

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 47, December 16, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Wallace Beasley

PM: Harvey Allen

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

WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING?

**“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”**

- 1 Corinthians 15:58

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

Knowing Weakness is Essential to Possessing Strength

The life of Samson is recorded in Judges 13-16. Within these chapters the reader is taken rather swiftly between victory and tragedy. Has there ever been a man to possess greater physical strength than Samson? There is probably no way to definitively answer this question since the Bible does not answer this. It is a question that quickly comes to mind when reading of Samson. His strength was the key for his victories. But as with any person Samson possessed weaknesses which physical strength could not defeat.

Prior to his birth Samson's mother was instructed: "no razor shall come upon his head" (13:5). Samson was chosen by God and to be a deliverer of Israel from Philistine oppression. Samson never let a "razor come upon his head," this obedience allowed him to be used by God for great things. Before a victorious display of strength the Bible tells us "The Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily" (14:6, 19; 15:14). However, Samson loved a Philistine woman named Delilah. Delilah's allegiance never wavered to her countrymen. She was eventually able to lure out of Samson what allowed him to possess his superhuman strength. Upon learning this Delilah lulled Samson to sleep, as he slept his hair was cut. As a result "...the Lord departed from him" (16:20). Without the Lord, Samson was rendered as any other man. The Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes.

While a prisoner of the Philistines Samson was brought before them to entertain them (16:25) in a temple where they offered sacrifices to their god Dagon. Samson appealed to the Lord one final time in order to destroy the Philistines. Samson's life would end in victorious tragedy. The Lord granted his appeal. Samson was able to destroy the Philistine temple. All who were in it, Samson included, perished.

It's easy to forget how weak we are sometimes. What are your weaknesses? Think of specifics, we all have them. What can you do about them? Paul was told by the Lord "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). Jesus can make you spiritually strong; weaknesses - physical or spiritual - notwithstanding. It didn't have to end this way for Samson, he lost sight of a weakness. If you want to build spiritual strength, first, find out where you are weak.

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

Examine yourself! Whether you be in the faith (2 Cor 13:5)

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“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.*

- **Paula Kennedy** continues to have great difficulty with shingles and much pain. **Pat** continues to have spells of great dizziness preventing her attending our assembly. **Marshall Turbyfill** is going through severe family difficulties also.
- Also remember in prayer: **Connie**, in pain with no apparent relief at this point; **Amy Strickland**; Lauren's grandmother, and **Lauren** also .

"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.

"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! 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.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." - Philippians 1:6

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- **Janet Boyd's mother, Ellene Lester** passed away quietly at Janet's home last week. **Janet, Debbie** and families will be in Missouri for services. Keep them in your prayers.

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

When Ye Pray

We are praying the wrong kind of prayers when we endeavour to reverse the proper relationship between God and man. Properly speaking, God is the Creator, man is the creature. If this is true, as we glibly assert, then our prayers should respect and exemplify that relationship.

But how often are we found praying as if God lives to provide us with what we want; so that, instead of seeking divine guidance, our obvious efforts are to obtain divine reinforcements. Prayers which are "thing-centered" or "self-centered," rather than "God-centered" are wrong kinds of prayers.

- **Leslie G. Thomas** 1895-1988 Gospel preacher

SHOW GOD YOU'RE THANKFUL

How do you **thank** someone? You might shake their hand, or give them a kiss and tell them so, or you might write them a note. But the best way is to **show** them you're thankful for what you've received is to treasure and **use** it. God hasn't neglected instructing us in this regard either. In **1 Peter 1:3** God said He would give us **“all things that pertain unto life and godliness”**. One way He has done so is in giving us a way we can **show** Him we are thankful for the great gift of life, hope and peace He has given us through His Son:

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” - 1 Peter 4:8-10

The gifts (manifold grace) we have received He wants us to give to others. Good stewards **MINISTER!** He doesn't want us to lock up and guard what we've received like the one talent man. Instead He wants us to minister, give what we've received to others. This is the **right** way to show God you're thankful.

“freely ye have received, freely give” - Matthew 10:8

God gave us His word, to **keep** us from sin, so we might live and be with Him. Show Him you're thankful—**STUDY IT!** Be ready to speak to others of it (1 Peter 3:15). The below little snippet tells us **what** we should do (walk, even as He walked) and a good reason **why** (he is the propitiation, our satisfaction to God).

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” - 1 John 2:1-6

And if we aren't thankful for this, if we don't value it enough to share?

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” - Romans 1:21

But, if we are thankful (and give evidence of it, as with our faith) we will have peace:
“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” - Colossians 3:15

Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ