

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 45, December 2, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Wallace Beasley

PM: Harvey Allen

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

“And Samuel said,

**Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
and to hearken than the fat of rams.” - 1 Samuel 15:22**

**Do you study God’s Word to see what He has told you to do?
You can’t obey if you don’t know.**

Examine yourself! Are you in the faith, or not? (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

On Request
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

Obviously Against Jesus

"He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters" (Matthew 12:30). What does it mean to be "against Jesus"? In the setting recorded in Matthew 12 Jesus is dealing with rigid opposition. His enemies are attributing His miracles, specifically in this instance the casting out of demons, to Satan. The sin on the part of Jesus' detractors is readily identifiable. There are several ways in which one can think and live which are plainly against Jesus. A list such as the one presented in 1 Corinthians 9:9-10 contains a number of sins which the Christians in Corinth were formerly entangled in. Again, items on that list such as fornicators, homosexuals, drunkards, are easy to identify as ways to oppose Jesus.

However, anyone, any Christian can run the risk of standing in opposition to Jesus. No one is above temptation and sin. Anyone of us can decide at any time to deny the power of Jesus and engage in open sinful living. But that which is obvious and easy to identify as sin, usually does not entice us, at least not openly. We've all seen the consequences, perhaps even experienced the consequences of living a life which is readily identified as being "against Jesus".

Knowing this Satan will use other methods of entrapment. Deceitful stealth is a proven and preferred method of his. He will attack us with what is not so obvious. He'll provide paths of apathy and indifference for us to walk down. Matthew 22:1-14 records a parable in which many were invited to a wedding banquet but rejected the invitation. Matthew 22:5 reads as follows, "**But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business.**" If we aren't paying attention to Jesus we can't live up to His standards. If we aren't paying attention to Jesus we won't do the work of the church. If we avoid the "obvious sins" but at the same time aren't completely living and working for Jesus we may not *appear to be* or even *feel* as if we are in opposition to Him, but we are. Jesus requires obedience in every way, not just the "obvious avoidance of sin." Don't allow yourself to think you're pleasing the Lord just by avoiding certain sinful behaviors. Ensure you're living completely for Jesus. Pay attention to Jesus, live up to His standards, do His church's work; be with Him and not against Him.

- **T.J. Bolen**, Gospel Preacher, West Columbia church of Christ SC (2014)

Examine yourself! Whether you be in the faith (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.*

- Also remember in prayer: **Connie**, in pain with no apparent relief at this point, **Pat** also with no relief at this point; **Gail Allen** recovering from surgery; **Spencer** and **Amy** ask for prayers for **D.J.**; **Lauren’s** friend **Ashten** (13 years old) as she is to have stomach surgery and then possibly another eye surgery, Lauren’s grandmother, and **Lauren** also Remember **Janet** and her mother and **Linda Floyd** after a knee cap replacement.

"But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.
My times are in thy hand;" - Psalm 31:14

- Pray also that we **all** grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**
- Remember 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.

"Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." - Isaiah 1:17

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday Luncheon THIS SUNDAY!** All are invited to stay and share a meal with us. **Men’s meeting** following with discussion of preacher applicants.
- **Drop In! At the Gambles Friday 12/5/18.**
- **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, **be faithful** to use them.

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;” - 2 Corinthians 13:5

“... PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS.” - Titus 2:14

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, ... For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: ” - 1 Cor 12:12

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THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE?

When the question is asked, "What is the church?", many would respond by saying, "Which church are you talking about?" We realize there does exist hundreds of different religious groups in this world. Many of which claim to have some attachment to the church of the Bible. When we speak of the church, we have reference to the church that one can read about in the Bible.

BUILDER IS CHRIST: Christ is the builder of the church that you read about in the Bible. In **Matthew 16:18**, Christ declared, **“Upon this rock, I will build my church.”** The church belongs to Christ. He is the foundation upon which it is built (1 Corinthians 3:11). Dear reader, did Christ build the church of which you are a member? Is the church that you are a member of built by man or Christ? You need to be a member of the church built by Christ, His church.

BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH WAS IN JERUSALEM: The church that you read about in the Bible began in the city of Jerusalem, on the day of Pentecost following the ascension of our Lord. This was in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies (Isaiah 2:1-4; Daniel 2:44; Joel 2). These prophecies were fulfilled in Acts 2. Dear reader, did the church of which you are a member, have its beginning in Jerusalem as recorded in Acts 2? If **not**, then you are not a member of the church that you read about in the Bible.

BIBLE BASED: The church that you read about in the Bible is Bible based. The Word of God is the pattern that is to be followed in all things (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:21). Everything that the church does must be based upon what God has said in His Word. When it comes to the **(1) Way of salvation** (John 14:6; John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32-33; Mark 16:16); **(2) Worship** (John 4:24; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 5:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:2-4), **(3) Work of the church** (Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 6:2, 10; James 1:27; 2 Timothy 4:2-4), **(4) Way of life for the members of the church** (Titus 2:11-12; Galatians 5:19-23; 1 John 2:15-17; Colossians 3:1-3; Matthew 6:33), the Bible has the only answer and it must be followed completely. Dear reader, does the church of which you are a member have the Bible as its **only** guide and standard of authority? If **not**, then you are not a member of the church that you read about in the Bible.

BOUND FOR HEAVEN: The church that you read about in the Bible is the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:4), bride of Christ (Romans 7:1-4; Revelation 19:7-8), family of God (Galatians 3:26-28), kingdom (Colossians 1:13) and the saved (Acts 2:47). Dear reader, don't you want to be a member of the church that you can read about in the Bible, because it is Heaven-Bound (Ephesians 5:23-26; Matthew 7:21-23).

by **Jerry W. Joseph**, evangelist, Trenton church of Christ, Tennessee

“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