

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BE PERFECT IN GOD'S SIGHT?

"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

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)

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

WELCOME THE WORD

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.." - James 1:21

It is one thing to hear the Word of God, it is something else to **welcome** it. There are two words in the New Testament translated *receive*. One is a word that means to reach out and take. But that is not the word James uses in James 1:21. The word that James uses is one that means to welcome as you would **welcome a friend**. You open your heart to the word as you would open your home to receive a friend. In this text James identifies three ways to receive the word.

First, you welcome the word with **repentance**: "Lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness." The word filthiness is a word, a medical term that means "wax in the ear." The Christian life is one of ongoing repentance. Remove the wax that keeps you from receiving the word — that's repentance. The "superfluity of naughtiness" means that which remains, the things that are left, the hangovers of the past. Remove the leftovers of the old ways, the old habits — the old sinful practices. The point James is making is you'll never be able to welcome the word until you remove the hangovers of the old life.

Second, you welcome the word with **readiness**: "Receive with meekness," i.e. a compliant, ready spirit. It means to be teachable, trainable. Meekness is power under control. When you hear the word of God do you try to figure out whether it is true or not? Whenever you think that the word of God cannot be true until you approve it, you will never receive it. Samuel welcomed the Word when he said, "Speak Lord for your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9, 10). The people on Pentecost "gladly received the word and were baptized" (Acts 2:41). The Bereans were called noble because "they received the Word with all readiness" (Acts 17:11).

James says that if we welcome the Word, we must receive it with repentance — be clean; and welcome it with readiness — be meek.

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Examine yourself, whether you are in the faith ... or not! (2 Cor 13:5)

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

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

- **Amy Strickland** is not feeling well. **Connie** is still not feeling well either
- **Stephanie** will have a PET scan and oncology appointment next week.
- **Gail Allen** had foot surgery. Stitches to be removed this week.
- **Mike Kennedy** will have another fistula procedure next week.
- **Jason** is traveling. **Ed** and **Jan Kelleher** will be out the next 2 Sundays, down at Hilton Head with their children and grandchildren.
- Also remember **Margaret Herring, Lauren** and **Adler** in your prayers.
- Continue to remember **Stephanie** in your prayers.
- **Jan Kelleher** continues to suffer debilitating side effects from chemotherapy. She also continues to be in pain from bone cancer, but so far she is coping well and it is not spreading. All thanks and glory to **God** that the cancer is still not spreading, **Pray for all these**, and our search for an **evangelist** to help us with the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him." - Psalm 27:1

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **ALL! Contact** those on the Directory list you've not seen recently (like last Sunday).
- **ALL! 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.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another:” - Hebrews 10:25

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)

“And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.” - 1 Kings 18:21.

If you've made the choice to serve God—Good! Then watch out for this one:

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." - 2 Peter 2:20-22

Remember, we need to take up our cross **daily**—to die to self daily. It isn't done all at once, baptism is the beginning, not the end. Do something for God **each day**, otherwise we'll wind up as He says.

GIFTS: OF GOD, OF CHRIST, OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God,” John 4:10
The gift of God is His grace that will save us—not God Himself.

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” - Eph 4:7 The gift of Christ is access to God's grace—not Christ himself.

“and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” - Acts 2:38 And in **exactly** the same way the gift of the Holy Spirit is the revelation of the Gospel, the Word of God, that will save us in the end—**not** the Holy Spirit himself. The original Greek language in all three cases is **identical**, and so is the meaning: the gift is **not** the giver.

- Foy E. Wallace, Jr. 1896-1979 Gospel preacher,

Adapted from— The Work, Mission and Medium of the Holy Spirit

GOOD TO MEMORIZE AND KEEP WITH YOU

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” - Psalm 100

WELCOME THE WORD (continued from front page)

Third, you welcome the Word with **responsiveness**. James speaks of one “Beholding his natural face in a mirror, then turns and goes his way and forgets what he saw.” (James 1:23,24) This is just a casual glance that brings no response, no change. The other man looks, keeps looking and responds. This man is blessed in his doing. His is a careful gaze, a steadfast, continual, intentional look. He responds! He searches! He applies it! When we respond to what we know, we will know more.

When you receive the Word with **repentance, readiness** and **responsiveness**, you have **welcomed** the Word as you would welcome a friend.

— **Clarence DeLoach**, minister Pond Church of Christ, Dickson, Tennessee

“If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture ... ye do well:” - James 2:8

“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God;” - Colossians 1:25