

THE BULLETIN—VOL 42, NUMBER 27 August 14, 2016

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen—Do we have New Testament Worship?

PM: T.J. Bolen—Christ, who is our life. Colossians 3:4

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

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING FOR?

**“FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED,
IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD,
AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL”- MATTHEW 16:26**

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

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

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

EVANGELIST

T.J. Bolen
(803) 807-2754
Email: TeeJayBolen@Gmail.com

BULLETIN EDITOR

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



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

PATIENT CONTINUANCE

Have you ever had a long job in front of you? Like maybe 50 shirts to iron, or a couple of acres of grass to mow, or a mile or two of fence to paint? How did you go about getting it done? Did you just dig in and start doing what you could, and then suddenly find you were done? Or, did you fret and complain, "Oh, I'll NEVER get done ..." and spend time looking for the "easy way"? How long did it take in that case? Which situation would you rather be in? There's a lot to be said for just getting on with it, using the tools you have and letting the end take care of itself. In fact, the Lord said it:

"To them who by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:" - Romans 2:7

The Lord has promised us these good things in heaven with Him. He's given us everything we need to attain them, in His word, The Bible.

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,

through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:” 2 Peter 1:3

The Lord has given us the all tools we need and expects us to use them:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, THOROUGHLY FURNISHED UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS." - 2 Timothy 3:16,17

David found **grace** in God's sight by meditating on His word—so can we!

“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” - Psalm 119:103-105

God has told us that the scripture, His word, will furnish us to **all** good works. That's the "**well doing**" that will gain us eternal life. What else do you want? Don't slap God in the face, saying you don't believe Him by going elsewhere. Be content with what He has given us, His WORD. Read it, study it, meditate on it—every day ("**patient continuance**") in order to attain "**immortality, eternal life**".

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Betty Mathis, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- Please remember in prayer: **Jan Kelleher**, dealing with extensive cancer; **Anna Porter**; **Mattie Charney**, Paula Kennedy's aunt in Pennsylvania and her daughter staying with her who has 10 children besides..
- **Pray for all these**, those listed above and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." - 1 Peter 5:6,7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Come Fill Your Cup Virtual Retreat:** A full day of spiritual food for ladies on the book of Philippians. With **Michelle Bolen** and **Amy Strickland**.
Where: WCCOC Building, **Saturday, August 20th**
Time: 9 AM to 3 PM with a light Breakfast/coffee, sandwiches for lunch.
- **Meals for College Students**—To be provided in conjunction with class taught by Spencer Strickland, every Wednesday. Sign up sheet in foyer.
- **Church Family Pictures**—**Marshall Mancuso** will have his camera with him every Sunday. Be prepared and please see him to get your picture made.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them. *Why are there cards left?*
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- **Scrap Booking class**, at the building 4th Saturdays 12-3, see **Paula or Faye.**
- The Saturday **Bible studies** have resumed with Ed's return.
- **Men!** Check bulletin board for worship assignments—if you can't make it, find someone to fill in. We're counting on you.

"Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - Galatians 6:9

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP

“... was well adapted to churches founded on the **Jewish** pattern of things and practicing infant sprinkling. That all persons singing who have **no spiritual discernment**, taste or relish for spiritual meditation, consolations and sympathies of renewed hearts should call for such an aid is but natural. So to those who have **no real devotion and spirituality** in them, and whose animal nature flags under the opposition or the oppression of church service I think that instrumental music would... be an essential prerequisite to fire up their souls to even animal devotion. But I presume, that to **all spiritually-minded** Christians, such aid would be as a cow bell in a concert.” — **Alexander Campbell** (from Robert Richardson's biography, *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell*, Vol. 2., p366)

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

**“And take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: “ - Ephesians 6:17**

"In conversion and sanctification, the Holy Spirit operates on the hearts of men only through the word of God." A burr under the Calvinistic saddle, that truth can be unwittingly diluted by a misapplication of Ephesians 6:17. The argument is sometimes made that Holy Spirit wields the sword of the Spirit in conversion and sanctification, thus proving the Spirit's work through the medium of the word. That argument not only fails to prove the proposition, but actually concedes the Calvinist's position. In his 1938 debate with N. B. Hardeman, Ben M. Bogard made that very argument in his affirmation that the Spirit exerts a direct influence upon man.

"The Spirit works as if there were no word and the word is used as if there were no Spirit. Not separate and apart from each other but together, side by side on the same thing. The gospel is the sword of the Spirit and as the sword is distinct from the soldier and the soldier distinct from the sword, yet both soldier and sword work together to slay the enemy, even so the Spirit and the word work together to save the soul." (Ben M. Bogard, 2nd Affirmative, "The Work of The Holy Spirit, Hardeman-Bogard Debate, Gospel Advocate Co., Nashville, 1938, p. 31).

Those today who say the Holy Spirit wields the sword make the same fundamentally flawed argument. In the context of Ephesians 6:17, Paul delineates the defensive and offensive items of spiritual warfare to be utilized by the Christian soldier. The truth is girt about his loins, he wears the breastplate of righteousness, is shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, holds the shield of faith, wears the helmet of salvation and wields the sword of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit wears none of the armor, nor does He wield the sword.

"It is said that the Word is the sword that the Holy Spirit uses. Rather, the Word of God is the sword that the Holy Spirit forged for us to use. The Spirit does not wield the sword — we ourselves wield it, and if we do not wield it, then it will not be wielded. If the Holy Spirit performs some direct operation in wielding the sword, the action and method should be subject to definition and description, and demonstration...

As the smith forges instruments and weapons, the Holy Spirit by inspiration in the apostles of Christ forged the sword of the Word for us to wield." (Foy E. Wallace, Jr., *The Mission and Medium of The Holy Spirit*, Foy E. Wallace, Jr. Publications, 1967, p. 85).

If the Spirit wields the sword, advocates of the direct operation of the Holy Spirit are correct in their assertions and Bogard was right in his debate with Hardeman. But they argue from a faulty premise. The Holy Spirit does not wield the sword any more than God wears the "whole armor of God." (Ephesians 6:11). The "armor of God" is the armor God provides and the "sword of the Spirit" is the sword the Holy Spirit forged. If the "sword of the Spirit" means the Spirit wields and uses the sword, then the "armor of God" means God wears the armor as a defensive measure. If not, why not?

- Jerry C. Brewer, Gospel Preacher, publisher