



WEST COLUMBIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## Without the Man there is No Plan

Scripture speaks of what we often refer to as "the plan of salvation." A passage such as 1 Peter 1:17-21 validates that idea. In this passage one clearly see's Jesus as the pinnacle of the plan to save us all from sin. But oddly and sadly enough Jesus is not given the honor He is due and worthy of receiving in regards to teaching the plan of salvation. The focus often centers on what His church is not supposed to be and not supposed to do instead of what Jesus died to make the church to be and commanded us to do. The idea of following Christ has given way to the repetition of the words "hear-believe-confess-repent-be baptized". Those words well summarize the process of obedience to Jesus but one can get so caught up in explaining the process the reason for it all doesn't get the glory He ought to get. We do not follow words, we follow Christ. The words of the Scriptures are invaluable, but if we look at them without considering Him we aren't using His Word as needed and/or intended.

As Jesus said in John 5:39-40 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life." We need the Bible to tell us of Christ, how to respond to Christ, how to live as one of His followers on earth so that we can live with Him forever in Heaven. But you see from John 5:39-40 it is entirely possible to be well-versed in the Bible and not well-versed in Christ. The apostle Paul similarly wrote in 2 Timothy 3:7 there are those who are "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Why so? A desire for knowledge, for being right, and for various other items is allowed to supersede a love for the Savior. We need to heed the message from Jesus to the church at Ephesus recorded in Revelation 2. In verses 2-3 Jesus praised them for some good works, labor, and patience, but then said this in verse 4, "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Christians aren't allowed to be people who leave our first love. If we love Christ properly we'll love, teach, and follow His plan properly accordingly.

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

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 5 February 1, 2015

### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen— Christianity Without

PM: T.J. Bolen— A Warrior's Mind, 2 Corinthians 10:1-6

### REAL EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE

“Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.” - 2 Corinthians 8:1

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

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*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.*

- **Anna Porter** is to come home Monday from Still Hopes
- **Tommy White** is staying with his sister **Gloria** while his trailer is refurbished.
- Prayers are requested for **Ronnie Baughcome**, who is beset with cancer and heart surgery. He is the father-in-law of Harvey and Gail's daughter Erin.
- Remember those listed above and: **Grant Parks** and family; **Floyd Richbourg** with knee problems.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

**"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." - Acts 14:22**

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

- Lots of stray dishes in the kitchen, please pickup any that are yours.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

**“But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” - Hebrews 3:5,6**

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

## **PSALM 1**

**1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**

**4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

## **Sun AM Sermon— *Christianity Without***

No matter what you tell yourself or believe, without the following you are not truly following Christ. If you're not following Christ you must reach the logical conclusion of what this means.

1. Belief Without Action, John 9:18-23; 12:42-43.
2. Love Without Deeds, 1 John 3:13-18.
3. Faith Without Works, James 2:14-26.

## **Satan Must Love Calvinism**

The doctrine of Calvinism is named after John Calvin, and its main points are Summarized by the acronym "TULIP" – Total hereditary depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, and Perseverance of the saints. Calvinists believe that every single event, whether it is good or bad, happens because God ordained it to happen. This doctrine is deadly, and it seems to permeate nearly every denomination in one form or another. I am sure that Satan must love Calvinism, because it confuses people about the nature of God, His Plan of salvation, and so many other critical spiritual issues. Please notice some specific reasons why I believe that Satan must love Calvinism:

- **Because it teaches that God causes people to be tempted, and makes them do evil things** – However, the Bible does not teach this! (James 1:13-16; 1 Peter 1:16, etc.).
- **Because it teaches that people are basically nothing more than robots, having no free will of their own** – The Bible does not teach this! (Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15; Acts 2:40, etc.).
- **Because it teaches that innocent newborn babies have souls blackened with sin** – The Bible does not teach this! (2 Samuel 12:23; Ezekiel 18:20; Matthew 18:3, 19:14, etc.).
- **Because it teaches that God will save certain people whom He chooses, without any conditions to be met on their part** – The Bible does not teach this! (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38, 40; 2 Corinthians 7:1; James 4:8; Jude 21, etc.).
- **Because it teaches that the Lord's invitation for salvation was only for individuals arbitrarily chosen by God to be saved** – The Bible does not teach this! (John 3:16; Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 22:17).
- **Because it teaches that Jesus only died for individuals who were fortunate enough to be predestined for salvation by God** – The Bible does not teach this! (John 3:16; Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:1, 2, etc.).
- **Because it teaches that God is a capricious respecter of persons when it comes to salvation, not desiring that all men be saved** – The Bible does not teach this! (John 3:16; Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; 1 Timothy 2:4; 1 Peter 1:17; 2 Peter 3:9, etc.).
- **Because it teaches that if God chooses one for salvation, God cannot be resisted** – The Bible does not teach this! (Luke 7:30; John 12:42, 43; Acts 7:51, 13:46, etc.).
- **Because it attempts to denigrate the power of the Word and the need for spreading the Gospel** – Why labor to spread the Gospel when God will supposedly draw men to Him by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit? The Bible does not teach this! (John 6:45; Mark 16:15, 16; Matthew 28:19, 20; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; Romans 1:16, 10:17, etc.).
- **Because it leads "the elect" to believe that there is no need for them to study the Word of God** – The Bible does not teach this! (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16, 17, etc.).
- **Because it teaches that once a person is saved, there is no possibility of falling from grace** – The Bible does not teach this! (Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 3:6, 4:11, 6:4-6, 10:25-31, 10:35-39, 12:15, 12:25; 2 Peter 2:20-22; etc.).

- **Jason Hilburn**, Minister, Luverne Church of Christ, Alabama