

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 27, July 15, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

"HE THAT IS SLOW TO ANGER IS BETTER THAN THE MIGHTY" - PROVERBS 16:32

"OPEN REBUKE IS BETTER THAN SECRET LOVE" - PROVERBS 27:5

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

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER

Prayer is an expression of our gratitude: “**Rejoice evermore ... in everything give thanks**” (1 Thess 5:16-18) and also of our need: “**Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**” (Heb 4:16) The mercy and grace we must have can only come from God. Prayer helps us obtain them (Acts 8:22).

But more than that: Prayer is a demonstration and proof of our faith and trust in God. Prayer shows God we think of ourselves as His *children*. Prayer shows our submission and union to Him—that He indeed *is* our God and Father.

God tested Abraham’s faith (Genesis 22:2,12). Our faith also is tested every day. Do we pass the test? Do we go to God in prayer for what we need?

The message we send in our prayers isn’t as much the words as the fact that we’re *doing* it. Prayer is a demonstration that we know we can not do it alone; that we can not provide for ourselves! Solomon prayed “**I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.**” (1 Kings 3:7) and it *pleased* God (v10).

Prayer shows God we know we have a need that only He can provide and we trust Him to give us what we need, as His children. And when we go to God in prayer acknowledging this, as Solomon did, God will be pleased and give us much *more* than we ask as He did Solomon (1 Kings 3:10-13).

We must know that the only place we should go for what we need is to God. Read **Luke 11:5-9**. If we don’t go to God, if we don’t *importune* Him as the example here shows, then we’re saying we either don’t want it badly enough, or that we think we can get it elsewhere. Is *that* the message you want to send to God? ... that we don’t think his mercy and grace are important! If not—then PRAY! Be as Peter who cried in desperation to the Lord when asked if he would go elsewhere:

“Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)

By prayer we *show* and *prove* to our Heavenly Father our: **gratitude, humility, faith, trust, submission** and the fact that we are His children. Prayer is an *essential* demonstration of our faith in God – that we know there no other god but Him. God tested Abraham, let us not fail the test.

“Pray without ceasing.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

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

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 7/15/2018

“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.*

- **Continue to remember in prayer:**
- **Margaret Herring** is home but not feeling well.
- **Patricia Kelly, Evalina Lowe's** sister, passed away suddenly last Sunday.
- **Connie** is feeling a little better. **Adler** has an ear infection.
- **Mary Kennedy**, Paula's daughter, cut her finger with an electric hedge trimmer Tuesday night. Thankfully they determined she did not cut the bone.
- **Lauren Beard** will be going to Vanderbilt in September to hopefully get some medical answers.
- **Laura Nichols** will be traveling this weekend.
- **Paula and Katie** will be traveling for 10 days beginning Friday.
- **Jan Kelleher** is changing her diet in an effort to keep the cancer at bay. She has put some pantry items on the table in the fellowship hall for whoever can use them.
- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**
- Also for 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.

**"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;
Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;" - Psalms 103:2-4**

“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.

**"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living." - Psalm 27:13**

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

THE WORD OF GOD—ALL SUFFICIENT—ISAIAH 55:8-11

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

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