

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 30 July 26, 2015

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen—Effects of Sin

PM: T.J. Bolen—Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
COME SEE!

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet,
because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward
each other aboundeth;” - 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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

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EVANGELIST

T.J. Bolen

Informal Bible Study
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Bring your Bible questions
Saturdays 3 pm

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

Can't Plead Ignorance

As a sophomore in high school, I had a football coach who was what most people would describe as a good person. Our fathers had worked together years ago so our families had a connection. My dad had known this coach since the coach's childhood. I did not meet the coach until high school. He had a vested interest in seeing that I stayed out of trouble. Not because I was any good at football, but because of the friendship our families already had.

I began hanging around an individual whom my coach and family friend did not care for. This friend and I were walking around the school building one morning before classes began and we went down one of the main hallways in the athletic area. Unbeknownst to me that area was off limits prior to the start of the school day. However, my friend was aware of this limitation as this same coach had previously run him out of there. The coach spotted us, and after his reprimand I informed him I did not know the area was off limits. Being unaware certainly helped my case but he still told me very sincerely, “I expect you to know better.” I'm not sure how he expected me to know better since there was never any sort of public proclamation of this rule by the school. I saw no point in pushing the issue; even though I was unaware of the rule I understood my coach had my best interest at heart. Furthermore, even though it was done in ignorance there was genuine disappointment in my coach that I broke a rule.

Leviticus 5:17 reads, “Now if a person sins and does any of the things which the LORD has commanded not to be done, though he was unaware, still he is guilty and shall bear his punishment.” Being forgetful can indeed lead to failure. A major difference between my school and God is that God has ensured humanity has access to His standards, He has proclaimed it. Ignorance will not be an excuse before God, and God has our best interest at heart all the time; more so than any person ever could. “I didn't know” will help us from time to time on earth, it will not help you when your time is up.

- T.J. Bolen, Gospel preacher, West Columbia South Carolina

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; ... and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:” - 2 Peter 1:5-10

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

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

- **Margaret Herring** has started radiation treatments and continue chemotherapy.
- Remember: **Janet Boyd** tending her mother, **Eileen Lester**; **Gwen Pittman** not feeling well but is in her old room **104** and **Anna Porter** who is very weak.
- The **Gambles** request prayer for **Grady Windham**, their neighbor, who had a stroke last Saturday.
- The **Parks** request prayers for the **Silber** family. Their son is in ICU and can't recognize family members, though he knows their names. They're not sure why.
- **Pray for these**, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

**“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this;
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” - Galatians 5:14**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday Luncheon** next week, Men's meeting following.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**
- The **BULLETIN** format has changed a little to conform to postal regulations for mailing. We had to add sealing tabs on the ends. They're a nuisance, but required.

"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" - Colossians 1:10

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- We all rejoiced Sunday, when **Cindy Ballard, Michelle's** mom, was baptized into Christ.

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents.” - Luke 15:10

When Ye Pray

We are praying the wrong kind of prayers when we endeavour to reverse the proper relationship between God and man. Properly speaking, God is the Creator, man is the creature. If this is true, as we glibly assert, then our prayers should respect and exemplify that relationship.

But how often are we found praying as if God lives to provide us with what we want; so that, instead of seeking divine guidance, our obvious efforts are to obtain divine reinforcements. Prayers which are "thing-centered" or "self-centered," rather than "God-centered" are wrong kinds of prayers.

- Leslie G. Thomas 1895-1988 Gospel preacher

The New Testament — Our Guide

When the church was established and began to work, Paul wrote 14 letters to churches and preachers telling them how to live. James wrote one letter, Peter two, John three, and Jude one. These are all letters of church discipline and government, telling church members how to live.

The last book in the New Testament was written by John. The Revelation not only tells of the past and the present in the first century, but crosses the river of death and tells us of the future home God has prepared for those who love Him and do His commandments. He tells us that on the other side of the river of death there is no night, but one eternal day; no sickness, sorrow, pain, or death. The river of life and the tree of life are found there. So the New Testament — properly divided, read, understood, and obeyed — is a safe guide to lead us into the city whose Builder and Maker is God.

In summary, there are 27 books in the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell me what I must believe in order to be saved. Acts of Apostles tells me what I must do to be saved. The 21 letters of Christian instruction that follow tell me how I must live and work after I am saved in order to finally reach the heavenly home we read about in the last book of the Bible.

My brethren are often condemned for preaching so much in Acts of Apostles, but this will be our leading book as long as we teach salvation to a dying world, for this is where we find the plan of salvation first taught by the apostles after they had Holy Ghost baptism which qualified them to preach the gospel to all the world. As long as we teach the same things the apostles taught them to do, we are sure we are teaching the word of God, and we are also sure we will be rewarded at the last day for so doing. So, let all be satisfied with the simple word of God, to teach and fight it out along that line, knowing that if we do this, heaven will be our home.

- J. D. Tant, 1861—1941 Gospel preacher

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” - John 17:17

“Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.” - Psalm 73:24

Faith Alone Is Not Belief In God

"He that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life" (John 3:36 ASV). This truth is seen when **"Jehovah said unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed not in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel" (Num. 20:12 ASV).** They had not the "conviction" to do just what God said do. God said unto them, **"...speak ye unto the rock before their eyes" (Num. 20:8 ASV).** But they **"smote the rock" (Num. 20:11).** Hence God says, **"Ye believed not in me" (Num. 20:12 ASV).**

What is it to "believe in" God? It is to do trustingly and lovingly just what He says. This "faith alone" system is the popular doctrine in pulpits and on rostrums of the modern pastor and money-loving evangelist. There is nothing that they put over with a show that is more deceiving and soul-blighting.

- A. G. Freed, 1863—1931 Gospel preacher