

THE BULLETIN—VOL 46, NUMBER 6, February 9, 2020

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ethan Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

HOW RIGHT ARE YOU?

**“But seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his RIGHTEOUSNESS;
and all these things shall be added unto you.” - Matthew 6:33**

"But it is good to be zealous always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18

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

Any Time On Request
Everyone Welcome!

Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time man wanted

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

THANKFULNESS

How do you **thank** someone? You might shake their hand, or give them a kiss and tell them so, or you might even write them a note. But the best way is to show them by valuing and using what you’ve received. Jesus gave the principle here:

**“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue;
but in deed and in truth.” - 1 John 3:18**

Have you thought of how we show our “thanks” to God? God hasn’t left us guessing here. In 2 Peter 1:3 God said He would give us “**all things that pertain unto life and godliness**”. One thing is: He has given us a way we can **show** Him we are thankful for the 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—as richly and as full of grace, as God has given to us. As good stewards; He doesn’t want us to lock up and hoard what we’ve received. He wants us to minister (give, dispense) the same to others. So, show Him you’re thankful! He expects it:

“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—So **STUDY IT!** Use it, show Him you appreciate it as the gift of God. The following portion of God’s Word tells us **what** we should do (walk, even as He walked) and a good reason **why** (he is the propitiation, offering, that can remove our sin).

“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

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ

"But it is good to be zealous always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Chrismus, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Barbara and Melvin Reeder, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Margaret Herring** is not doing at all well, remember her.
- **Stephanie** goes back to the doctor in Augusta on Tuesday.
- **Judy** had a shot in her knee which is helping.
- **Pat Joyner's** dizziness continues, keeping her from getting out.
- **Barbara Reeder** has started dialysis and was with us last Sunday.
- Give thanks to God for His mercy, and pray for all these, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia that we will grow in love for Him and each other.

**"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,
all ye that hope in the Lord." - Psalms 31:24**

Justification By Faith Includes Baptism

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were swallowed up" (Heb. 11:29 ASV). The Israelites crossed the Red Sea "by faith," but they were not on the other side the moment they believed. They spent a night of anxious toil and great fear before they could sing the song of deliverance on the other side. Here the phrase "by faith" spans the Red Sea, and includes every step they took in crossing.

By some it is thought that because Paul says we are "justified by faith" (Rom. 5:1) that baptism is excluded. But the phrase "by faith," instead of excluding the acts of faith, which, in reality, make faith perfect, actually includes obedience. And it can be plainly shown that "by faith" in this case includes baptism. Paul says, **"For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea"** (1 Corinthians 10:1-2 ASV).

They crossed the Red Sea "by faith," and in crossing they were baptized. "By faith" includes what was done in crossing. But in crossing they were baptized. Therefore, "by faith," in this example includes baptism.

- **C. R. Nichol**, 1876-1961, Gospel Preacher

**Abraham believed God—and Obeyed! Noah believed God— and Obeyed!
Want to be like them in God's sight? Have you—Obeyed?**

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." - James 2:17,18

Truth and Controversy

It is a recognized fact among those who seek to follow God that truth is absolute and attainable. We do not deny this. While some would have us believe that truth is subjective and elusive, the words of Jesus that **"ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"** serve as our compass in these matters. In addition to truth being absolute, it is also dogmatic to the core. Two plus two equals four - there is no room for error. Sincerity of heart or honesty of motive does not annul this fact. Truth is also narrow. A college teacher writes the problem on the board. Twelve divided by two equals six. There is absolutely no room for deviation. The answer is NOT seven, nor is it five. But society does not argue, nor do they accuse the mathematician of being unloving, unkind, or bigoted.

Now we move to the "truth" that makes men free. It is not mathematical truth, nor is it scientific truth, but that which is revealed from God Almighty through holy men **"moved by the Holy Spirit"** (2 Peter 1:21). This truth is dogmatic to the core. It will not co-exist with error, nor can it. By its very nature it is narrow in its application. But unlike the mathematical truth that two plus two equals four, or twelve divided by two equals six, this "truth" of which we speak has eternal consequences. But how do men react when faced with this truth? Sincerity is placed above simplicity, and feelings take precedence over fact. Men become angry at the truth because it restricts their freedom to act and behave in their own chosen way. Rather than simply accept the truth and obey it, they argue with the facts presented, become agitated at the one speaking the truth, and close their ears and heart, as if their rejection of the same will annul their responsibility toward those things spoken.

Since the truth and only the truth will set me free, it would seem that all men, everywhere, would have such a disposition as to receive the truth at all costs. May we be like the Bereans who were more **"noble than those in Thessalonica in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so"** (Acts 17:11).

- **Tom Wacaster**, Gospel preacher, missionary, church of Christ

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” - John 17:17

HE TOLD US TO BE CAREFUL!

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” - Jude 1:3,4

"But it is good to be zealous always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18