

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **T.J. Bolen— To a Mature Man**

PM: Assembly cancelled to attend Twin City church meeting

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

“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” - 1 John 3:3

Why?

“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.” - 2 Timothy 2:21

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM , 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
*Nursery provided
Bible Classes for all ages*

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays 3 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

EVANGELISM — THE LIFE-BLOOD OF THE CHURCH

Perhaps there is not a greater need in the church of our Lord today than the need for a greater emphasis upon evangelism. This need can best be realized when we understand that evangelism is in a very real sense the "life-blood" of the church, i.e., **it is the activity which causes the church to thrive and grow.** In the absence of evangelism there can be no church growth.

Evangelism is the work of converting souls to Christ. Jesus taught that it would be through the work of evangelism that His word would be spread. He said to His apostles, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," (Mark 16:15) and "Go ye therefore and teach all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). The fruits of evangelism are recorded in the book of Acts: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized...and believers were the more added to the Lord...the number of the disciples was multiplied...the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly..." (Acts 2:41; 5:14; 6:1,7).

Unfortunately, many seem to have the idea that evangelism is that work done by the preacher in the pulpit when the church is assembled. However, when we look to the pattern for church growth in the book of Acts, we find that evangelism was not limited to the worship assembly. The church met primarily for worship and edification and then scattered to do its evangelizing. They **“went everywhere preaching the word”** (Acts 8:4). They assembled for worship, instruction, and fellowship and then went out to teach and win souls to Christ. That pattern is evident throughout the book of Acts.

Those responsible for evangelizing are Christians. It is not the "preacher's work," or the "elder's work;" but rather, it is the work of each Christian. Each Christian should ask, "What am I doing to evangelize?" "Am I looking for and using opportunities to lead a soul to Christ?" If you believe that you are limited by a lack of ability, consider the following methods of evangelism: enrolling friends and relatives in a Bible Correspondence Course; talking to someone about Christ and His church; showing interest in another by sending them an article on a biblical topic such as baptism, salvation, etc.; inviting your neighbor, relative, friend, postman, pharmacist, etc. to worship with you; - **(Continued on page 3)**

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merri Chrismus, Dorothy Gray and family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Jan Kelleher** will be working in Hilton Head the next 2 weeks. **Merrie** will be going down for several days, then returning. Please remember then in your prayers.
- Prayers are requested for: **Mattie Charney, Paula Kennedy's** aunt (Garland's sister); The **Vaughts**, friends of **Tommy White; Jack Berrier**, in **LMC**, a neighbor to **Anna Porter** ; **Jeannie Caldwell** with cancer, a friend of **Keith Carter; Barbara Shives**, with cancer, a friend of the Gamble family; and **Mary Ann Mancuso, Marshall's** mom undergoing physical therapy at home.
- **Give thanks to God and pray for all these**, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia.

“Our soul waiteth for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.” - Psalm 33:20

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **NOTE!** Evening Assembly 1/31 **cancelled** so members can attend the **Twin City church Singing Sunday 2pm Jan 31 and Gospel Meeting, following.**
- **SAVE THE DATES!** 3/12/16 **Carolina Men's Fellowship;** and **Ladies Day 4/9/16 at Plaza church in Sumter.**
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It's a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.
- **Bible Bowl—Sign Up! Books are Daniel, Jonah, Ruth (correction)**
- **Men!** Check bulletin board for worship assignments—if you can't make it, find someone to fill in. We're counting on you. See box below.
- Please bring **Pantry items**, pop-top canned items are good.

“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!

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

- Brother **L.D. Fair** passed away in Tennessee, after a long illness. He had been an elder in the Lord's church there for many years and his son is an elder. The **Park's** family was close to him. Remember the families in your prayers.

“DON'T BE CUMBERED ABOUT ...”

“But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” - Luke 10:40-42

EVANGELISM—(Continued from Page 1) ... asking a friend if they would study the Bible with you; giving someone a tract; planting a thought in someone's mind which may blossom in time; doing a good deed for someone who is not a Christian (as their heart softens perhaps you can study the Bible with them or persuade them to come to worship with you); on and on we could go with examples of methods of personal evangelism.

Friend, if we wait for the lost to come to us or to the church building we are not likely to win anyone to Christ. Someone must show enough interest in a lost person to talk to him or her about their soul and that someone is the Christian. If we lift up our eyes and look around us we will see great numbers of people in need of salvation. Let us pray that our God will use us and grant unto us doors of opportunity to reach the lost. **Let us be busy sowing the seed of the kingdom and as we do so, God will give the increase** (1 Corinthians 3:6).

- **Jimmy Ferguson**, minister, Nettleton church of Christ, Jonesboro AR

**“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:
and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you
a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” - 1 Peter 3:15**

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

GOSSIP—SPEAKING THINGS YOU OUGHT NOT

In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Test of Three." "Three?" "That's right," Socrates continued "Before you talk to me about my student let's take a moment to test what you're going to say. The first test is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it." "All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second test, the test of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?"

"No, on the contrary..." "So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him even though you're not certain it's true?" The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued. "You may still pass though, because there is a third test - the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really." "Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good nor even Useful, why tell it to me at all?"

The man left, ashamed. [don't you be—on judgment day!]

**“And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house;
and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies,
speaking things which they ought not.” 1 Timothy 5:13**