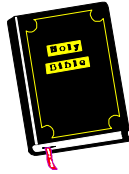


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## WHAT IS BIBLICAL FAITH?

“Without faith it is impossible to please God” - Hebrews 11:6. Since we must have faith to please God, we must know what faith is. Some in the religious world believe that faith and evidence, or faith and knowledge, are not compatible. That is, they believe that knowledge, or knowing, destroys the whole idea of faith. Faith to them is nothing more than a “leap in the dark,” a trust based not on evidence but on pure “hope” without proof. With that as the criteria, it could be observed that one could just as easily be a Buddhist or a Mormon, or any other type of religious category in life and be justified in so doing. But, Biblical faith is not held with a lack of evidence! It is precisely held because the evidence proves that it must be. Some might suggest that the very nature of “faith” necessarily involves doubt. Thomas Warren said of such an idea, “This claim, in the light of James 1:6, is indeed a strange one. James said, **‘But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubteth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed’**” (Warren, “Logic and the Bible,” p.118). We are commanded to walk by faith and the Bible does not teach that “faith is the acceptance of that for which one does not have adequate evidence” (Warren, 117).

The Bible teaches that faith is a law (Rom. 3:27), a system (Acts 6:7), and a choice (Acts 2). The Bible uses the word “faith” as a noun, never as a verb. What is Biblical faith? It is hearing and obeying God. Joseph Thayer in his Greek Lexicon says that “faith” is “trust...conjoined with obedience.” Hebrews chapter eleven fully demonstrates that faith is heading and obeying God.

Some suggest today that if a miracle were to really occur, witnessed by many people, it would be possible to bring many to Christ. However, even in the days of miracles (First century) people believed due to the testimony of others (John 4:39), due to the Old Testament writings of God (Luke 16:31), and due to that which was written by the Apostles (John 20:30- 31). Apart from miracles, we have all of these avenues available today, and God says it is enough to know the truth (John 8:31-32).— **(Continued on page 3)**

**IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012**

**THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 4 February 5, 2012**

**SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:**

**AM: HARVEY ALLEN**

**PM: HARVEY ALLEN**

**“I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,  
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,  
which is your reasonable service.” - Romans 12:1**

**IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012**

**JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!**

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

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### **SERVICES**

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study  
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly  
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study  
Office Phone (803) 794-5320  
*Nursery provided*  
*Bible Classes for all ages*

**LADIES CLASS**

To be announced

**EVANGELIST**

### **BULLETIN EDITOR**

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Margaret Herring, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.*
- **Lorraine Porter is doing better and hopes to be with us this week.**
- **Janet Boyd** grand daughter, **McKala** is better also and home from the hospital.
- Prayers are requested for **Dianne Barr**, wife of **Joseph** who is the minister at the Conway church of Christ. She has a cancer that is spreading rapidly.
- **Jones Gamble’s father** is holding his own, about the same, but Jone’s sister **Margaret** is doing well after a kidney transplant.
- **Margaret Herring** continues to suffer many health problems.
- Give thanks to God for His mercy, and pray for all these, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia.

**"There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee:  
neither is there any rock like our God." - 1 Samuel 2:2**

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **First Sunday luncheon, and men’s business meeting afterwards.**
- **Building Cleaning** signup for the New Year is posted in the Foyer.
- We appreciate brother **Jones Gamble** publishing a list each week of those we missed on Sunday. Give those folks a call, or send a card to see if their ok, and to encourage them and let them know we miss them.
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It’s a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong’s Concordances.

**“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” - 1 John 4:11**

**IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012**

## **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**

**“ ... and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;  
That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:” - Matthew 5:44,45**

## **WHAT IS BIBLICAL FAITH? — (Continued from page 1)**

Faith is not mysterious. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), for God chose preaching to save them that believe (1 Cor. 1:20-21). We are defended by faith (Eph. 6:16) and we can defend the faith (Jude 3). Biblical faith involves six facts that can be proven beyond any doubt: (1) God exists; (2) Man exists; (3) God can and has revealed Himself to man; (4) Man has the ability to respond to God; (5) The Word of God is God’s only revealed Word; (6) Evidence is necessary to have faith.

Faith can be misplaced, and misplaced faith will not save (Deu. 28:52; Luke 18:9). The only faith that will benefit us is faith that is “in Christ” (Gal. 3:26; Eph. 1:3).

There is no shame in wanting evidence for what one believes. Jesus never rebuked Thomas for wanting to put his hand on Jesus’ nail pierced body before he would believe. Thomas merely wanted as much evidence as was possible. When Thomas saw and accepted the evidence he said, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28). Jesus said, “Because thou hast seen me thou has believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed (John 20:29). Though some had not seen, they did have evidence-from the testimony of others, from the Old Testament, from the disciples, from the empty tomb, and from the many eyewitnesses. Today, the evidence which we must acknowledge is the Word of God, and when we accept the evidence therein, we will be able to walk by faith (evidence) even though we cannot see (physically those events that are recorded) (2 Cor. 5:7; John 20:30-31).

**- Mike Dugger, minister Nettleton church of Christ, Jonesboro, AR**

**“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.  
For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”  
- Galatians 3:26,27**

**It’s up to you!**

**IN THE BIBLE I’LL DELVE IN 2012**

**“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:  
for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”  
- Revelation 3:8**