

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 22, June 10, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland

PM: Spencer Strickland

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

WHERE ARE YOU?

**"Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly,
than to divide the spoil with the proud." - Proverbs 16:19**

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

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
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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

FAITH IN CHRISTIANS, OR FAITH IN CHRIST?

Have you ever been disappointed by someone you admired? Have you ever had high expectations of someone, only to discover they had done something you would not have expected them to do? When this happens it can be very discouraging but we should be careful that we do not put our faith in people instead of God. When a Christian is the source of this disappointment, some would go so far as to turn their backs on God! Should our faith be in Christians, or in Christ? What if Peter and the rest of Jesus' disciples had decided to stop following the Lord because of the actions of Judas? What sense would that make? When one thinks rationally, it is difficult to imagine trying to justify the rejection of God (who is perfect) because of something done by a man (who is fallible); however, this is something that seems to take place often.

God has instructed us not to trust in men: **"Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD."** (Jeremiah 17:5). People are fallible, and everyone will make mistakes. All have sinned and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23), and even Christians striving their best to serve God will not live a life absolutely devoid of mistakes. In regards to Christians, John wrote, **"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."** (1 John 1:8-10).

Sometimes it may be easier for us to remember occasions when others have let us down than it is to remember the fact that we have probably let other people down as well. We should always strive to be the best we can be, but let us remember that we all make mistakes, and we should have forgiving hearts. Christ said, **"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."**

(Matthew 6:14, 15; cf. Ephesians 4:32).

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"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." - Ephesians 4:32

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.*

- **Pat** is still in pain. **Connie** goes back to doctor Friday. **Floyd** had a suspicious spot removed from his head. **Jason's** friend **Steve** is in ICU. **Jamie Sheppard** was out sick last week.
- **Judy's** sister Rose is not well. **Margaret Herring** is holding her own unsure when she will return home. **Tommy's** sister **Gloria** is to have hip surgery June 17th.
- Continue to pray for **Amy, Stephanie** and **Lauren**.
- **Jan Kelleher** fell down a flight of stairs at HHI. She broke her wrist and great toe. Her neck, shoulder and back are hurting. But she is able to remain on chemo for metastatic bone cancer for which she is thankful. Remember her in prayer.
- **Faye Parks** got a new job to start June 18th.
- We have had a well qualified **evangelist** apply to work with us here.

Pray for all these things, that we will , 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.

**“I will therefore that men pray every where,
lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.” - 1 Timothy 2:8**

“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.

**"Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ,
hath not God" (2 John 9 ASV).**

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

RULES

What would basketball or football games be with out rules? They'd be a mess. They might be fun to watch—if you didn't care who, if anybody, won.

Why then do people think religion, and the church Jesus bought with His blood is different, i.e., it doesn't need any rules—That anything is acceptable to God if we think it is “sincerely” good? Sure, it might be fun, but God has said what He thinks of it:

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matt 7:21-23

How do we know the “*will of my Father*” in order to do it? How do we not “*work iniquity*”, but do what is authorized? Use HIS rule book—the Bible. —**Ed Kelleher**

KEEP ASKING

When the Lord told Abraham He was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham asked the Lord if He would spare Sodom if there were 50 righteous people living there. The Lord said "No!" Then Abraham asked the same question of 45, 40, 30, 20 and finally 10. So Abraham made the same basic request 6 times (Gen. 23:33).

Now consider Lot, Abraham's nephew living in Sodom. Two angels came to Sodom in the evening while Lot was sitting at the gate. Lot bowed and invited them to spend the night in his home. They refused, saying they would spend the night in the square. So Lot urged them strongly, and they entered his house, Gen. 19:1-3.

Jesus taught that we should ASK, SEEK and KNOCK (Matt. 7:7-11). This suggests that we need to be persistent. It implies that God does not mind, and in fact prefers to hear our insistent plea. Now this is not senseless repetition condemned by Jesus in Matthew 6:7-8, but rather the attitude of heart that tells the Lord we are serious about our request. Abraham humbly and methodically increased the ante. Lot was at first turned down by the angels, and then they went with him - subsequently saving him.

So if you are serious about something it is ok to keep putting that request before the throne of God. Keep asking!

- **Rick Laing**, Gospel preacher Highland Village church of Christ, Austin Texas

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” - Matthew 7:7-11

FAITH IN CHRISTIANS, OR FAITH IN CHRIST? (Continued from Page 1)

We should be so thankful that we have someone eternally dependable who will never disappoint us – God! God does not make mistakes! We should be thankful that we have a perfect Savior who, even though He was tempted in all points like we are, committed no sin (Hebrews 4:15). We should be thankful that God, who is all-powerful and perfect, wants us to lean on Him, and depend on Him! Because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can now obey the Gospel, which is the power of God unto our salvation (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Thesalonians 1:8). Once we are in Christ, we can confidently approach the throne of God and bring our burdens to Him (Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 11:28-30). God is holy and faithful – therefore, may our trust be in Him!

“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.” - Psalm 118:8

- **Jason Hilburn**, Gospel preacher, Luverne Church of Christ, Alabama