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;” - Mark 16:15,16

DONE BOTH? - NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.

- The **Bolens** are traveling *Polishing the Pulpit* lectures. They expect to be back next Saturday. We're thankful to the North Columbia congregation for helping out with the preaching here in TJ's absence.
- **Jones Gamble** is traveling also, as is **Jan Kelleher** in Savannah for her book.
- **Anna Porter** is to have a heart treatment Sept 3 to bring her heart back into rhythm. Her condition before prevented this. The doctor says this will be the last attempt they'll be able to make. Join **Anna** in fervent prayer that she will be strong enough to have the treatment and much improve her condition.
- **Courtney Dunbaker** thankfully seems recovered from very painful kidney stones.
- Remember **Gwen Pittman** and send a card, **Dorothy Gray**, and **Margaret Gamble**, Jones' sister. Also, **Margaret Herring** is on new medication, **Hannibal Davis**, **Stephanie Rigney**, **Floyd Richbourg** and **Carolyn Stidham**.
- 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**.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." - Philippians 4:6

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **50th Anniversary Drop-in for Bill and Linda Young** at SAR Sat 8/30 2-4PM.
- **Gospel Meeting** St. Andrews Road 9/14-17, **Allen Webster** of Jacksonville AL.
- **South Eastern Children's Home** Change Cans, 7/13—9/21, pick one up.
- **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.

“Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life” - Romans 2:6,7

“And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.” - 1 Kings 18:21.

If you've made the choice to serve God—Good! Then watch out for this one:

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." - 2 Peter 2:20-22

Remember, we need to take up our cross **daily**—to die to self daily. It isn't done all at once, baptism is the beginning, not the end. Do something for God **each day**, otherwise we'll windup as He says.

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION (1)

We refer here to the fact that Truth (the Word of God, the Holy Bible, the Scriptures) is deed more strange than fiction. Truth is the Word of God as Jesus said: **“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” - John 17:17.**

Fiction in religion is fabricated by men, or man. Fiction in the realm of religion is a narrative or story or directions that men have compounded which cannot be read in God's Word. There is a great, very great deal of fiction in religious teachings.

There is no other way to account for the variety in so called Christianity other than to realize and know that there is a great deal of fiction taught as Christianity when actually it is not. Or to look at it another way – all the varieties of teachings in religion cannot possibly come from one and the same source - unless God is against Himself! Verily, He is not the author of confusion, but of peace.

Consider perhaps the greatest fiction in religion — it is telling people how to be saved, how to become a Christian, how to have their past sins forgiven.

Fiction says, “Simply trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior, and he saves you“. That is simply and only a pure piece of fiction. Why is it? Because it is not in God's Word. They who teach it can, at best, only claim that it is a conclusion drawn, they can never quote it from the Bible. Yet it is the most popular teaching. It may have “accept” instead of the word “trust” and may vary slightly from preacher to preacher, but only slightly.

On the other hand, what is the Truth (the Word of God, the gospel of Jesus) on that matter of being forgiven and becoming a Christian? Anyone who wants to preach the gospel of Jesus can quote the answer from The Word, such as 2 Thess. 1:8 where it is said that Jesus will come (and receive His own in the air, not on earth) “rendering vengeance on them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus.” Obeying the Gospel is quite a different statement from, “Just accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior“. Obey can be read from the book, and the actions necessary to obey the gospel can be read and quoted. But “just accept” cannot be read nor quoted.

Then truth, when presented by a gospel preacher is strange, very strange to all ears who have always heard, “just accept.“ Make the wise choice!

C.R. Franks, Gospel preacher, West Columbia church Bulletin, Jan 23, 1975.

“ ... when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”

- 1 Peter 3:20,21

DON'T BE SURPRISED! NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!