

THE BULLETIN—VOL 48, NUMBER 13 March 27, 2022

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Daryl Macon
PM: no assembly scheduled

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

HOW DO YOU KNOW GOD LOVES YOU?

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” - Romans 5:8

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

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**JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
COME SEE!**

SERVICES
Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM Assembly
Nursery room provided

INFORMAL BIBLE
STUDY
Anytime! Contact: us
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible
questions

EVANGELIST
Other than the members
none at present time
Full time position open



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

WHAT CAN I DO?

Have you ever felt left out? That you weren't important; not worth much if anything; that you couldn't make some great contribution? Maybe you've felt that way in the church: "Oh, I wish I could speak like that man..." or "Oh, I wish I could quote scripture like so and so ..." or "Oh, I wish I was a leader in the church like what's his name ...". Have you ever felt like that? **WELL DON'T!!!**

It is the **Lord** we want to be pleased with us; not other people. If the Lord is pleased with us, we ought to be pleased also. If He is pleased with us, what then does it matter what other people think of us? And the other way around too. If the Lord is **not** pleased with us, we better not be pleased with ourselves. If He is not happy with us, it doesn't matter how popular or respected we are in the world or even in the church.

Let's all aim to please the Lord. **We can!** He tells us how in his Word. The things He delights in are things that each and every one of us, without exception, can (and must!) possess:

"Thus saith the Lord,

**Let NOT the wise man glory in his WISDOM,
NEITHER let the mighty man glory in his MIGHT,
Let NOT the rich man glory in his RICHES:**

**But let him that glorieth glory in this,
That he UNDERSTANDETH and KNOWETH me,
That I am the Lord, which exercise
LOVINGKINDNESS, JUDGEMENT, and RIGHTEOUSNESS,
in the earth:**

For in THESE things I DELIGHT, saith the Lord." - Jeremiah 9:23,24

Young or old, rich or poor, great or small, man or woman, let's **all** strive and hunger for knowledge and understanding of God and His ways—the spiritual ways of Mercy, Love, Judgment and Righteousness. Study God's word—the Bible.

“for if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 2 Peter 1:8

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

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

"PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER" - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Barbara and Melvin Reeder, Merrie Christmus, Margaret Herring, Jan Kelleher, Jamie Sheppard

Brother Sheppard is not feeling well, we miss him. **Connie Richbourg** requests prayers for her sister and 3 friends who are ill.

Daryl Macon is doing much better, for which we are thankful, but continue to remember him in your prayers.

We are thankful for the continued good health of **Dennis and Beth Johnson** and the encouraging preaching of **Dennis** and **Daryl**. Thank them, and God.

Jan Kelleher is feeling better, in a different part of her chemo cycle. She and **Merrie** spent the week at HHI for **Merrie's** 84th birthday. We thank God for his continued mercy.

Pray for all these, 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.

O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." - Matthew 26:39

"AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY" - Acts 2:42

• **MEETING:** If you are able to make it, we are meeting at the building each Sunday for 10am Bible Class and 11am for assembly.

• Please send bulletin news to:

Dawn Gamble <dawngamble@gmail.com>

Paula Kennedy <kennedypaulam@gmail.com>

• **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, be sure to use them!

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." - 1 Corinthians 12:18.

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

Note: Concerning Chocolate Pie and Christ, one is physical, the other spiritual.

WE MUST KNOW GOD'S WAYS AND WANT TO DO THEM!

How important are the thoughts of our hearts as compared to our actions—what we do? Look what the Lord said was the Israelites' problem:

"Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways." - Psalms 95:10

Is your heart different from God's? If so you are erring? Check, before it's too late!

WOULD YOU DIE...FOR CHOCOLATE PIE?

I "love" chocolate cake (not "pie" as the title suggests, since "die" rhymes with "pie" and not "cake" -- but I digress). I always have. I also love God. I "love" them both. What's the problem? Well, I know there's a difference in loving food, and loving God, so the problem is not my *heart*. The problem is my *language*. The word "love" in our language has basically been diluted, to the point that it has almost totally lost its original meaning. What other conclusion can you come to when one word can, to most people, encompass both food, and deity?

Obviously when I say "I love God," I *mean* something different than when I say "I love cake." The word is the same, but the meaning is clearly different, when you look at the context.

In the Greek language (commonly recognized as the language of the first century) when Christ asked Peter if he loved Him (John 21), he wasn't asking if he loved Him the same way he loved his favorite food. He wasn't asking if he loved Him the same way he loved his favorite pair of sandals. He was asking if he loved Him ("agapa" = in the original language) Him so much that he would *die* for Him. Peter wouldn't die for his favorite pair of sandals. I wouldn't die for chocolate cake (or "pie" if you're in a rhyming mood). And yet I say I "love" it?

It seems as though the word "love" has been used so flippantly, that its original meaning is hard to be discerned. A man may tell his significant other that he loves her, having just known her for a couple of weeks. Would he die for her? I think not. Eventually they may get married, and raise a family. Would he die for them then? Yes he would. Because now he truly "loves" them. The word has meaning to him now. Recall what Paul said about the sacrifice of Christ: **"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8).**

Christ died because He "loved" us. Would Christ have died for His favorite food (He was human, I'm sure He had a favorite food)? No. Would He have even said He "loved" his favorite food. Probably not. Consider what Paul said concerning the Christian's love for Christ: **"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long..." (Romans 8:36).** Would a Christian die for Christ? Yes. Why? Because he **loves** Christ. Would he die for...chocolate pie? No. Now tell me why... Let's make sure, then, that we're careful about the words we use.

- **Matthew Martin**, Assistant Minister, Forest Hill church of Christ, Memphis, Tenn.

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

- Matthew 16:24,25

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