

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 37 September 13, 2015

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen—“REMEMBER”

PM: T.J. Bolen—Ecclesiastes 8:1-9, The Word of the King

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

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” - Hebrews 11:6

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” - James 2:16

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

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

**BULLETIN EDITOR**  
Ed Kelleher  
Office Phone (803) 796-8858  
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

Email: TeeJayBolen@gmail.com

**EVANGELIST**  
T.J. Bolen  
(803) 807-2754

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

*Bible Classes for all ages*

*Nursery provided*

**SERVICES**  
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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

## No More Sins & Thanks for the Bacon

In the thirtieth verse of the first chapter of Genesis it can be read that God gave “every green plant for food” to man. If I had never read this in the Bible I’d be rather skeptical. Most vegetables taste like cardboard topped with the residue from packaging tape.

Now a food which taste fantastic, even if a little undercooked or slightly burnt is bacon. Animals are very instinctive for their survival. Like humans, animals must eat to live. When I have bacon the dog comes running into the kitchen. When I have vegetables the dog comes running into the kitchen but this only happens because he mistakenly confuses the noise made from handling the vegetable bag with that of the bacon package. Upon learning there is no bacon his interest in the food is instantly diminished.

I’ve often wondered how I would have fared living under the Law of Moses as pig was an unclean food. Perhaps that would have never been an issue, they did not eat pig, so they did not cook pig to see what they were missing. I more so wonder what my reaction would be if I were a Jew living during the days of Jesus when He declared all foods clean (Mark 7:19) and I was able to taste bacon for the first time. Really, it’s rather unimportant even though I’m very curious.

Something of immeasurably greater significance and value would be knowing the blessings of Jesus and the covenant He instituted. The results is my sins would be remembered no more (Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:12). This statement is often misunderstood. God is still fully aware of all our failures and foolish acts. To remember them no more means the constant reminders of sin seen through sacrificial offerings and the annual Day of Atonement were no longer necessary, nor would they be accepted by God (Heb. 10:1-18).

God “forgets” the sin of those who are obedient to Christ. Obedience to Christ, in very simple terms, means to make Him your Lord. Just as Paul wrote in the well known passage in Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ 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.” We live because of Christ, and He is to live in us. Enjoy your bacon, but enjoy forgiveness more.

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

## **“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.

- **Stepanie Rigney’s** dad, **William Schwegler** was to have triple bypass surgery.
- **Margaret Herring** is in great pain, continuing radiation treatments and chemotherapy and trouble upon trouble, has been diagnosed with another serious cancer. **Keep her in your prayers!**
- **Jan Kelleher** and **Stephanie Rigney** continue chemo also.
- Infant **Zakai Gray** is to have hernia surgery **9/16**.
- **Marshall Mancuso** is recovering slowly from oral surgery and awaiting results.
- **Amos Jones** brother, who has an inoperable brain cancer, has been moved to Columbia VA hospice care.
- Remember **Debbie Sightler**, **Vince** and **Helen Reusser’s** daughter.
- **Charlie Vaught** was to have major surgery Monday
- **Remember: Janet Boyd** tending her mother, **Eileen Lester**; **Gwen Pittman** feeling lonely in room **101** and **Anna Porter** who is very weak.
- Pray for those our **evangelist is studying with**, that they will receptive to the Gospel.
- **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)**

**“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” - 1 Peter 5:10**

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

- **Gospel Meeting, Windsor Lake Fri-Sat 7pm, Sunday, 10/9-10/11.**
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

**“Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.” - Psalms 97:10**

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

## **COMMUNICATING OUR LOVE**

**Do you love? Do you ...**

1. Suffer together (1 Corinthians 12:26)
2. Rejoice together (Romans 12:15)
3. Carry each others' burdens (Galatians 6:2)
4. Restore each other (Galatians 6:1)
5. Pray for one another (Romans 15:30)
6. Teach & admonish one another (Col 3:16)
7. Refresh one another (Romans 15:32)
8. Encourage each other (Acts 28:15)
9. Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)
10. Confess to one another (James 5:16)
11. Be truthful with each other (Eph 4:25)
12. Provoke to love&good works (Heb 10:24)
13. Give to each other (Philippians 4:14,15)
14. Comfort one another (1 Thess 4:18)

## **IS GOD’S LOVE ENOUGH?**

Solomon was a man that God loved. Did you know that Solomon even had another name; one specially given by God? It was **Jedidiah**, which means "Beloved of the Lord" (2 Samuel 12:24-25). But was that enough to keep Solomon secure? Was he free from care about his relationship with God? *"After all, God LOVES me!"*

No, it wasn't enough. We know that Solomon fell away from God, that God's love **wasn't** enough. Solomon needed to love God also. It was the love of other things which turned Solomon away from God. A wiser man there never was, nor a richer. Yet it wasn't enough.

**“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God” - 1 Kings 11:4**

The Jews were the same way. God loved them, they were His people. The Lord sent prophets to them, time and again, to warn them and bring them back. He sent JESUS to them. But it wasn't enough. They didn't love God in return. Listen to Jesus' lament, and the condemnation at the end:

**“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together; even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and YE WOULD NOT!” -Matthew 23:37**

God wanted them, but they didn't want God, not really—at least not on God's terms. They lost. So can we. Are we wiser than Solomon? Satan and his servants are constantly working to fool us with lies and misdirections. Remember Eve vs Satan in the garden? God told us how to know we love him:

**“If ye love me, keep my commandments. ... If a man love me, he will keep my words: ... He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:” - John 14:15,23,24**

God's love is enough, if we'll love Him. True love will show itself by obedience to His commands. What we feel isn't love if it doesn't compel us to obey. So, first and foremost, let's get our HEARTS right, loving God, wanting to please him, truly realizing His great love and desire for us to be with Him. The actions will follow. Like Jesus said:

**“ ... cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.” - Matthew 23:26**

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ

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

**“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”**

**- 2 Corinthians 5:14,15**