

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen— Contacting the Blood of Christ

PM: T.J. Bolen—A Balanced Life, Ecclesiastes 7:15-22

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

Would God call you a Christian?

“And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.” - Acts 11:26

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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

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

Bible Classes for all ages

Nursery provided
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Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Participation Trophies

I heard something great on sports talk radio the other day. I tuned into a local show discussion on the merit or lack thereof, for giving out participation trophies in kids sports. A man who had two grown daughters, both accomplished athletes having played at the college level, called the show. This particular man was of the opinion participation trophies are a negative addition to sports, especially if you believe life lessons can be taught through competitive activities. He said he taught his daughters to do everything with maximum effort. If they were going to throw a “temper-tantrum” then it might as well be the best they can produce. They needed to be down on the floor kicking and yelling. Doing this with maximum effort did not eliminate any discipline but at least his daughters were learning the lesson their father wanted them to learn. He saw participation trophies as rewarding kids for simply showing up, a prize for those who are willing to consistently give less than their best.

What you and I may think of participation trophies may not be relevant, but what we think of maximum effort absolutely is relevant. Solomon wrote in **Ecclesiastes 9:10** “**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.**” Very similarly Paul wrote in **Ephesians 3:23-24** “**Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord whom you serve.**” This does not mean a game of pick-up basketball is viewed as if it’s the NBA finals, but you still play your best since you bothered to be in the game.

Most people like the idea of being the best at whatever it is they do. No one wants a participation trophy for life’s efforts. Trophies don’t pay bills. If we know we cannot simply show up and be rewarded for what we need to accomplished in many venues, our employment and education to name a couple; how come it is so easy to make an exception for faithfulness? With the countless lessons in scripture which inform us of the necessary obedient and pleasing actions essential to living the Christian life it is insane that so many in the church treat Heaven as if it is some sort of participation trophy. Eternity with God is a reward, you cannot get there just by showing up.

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

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.

- **Merrie Christmus** - still having complications from shingles. **Steve Rigney's** step-mom **Fran Rigney** has had testing and is awaiting open heart surgery.
- **Pat Joyner** is awaiting MRI results for the cause of dizziness, though she continues to be faithful in attendance.
- **Margaret Herring** is in great pain but continuing radiation treatments and chemotherapy. **Jan Kelleher** and **Stephanie Rigney** continue chemo also.
- Remember: **Janet Boyd** tending her mother, **Eileen Lester**; **Gwen Pittman** feeling lonely in room **101** and **Anna Porter** who is very weak.
- **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)

"This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickend me" - Psalms 119:50

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Save the Date!**—Friday evening 9/11 DEVO at the Bolen home.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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. (Arvy Glenn) Freed**, 1863-1931, Gospel Preacher, educator

“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” - James 2:20

CHRISTIANS—THE SAVED—ARE IN THE CHURCH—(excerpted)

The blessings of salvation are found only in the church of Christ. Paul said "**all spiritual blessings**" are in Christ (**Eph. 1:3**) and then enumerated those blessings. Those in Christ are the "**chosen**" of God (**Eph. 1:4**), God's adopted children (**Eph. 1:5**), made acceptable to God (**Eph. 1:6**), redeemed by Christ's blood and forgiven of sins (**Eph. 1:7**) and heirs of heaven (**Eph. 1:11**). To be in Christ is to be in His body, the church (**Eph. 1:22-23**). One cannot be in Christ without being in His church, for the church is His fulness (**Eph. 1:23**) and no one is in Christ who has not repented and been baptized into Him (**Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**).

When the gospel was first preached on Pentecost (**Acts 2**), 3,000 souls obeyed the gospel by repenting and being baptized and the Scripture says they were added to the church (**Acts 2:41, 47**). Now, this question arises: "To which denomination were they added?" The answer? None! Were the apostles and others members of a denomination? Absolutely not! No such thing as a denomination among professing Christians then existed. Those 3,000 souls were added to the church of which you should be a member — the church which Christ, its Founder, will save (**Eph. 5:23**). Not a single one of them was added to any denomination. The church is the saved body of Christ and rejects denominationalism.

God Has Only One Family

Paul told Timothy, "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: but if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God" (1 Tim. 3:14-15). This passage identifies God's "**house**" as the church. As used in this context, the word "house" means "family." The church is God's family and that is its designation in **Ephesians 3:15**. God has only one family and to insist that God has children in all denominations is to accuse God of being an adulterer. There are no children of God outside of His family. Denominations do not comprise the family of God and are no part of it. The church of which you should be a member — the one you read about in the New Testament — rejects denominationalism because it blasphemes the name of God in its insistence that there are children of God in all denominational "families."

- **Jerry Brewer**, Gospel preacher, Elk City, Oklahoma

“... who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:” - Eph 1:3

“And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” - Ephesians 1:22,23

“... even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” - Eph 5:23

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have