



WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Christianity is not a Good Idea

I read this on Twitter, it was written by a preacher I know from Florida. He is correct. He is correct because Christianity is not an idea in the first place. An idea is a possible course of action with no guarantee it will work. Christianity is the only course of action to alleviate the consequences of sin and it is accompanied by an eternal guarantee. Additionally, Christianity is not an idea because it was not something thought up by people. It is the singular belief system (Ephesians 4:4-6) instituted by God Almighty to bring the message of salvation to the world.

Christianity must therefore be all consuming for us. It cannot be permitted to be a mere aspect or portion of our lives. People tend to compartmentalize life. We have work-life, social-life, home-life, etc... Christianity more often than not becomes one of those compartments. The compartments are not without importance, but your faith needs to be a foundation and not another container for life's clutter. Following Christ should: define your approach to your work-life, and fill your home. Just as Paul wrote in the well-known verse:

"I am crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." - Galatians 2:20

Christ was not part of Paul's life, Christ was Paul's life. There is to be no difference in our thinking about Christianity.

To label Christianity as a good idea is to grossly undervalue it. Perhaps calling Christianity "a good idea" is well intended, but it is mistaken. Christ has provided everything to us, let us never box up what He's given. We must see a life in Christ as more than an idea, we must see it as an existence.

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

“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

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 50 December 14, 2014

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen—Evangelism for Your Salvation

PM: T.J. Bolen—Living for Christ, 2 Corinthians 5: 11-15

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;” - 2 Timothy 2:24,25

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
COME SEE!

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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

EVANGELIST

T.J. Bolen
(803) 807-2754

Email: TcejayBolen@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: Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.

- **Jan Kelleher** rejoices that tests show pain she has been having is **not** related to cancer. **GOD IS GOOD!** Pray for **Tommy White** that he find a good place to live. **Dorothy Gray** requests prayers for **June Jeffcoat** who suffered great loss last year, has now lost a brother. **Pat Joyner** is happy tests on her knee show no degeneration in the last year. **Janet Boyd’s** daughter-in-law had surgery to remove a growth from her voice box, they’re awaiting biopsy results.
- Remember the **Joyners** on the loss of their son Steve, also **Margie DeYoung** who is slowly failing, **Anna Porter** and **Margaret Herring**, both suffering many ills, also **Gwen Pittman**, **Keith Carter** and sister, **Margaret Gamble (Jones’ sister)**, **Floyd Richbourg** with knee problems and **Frank Allen** who has been laid off work.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, let them know you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

“Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification.” - Romans 15:2

DON’T SLOW DOWN NOW!—NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

Sun AM Sermon— Evangelism for Your Salvation

Evangelism is often not understood as a command. Most understand it as important and necessary for the growth of the body of Christ; but is that the same as understanding it as a command?

- 1) Are our perceptions of how evangelism happens correct?
- 2) Do our perceptions match Jesus' actions?
- 3) The commands within the command of Matthew 28:18-20
- 4) Does the evangelism seem like an option for the Christian?

NEW SLOGAN FOR 2015?

Slogans aren’t the word of God; they can’t save us. However, they *can* serve to remind us and prod us, unconsciously, to observe important spiritual matters—**if** we’ll keep them in mind. Which is why we make them short and sweet. A slogan can be one way to remind us to mind our hearts from which the things of life issue:

“A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.” - Proverbs 16:9

“... for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” - Matthew 12:34

Living for Christ (front page article) should be in the forefront of our minds. Evangelism (Sunday sermon) is an important part of that. Do you have suggestions for a slogan to help us keep those in mind?

**AS A CHRISTIAN BE SEEN IN 2015
STRIVE TO GLEAN IN 2015**

I LOVE BURNT BISCUITS

Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then, and one night she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work.

Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides, a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each others faults - and choosing to celebrate each others differences - is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

"Don't put the key to your happiness in another person's pocket - keep it in your own." So please pass me a biscuit, and, yes, the burned one will do just fine.

—Author unknown

[Editor] I rarely publish unattributed articles in the bulletin. But this one struck a chord in me. My wife doesn’t burn the biscuits, but she does snore, a little. Being a 14 year cancer, severe chemo and radiation survivor, and caring very much for others, sleep often doesn’t come easy to her. I always think, and often tell her, “I love to hear you snore ... because then I know you are sleeping well, it’s comforting to me and never keeps me up.”

Burnt Biscuits illustrates agape—a self sacrificing love. A love that we give to others; that we **must** give to others, else we’re just tinkling cymbals (**1 Cor 13:1**).

Read the following passages to build this thought, from the best writer of all—God.

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” - Philippians 2:1-5

“Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s *wealth*.” - 1 Corinthians 10:24

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” - Galatians 6:2