



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

That's a Know No

Matthew 22:28-32 records a parable often referred to as "The parable of the two sons." A father asked both of his sons to work in his vineyard. The first son said he would not go, but later changed his mind and went to work in the vineyard. The second son answered his father favorably but never went to the vineyard. While not the point of the parable I often wonder why the second son simply did not tell his father "No" when asked if he'd go work in the vineyard. While parables do not necessarily involve real people they do portray real circumstances from which Jesus would always teach a spiritual truth. Being asked to do something you're not willing to do is a very real possibility. Responding as the second son did is also realistic. His response was to give a false answer to avoid something he'd rather not do.

We people have a way of not answering questions correctly when being asked to do something we'd rather not do. Why not simply say "No"? More than likely it's because we know we shouldn't say "No." A request to do something undesirable is hardly a request to perform a task we are incapable of doing. So instead of being honest we may say yes at the moment, only to find an excuse later when it's time for the job or completely flake out altogether. An answer of "No" to the person asking the favor would certainly be disappointing, but at least it's not dishonest. If we will not do what is asked, we can at the least be truthful.

Why is it hard to give the honest answer in this case? Are we afraid of confrontation? Do we not want to hear the disappointed tone of voice or see the disappointed expression of the one who is asking for our help? Or is it because we truly know we should be willing to perform undesirable tasks, and if we hear ourselves say "No" out loud we'd have to confront ourselves? Undoubtedly you'll be asked to help at times when your schedule is full, and you really can't be there. Other times you may truly be asked to do something you're not ready to handle. In those cases you'll answer "No" and that will be proper. But when we know we are capable and give the false "Yes" or at best provide vague, non-committal answers; we all know better.

- **T.J. Bolen**, Gospel Preacher, West Columbia church of Christ SC

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

“... but let your yea be yea; and *your* nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation” James 5:12

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 44 November 2, 2014

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J Bolen— The Gospel from Exodus

PM: T J Bolen— With Unveiled Face, 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you;
but *that* ye be perfectly joined together
in the same mind and in the same judgment.” - 1 Corinthians 1:10

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

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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

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

Informal Bible Study
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your Bible questions
Saturdays 3 pm

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

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

- **Michelle Bolen** was acutely ill last Sunday evening, but is doing better.
- **Keith Carter's** sister has been very ill, but is doing better and is out of the hospital. **Keith** is greatly concerned. Remember them both in your prayers.
- **Margaret Herring's** brother, **Julious Guyton** of Florence SC is near death.
- **Trevia Parks** is better. **Anna Porter** is doing better also. But **Stephanie Rigney** wasn't well last Sunday, nor was **Gwen Pittman** who was hoping to be with us.
- Those traveling have made it back safely. **Remember to be thankful to God when our prayers are answered!**
- **Jones Gamble** requests prayers for **Lynn Cook**, wife of a co-worker.
- **Tommy White** has been having some difficulties. Remember also, **Stephanie Rigney, Gwen Pittman and Anna Porter** (send cards), **Dorothy Gray, Margaret Gamble** (Jones' sister), **Floyd Richbourg** and **Carolyn Stidham**.

**"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,
all ye that hope in the Lord." - Psalms 31:24**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday**, all are invited to stay and share a meal, men's meeting afterwards
- **BIBLE BOWL 2015**—BOOKS 1st and 2nd Corinthians (NKJV)—Sign up sheets in the foyer for youth and adult teams. We need people to write out practice questions
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

“Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bring forth more fruit.” - John 15:2

Sun AM Sermon—*The Gospel from Exodus*

Examining Old Testament scripture through the lens of New Testament knowledge can be enlightening Bible study. Looking at **Exodus 19:4-6** can show & remind the New Testament Christian of what it takes to obey the gospel, to stay in the gospel, and the fact that the gospel was God's goal all along.

1. First, understand the events of the immediate setting with which Exodus 19 deals.
2. Instructions given in that text parallel thoughts seen in the New Testament in which one comes to the gospel of Jesus.
3. In Exodus 19 God prepared Israel to receive the Law of Moses, which served as a foundation to usher in the gospel.

“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.” - Exodus 19:4-6

THE VALUE OF ENDURANCE

The conquest of nations, mountains, and other goals can be attributed to endurance regardless of external problems and difficulties. Jesus challenges us with these words found in **Matthew 10:22**, **"He that endures to the end shall be saved."**

To turn back because of problems would be cowardly and vain. To persevere regardless of the difficulty is the mark of courage and victory. To overcome obstacles is the background of heroic victory for athletes and explorers. Often success is a marathon and not a sprint is a message we all need to learn. Some one has well said, "A person lost in his work probably found his future!"

Christ warns us to put our hand to the plow and never look back (**Luke 9:62**). When the men sailing with Columbus as he explored the new world wanted to turn back home, Columbus gave a restless urgency to "sail on and on and on." Heaven is a far greater destination than America, and we dare not seek the comfort of temporary ease and lose the glory that awaits us on eternal shore

To overwhelm the toils and woes of this wicked world may be arduous and demanding but very much worth our diligent efforts. To surrender to Satan might be easy but never profitable. **"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life"** (Proverbs 4:23).

The great apostle Paul was in jeopardy every day because he faithfully walked with the Lord, but he knew if there were no difficulties there could be no triumphs! In **2 Timothy 4:7**, we thrill to his famous departing words, **"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."**

A wise statesman reminds us that the world is not interested in the storms you encountered but whether you brought in the ship. So many people spend their days talking about problems they encountered in life rather than how God blessed them with joy and peace and purpose day by day.

"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (**Romans 8:24-25**). The abundant life Christ provides gives us meaning and depth in our sojourn here below and urges us to press on to a far better place (John 10:10). **The value of endurance will mean heaven for us!**

- Johnny Ramsey, Gospel preacher, 1930—2006, Texas

“And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” - Hebrews 11:15,16

Are you enduring? ... NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!