

THE BULLETIN—VOL 48, NUMBER 16 April 17, 2022

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Dennis Johnson

PM: no assembly scheduled

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

**ARE YOU FAITHFUL ... IN GOD'S SIGHT?**

**"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."**

**- 1 Peter 1:8,9**

**How will you know if you aren't ...**

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

## FIGHT OR FLEE?

When the Israelites came to the Jordan River, the Lord told them to go into the land of Canaan and **fight**. The people said no, they wanted to **flee**. The Lord was angry and told them they would wander in the desert for forty years until they died. Upon hearing that, the people changed their minds and said they would **fight**, but it wasn't what the **Lord** wanted at that point. It was too late. They did go into the land of Canaan, but they were slaughtered and driven out. You can read of this in Numbers 14.

When **we** have a decision to make, do we think of what God wants first? Or, do we think of what we want, and *then* try and fit the Lord into it somehow? If the latter, we're bound to failure and frustration. We all must choose whether we'll follow God or not. But if we choose God—to **win**, we must do so with **all** our heart!

The Lord has given **us** commands just as he did the people of Israel. And like them, if we **ignore** His commands, we'll be beaten. We have an enemy and a battle to fight, and as they; with God—we will **win**! Without God—we will **lose**!

Fight or Flee? We can't do what we want, we must do what God wants us to do, **when** He wants us to do it—not later. Don't let the things of this world keep **you** from the things God wants you to do—right now: to be faithful in attendance, liberal in your giving, participating in the evangelistic and other works of the church, to be at Sunday morning and mid-week bible study, to be diligent in reading your Bible daily. Do not attempt to fight God or flee from Him, instead **embrace** Him and His church. **Fight** what God has said to fight. **Flee** from what God has said to flee. Do it now—you might not get a second chance!

**"But they that WILL be rich fall into temptations and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

**But thou, O man of God, FLEE these things; and FOLLOW after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. FIGHT the good fight of FAITH, lay hold on eternal life" – 1 Timothy 6:9-12**

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

## "PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER" - James 5:16

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

- Remember **Judy Cornelius** and her son **Robert** in your prayers
- 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.

**"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;" - Romans 12:10**

## "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, please be sure to use them!

**"Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."- James 5:20**

## **ARE YOU LISTENING?**

Here's a verse that ought to get our attention:

**"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: - John 15:2**

God, being spirit, wants (and requires!) **spiritual** fruit from us. Fruit that will make us more **pleasing** in **His** sight and **valuable** to Him and **worth** keeping. When we, as branches in Christ, have and abound in the spiritual qualities of: Mercy, faith, faithfulness, love, patience, meekness, hope, zeal, joy etc. God will be pleased because these are the things He **wants** from **us**. Here's what you should do:

1. First, you must **want** to bear good fruit (Proverbs 16:9)
2. Get your **heart** (the soil) ready (2 Peter 1:5-8)
3. Plant the right **seed** (Luke 8:11, Colossians 1:5,6)
4. Water and **nurture** the seed and the soil (1 Corinthians 3:6, 1 Peter 2:2)
5. **Recognize** good fruit, reject the poorer (Colossians 1:10, Titus 3:14)
6. Remember, the fruit is for **God**, we're just the servants (John 15:8)

**"Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." - Luke 12:43**

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

## **WORK IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

Haven't you heard the old adage, "Work is good for you!"? We have tried to instill this into our children and we have tried to set the example for them. Of course, there are those who could not tell you much about work because they have never really become acquainted with it. Others, no doubt, would argue that work is not good for you and they try to stay far away from it. Generally speaking, people live longer who have worked diligently all their lives. Work also prevents one from becoming lazy (in mind and body). Work gives one an incentive to live from day to day. Statistics indicate that the mortality rate increases following retirement. This certainly does not mean that one should never retire from employment. But it does indicate that one should have regular activities in which to engage even after retirement.

But consider also that if you are a Christian, work in the church is good for you (spiritually). Perhaps you are familiar with the term "benchwarmer." This usually refers to those who attend worship services but that is all they do. This individual is usually content with doing nothing. If there is work to be done (visitation, Bible studies, extending invitations, etc.) someone else will have to do it. He may try to fall back on excuses such as, "I work long hours;" "I'm tired at the end of the day;" "I'm not very good at that;" or he may simply say, "I know I need to be more involved," but that is about as far as he gets.

If the term, "benchwarmer," describes someone reading this article, may I ask you something? How can you possibly be satisfied with yourself? Do you not feel that there is something missing in your life? If you talk to a diligent worker in the church, they will probably tell you how wonderful it is to know that you have brightened someone's day after visiting with them in the hospital; or how exhilarating it is to know that perhaps you have helped to lead a wayward brother or sister back to faithfulness or have helped to lead someone to the way of salvation.

Work not only benefits the church but it is good for the individual. We are instructed to **"be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)**. We are to be **"always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58)**. We have been **"created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10)**.

Work not only causes the church to grow (spiritually and numerically), but it strengthens the one working. It will cause you to grow spiritually. As you work in His vineyard, you will find that you are drawing closer to the Lord and your brethren. As if this is not enough, consider the fact that in the Judgment you will be judged by your works (Rev. 20:12). The "one talent man" in Matthew 25 was condemned as being a "wicked and slothful [lazy] servant" (Matt. 25:30).

If you are a "benchwarmer," or if you have become lax in your work in the church, dear brother/sister, you need to make a change for the sake of your soul! And I believe that I can guarantee that your life will change for the better

- **Jimmy Ferguson**, minister Nettleton church of Christ, Jonesboro AR

**"Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:" -**