

THE BULLETIN—VOL 43, NUMBER 5 January 29, 2017

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

Want to Friend Jesus?

**“Ye are my friends,
if ye do whatsoever I command you.” - John 15:14**

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!

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

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time position open

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

SIMPLY CHRISTIANS

Many people are growing disenchanted with present religious forms which originated in the middle ages and have become meaningless. There is displeasure with denominational structures and dogma. Some, because of such views, have even decided that "Christianity" is not relevant today. We believe they have made that decision because they are not sufficiently acquainted with the Scriptures to be able to distinguish between the gospel of Christ and what men over the centuries have attempted to add to it.

If some of these things have troubled you and you have felt a yearning to return to the simple, uncomplicated religion of Christ, stripping away all the nonessential elements of religion and simply abiding by the truths of Christ, truths which transform the soul and bind it to God, let us suggest that it can and has been done.

The Bible, God's word to man, presents Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He was foreshadowed and predicted in the Old Testament which God used to govern His people until Christ should come and establish the New Testament (Jer. 31:31-33; Gal. 3:19, 23-24). That New Testament reveals the religion of Christ. By studying it we learn all there is to know of the way of Christ.

We learn that among the followers of Christ there existed no denominational organizations whatever. All began at a later time. In the New Testament we see people hearing the gospel and obeying the conditions of God's grace. Being thus saved, they were added to the Lord's people, the church (Acts 2:36-47). As the gospel spread, we find them assembling together in congregations in various localities. Each congregation was under its own elders (Acts 14:23) and no one else on earth. These elders could not make laws and be masters. They were given the responsibility of tending and caring for the congregation as shepherds would a flock (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Pet. 5:1-3). The only headquarters those disciples knew was heaven, where their head, Jesus Christ, was and is (Eph. 1:22-23). — *(Continued on page 3)*

“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

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Richard Ramkinson, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Dorothy Gray** requests the prayers of the church that she be strengthened to deal well with the many needs of her family.
- **Jason Parks**, and **Trevia** aren't feeling well, **Connie** and **Floyd Richbourg** aren't either. They all have missed some assemblies, highly unusual for them!
- **Paula Kennedy** requests prayers for **Nick and Laurie Ruff**, friends of **Ann**, whose newborn son Declan has no apparent brain activity, but some in the brain stem. They face many difficult decisions. Pray God will remember them in mercy.
- **Carolina** and **Evie Strickland** continue to be bothered with coughing.
- **Tommy White's** leg has been bothering him, **Laurin** is still fighting migraines and more exams; **Marshall and Sharon Mancuso** and children have been fighting sore throats, with **Sharon** having added problem of pinched nerve in neck; Pat Joyner continues to suffer from vertigo; **Karen Harding** off hospice care, but is having blood clots; **Caleb Patrick** has a staph infection
- **Also Remember in prayer:** **Jordan's** grandfather; **Roslyn Evans, Dorothy's** sister in Texas doing well after surgery; **Laura Nichols** friend and co-worker **Tammy** with spread of cancer, not much time and not much hope, pray that she desire to hear the word of God and a door be opened to her heart; **Janice Shealy** who fell and broke her hip; **Ed Kelleher** with back pain; **Jan Kelleher** continuing very painful treatment for metastatic disease.
- Visit **Anna Porter** at National Health Care on US 378. **Pray for all these** and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

That ye might be ... Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness" - Colossians 1:10,11

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **GOSPEL MEETING/SINGING** Twin City church Batesburg Leesville: **Meeting** Sat 7pm Jan 28 and Sun 4:15 pm Jan 29, annual **Singing** Sunday at 2pm.
- **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.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- Invite people to come to the informal Q&A **Bible study**, Saturdays 3pm.

"What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." - Micah 6:8

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!
(Ephesians 4:1)

SIMPLY CHRISTIANS —(Continued from page 1)

Their worship was something in which to participate, not something to watch. On the first day of the week, for instance, they would eat the Lord's supper and hear preaching (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-29), they would all sing (Eph. 5:19), they would all pray with various ones leading (1 Cor. 14:15-16), and they would share in their mutual responsibilities by sharing their prosperity (1 Cor. 16:1-2). We find no contributions being collected on any other day than the first day of the week and no hierarchy taxing them or telling them how much to give. They had no organizations clamoring for their support. They gave as they individually purposed in their own hearts (2 Cor. 9:6-7). In all this they were all necessarily involved for each saved person was a priest (Rev. 1:5-6). No one could perform his service or worship for another.

They lived godly lives. They cared for their poor. They taught others. They sent out preachers to teach others in far communities. With simplicity of faith and fervor there was no need of centralization. Without organized machinery, the gospel was preached to the whole of civilization in a short time (Col. 1:23). These disciples of Christ were known as Christians (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16). They wore no sectarian names. Their religion was not materialistic or sensual. They did not seek to impress men with pious ceremony, rather, they sought to impress God with the only thing that has ever impressed Him — contrite obedience (2 Sam. 15:22). Their appeal was not social or recreational. They offered the gospel, for they knew it was God's power to save (Rom. 1:16), and any other appeal was beneath them.

Many sigh, "Oh, if only such could be today." But it is! Free men and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it neither necessity nor relevance but only a cause of division. They desire the simplicity of what Christ authored, and their number is increasing. How many have taken such a stand? Who knows! They are related and connected only in Christ and not in some organization with machinery to keep a tally. We will not try to number them. What is important, though, is that a group of such people meet within minutes of where you live.

They are just Christians. They worship and serve God in the same way the early disciples did. Christ is their only creed and the Scriptures their only guide. They are not members of any human organization, they are simply a congregation, or church, of Christ. They, in turn, would like to share Christ with you and with all the world.

You too can be just a Christian and serve God without belonging to any denomination, bound by denominational laws or obligations. If such freedom appeals to you, please contact us.

- **Gene Taylor**, Evangelist, Centerville Road Church of Christ in Tallahassee, FL

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” 1 Corinthians 1:10