



WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

WOULD YOU DIE...FOR CHOCOLATE PIE?

I “love” chocolate cake (not “pie” as the title suggests, since “die” rhymes with “pie” and not “cake” -- but I digress). I always have. I also love God. I “love” them both. What’s the problem? Well, *I* know there’s a difference in loving food, and loving God, so the problem is not my *heart*. The problem is my *language*. The word “love” in our language has basically been diluted, to the point that it has almost totally lost its original meaning. What other conclusion can you come to when one word can, to most people, encompass both food, and deity?

Obviously when I say “I love God,” I *mean* something different than when I say “I love cake.” The word is the same, but the meaning is clearly different, when you look at the context.

In the Greek language (commonly recognized as the language of the first century) when Christ asked Peter if he loved Him (John 21), he wasn’t asking if he loved Him the same way he loved his favorite food. He wasn’t asking if he loved Him the same way he loved his favorite pair of sandals. He was asking if he loved (“agapa” = in the original language) Him so much that he would *die* for Him. Peter wouldn’t die for his favorite pair of sandals. I wouldn’t die for chocolate cake (or “pie” if you’re in a rhyming mood). And yet I say I “love” it?

It seems as though the word “love” has been used so flippantly, that its original meaning is hard to be discerned. A man may tell his significant other that he loves her, having just known her for a couple of weeks. Would he die for her? I think not. Eventually they may get married, and raise a family. Would he die for them then? Yes he would. Because now he truly “loves” them. The word has meaning to him now. Recall what Paul said about the sacrifice of Christ: **“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8).**

Christ died because He “loved” us. Would Christ have died for His favorite food (He was human, I’m sure He had a favorite food)? No. Would He have even said He “loved” his favorite food. Probably not. Consider what Paul said concerning the Christian’s love for Christ: **“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long...” (Romans 8:36).** Would a Christian die for Christ? Yes. Why? Because he **loves** Christ. Would he die for...chocolate pie? No. Now tell me why... Let’s make sure, then, that we’re careful about the words we use.

- Matthew Martin, Assistant Minister, Forest Hill church of Christ, Memphis, Tenn.

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 13 March 27, 2015

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Robert Kimberly

PM: T.J. Bolen—Why the armor of God is necessary, Eph 6:10-13

JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
COME SEE!

“For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth;
and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” - Matthew 7:8

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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

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SERVICES

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Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
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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.

- **Stephanie Rigney** is awaiting results of a PET scan. **Ken Parks** is travelling on business. Remember these and: **Margaret Herring, Anna Porter; Gwen Pittman; the Brisbons in NY ; Grant Parks** and family; **Debbie Sheppard; Nikki Willis; Eileen Lester;** and **Floyd Richbourg.**
- 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)**

"For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard." - Psalms 22:24

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Robert Kimberly**, director of South Eastern Children’s Home will be speaking today.
- Next weeks First Sunday luncheon is **moved back** to the 2nd Sunday.
- **How We Got the Bible** class continues each Tuesday at 7pm.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

"Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness." - Romans 4:3

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- **Margaret Herring** lost her brother **Julius Guyton**, who had been gravely ill for quite awhile.
- **Donald Prunty** passed away in Florida after a long illness also.

“But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in thy hand:” - Psalm 31:14,15

Saul Of Tarsus Obeyed The Gospel

Saul was a great man among the Jews. He was strong in his belief and fought for it. He had letters of authority to go to Damascus and bring Christians there back to Jerusalem (Acts 9).

He was on his way to Damascus when a great light shone about him. It was so bright it caused him to be blinded and he fell to the ground and said, **"Who art thou, Lord?"** The Lord answered, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."

There must have been great fear in his words when Saul asked, **"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6).** He was told to go on to Damascus, where it would be told him what he *must* do. Notice this: When Saul finds what to do, it will be what he *must* do.

He is led by the hand until he comes to Damascus, where he is praying when Ananias comes in (Acts 9:10-17). But Ananias did not tell him to, "Pray on," as some preachers would have told him if it had been in this age of the world. Instead, he told him to, **"Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).**

Now, who would be so ignorant as to claim that Paul was saved by baptism alone? **"Arise and be baptized"** is what he *must* do, for that was what Ananias told him to do, as Jesus had said on the road.

The One Body

"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (1 Tim. 2:5-6). Christ is the *only* mediator between God and men, and we cannot be saved except through him. Those who reject Christ will be left out.

Not only is there one God and one mediator between God and men, but there is one body (Eph. 4:4). **"But now are they many members, yet but one body." (1 Cor. 12:20).** That one body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Christ is the head of the church, as the man is the head of his wife. **"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." (Eph. 5:23).** That church is the one body, which is made up of Christians.

There are not two bodies — a kingdom and a church — for the church is the kingdom of Christ. This harmonizes with the statement that there is one body. Then there is *"but one body"*, whether it be called "church" or "kingdom." Christ is the head of the church, or He is the King of the kingdom.

- **E.M. Borden**, Gospel preacher, late 1800’s– early 1900’, in Texas

The Same Way Now

Since the church of Christ is still in existence, should I be considered out of order when I contend that people enter the church now just as the people in the first century? **"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).**

Peter preached the word, the people heard, believed, and repented, and the preachers baptized those who demanded it, but Christ accepted their obedience and received them into the church. **"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).** Are people added to the same church in the same way now? The answer is, "Yes," for the Bible has not changed, and neither has Jesus Christ. Will you obey the Lord as they did on Pentecost and be added to His church by Him?

- **E.M. Borden**, Gospel preacher, late 1800’s– early 1900’, in Texas

Godly Living — A Dire Need

Am I guilty of willful neglect? Am I too weak to do what I know is right? Do I blame others for my mistakes? Have I resolved in my heart that I will do my duty regardless of what others do or think? Have I made a good impression on my neighbor by my faithfulness to the Lord and His church?

Do you realize the influence of a godly life? The influence of gospel preaching is doubled by "practicing what we preach." Let us **"walk in the light as he is in the light"** and have fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7). **"I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils" (1 Cor. 10:20).** **"What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?" (2 Cor. 6:14).** Truth and error will not mix.

If Naomi had been weak like some of the people in our day, she would never have converted her daughters-in-law to the truth, or to the true God (Ruth 1). She would never have converted them by partaking of their evil religion. If a thing is not right, **"Touch not, taste not, handle not" (Col. 2:21).** The doctrines and commandments of men are condemned by the Lord (Matt. 15:9).

- **E.M. Borden**, Gospel preacher, late 1800’s– early 1900’, in Texas