



WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER

Prayer is an expression of our gratitude: *“Rejoice evermore ... in everything give thanks” (1 Thess 5:16-18)* and also of our need: *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:16)* The mercy and grace we must have can only come from God. Prayer helps us obtain them (Acts 8:22).

But more than that: Prayer is a demonstration and proof of our faith and trust in God. Prayer shows God we think of ourselves as His *children*. Prayer shows our submission and union to Him—that He indeed *is* our God and Father.

God tested Abraham’s faith (Genesis 22:2,12). Our faith also is tested every day. Do we pass the test? Do we go to God in prayer for what we need?

The message we send in our prayers isn’t as much the words as the fact that we’re doing it. Prayer is a demonstration that we know we can not do it alone; that we can not provide for ourselves! Solomon prayed *“I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.” (1 Kings 3:7)* and it pleased God (v10).

Prayer shows God we know we have a need that only He can provide and we trust Him to give us what we need, as His children. And when we go to God in prayer acknowledging this, as Solomon did, God will be pleased and give us much *more* than we ask as He did Solomon (1 Kings 3:10-13).

We must know that the only place we should go for what we need is to God. Read **Luke 11:5-9**. If we don’t go to God, if we don’t **importune** Him as the example here shows, then we’re saying we either don’t want it badly enough, or that we think we can get it elsewhere. Is *that* the message you want to send to God? ... that we don’t think his mercy and grace are important! If not—then PRAY! Be as Peter who cried in desperation to the Lord when asked if he would go elsewhere:

“Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)

By prayer we *show* and *prove* to our Heavenly Father our: **gratitude, humility, faith, trust, submission** and the fact that we are His children. Prayer is an essential demonstration of our faith in God – that we know there no other god but Him. God tested Abraham, let us not fail the test.

“Pray without ceasing.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

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

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 27 July 6,, 2014

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: TJ BOLEN—Implications of The Cross

PM: TJ BOLEN—Satan

"HE THAT IS SLOW TO ANGER IS BETTER THAN THE MIGHTY" - PROVERBS 16:32

"OPEN REBUKE IS BETTER THAN SECRET LOVE" - PROVERBS 27:5

RUN! ... NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

The Bulletin
(USPS-994-500)
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

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

Informal Bible Study
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your Bible questions
Saturdays 3 pm

EVANGELIST

T.J. Bolen
(803) 807-2754
Email: TcejayBolen@gmail.com

BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher
Office Phone (803) 796-8858
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Judy Walker, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Anna** Porter is still having serious problems with a wound on her foot healing, pray it need not be amputated. With all her problems, **Anna** requests prayers for **Harriet**, best friend of her daughter Sharon. Harriet is undergoing breast cancer treatment.
- **Dorothy Gray** requests prayers for a co-worker, **June Jeffcoat**.
- Doctors recommend **Pat Joyner** have surgery on her back to relieve pain.
- **Margaret Herring** is also having severe foot problems and is in much pain.
- **Remember also: Hannibal Davis** in Marine Corps recruit training at Parris Island; **Gwen Pittman, Stephanie Rigney, Floyd Richbourg** and **Carolyn Stidham** as they continue on the road to recovery from various ills.
- Remember to pray for and send cards to those we've not seen for awhile.
- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge**.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;
Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;" - Psalms 103:2-4

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday—All are invited to stay for lunch. Men's meeting** after that.
- **Game Night—this Friday, 6 pm till.** We've invited North Columbia to come visit also. Bring games and refreshments as you wish.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**
- We need **volunteers** to take the DVD and the Lord's supper to our shut-ins.

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living." - Psalm 27:13

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

WHY WAS JESUS A MAN OF SORROWS AND GRIEF?

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:" - Isaiah 53:3a
Here's one reason:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!" - Matthew 23:37

Don't add to His sorrow. Relieve it, be involved in the Lord's work, do more.

Sun AM Sermon— *Implications of The Cross*

1. Service of The Cross, Luke 22:24-27
2. Reality of The Cross, Luke 24:21-27
3. Agreement of The Cross, Luke 23:44-48

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

**“And take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: “ - Ephesians 6:17**

"In conversion and sanctification, the Holy Spirit operates on the hearts of men only through the word of God." A burr under the Calvinistic saddle, that truth can be unwittingly diluted by a misapplication of Ephesians 6:17. The argument is sometimes made that Holy Spirit wields the sword of the Spirit in conversion and sanctification, thus proving the Spirit's work through the medium of the word. That argument not only fails to prove the proposition, but actually concedes the Calvinist's position. In his 1938 debate with N. B. Hardeman, Ben M. Bogard made that very argument in his affirmation that the Spirit exerts a direct influence upon man.

"The Spirit works as if there were no word and the word is used as if there were no Spirit. Not separate and apart from each other but together, side by side on the same thing. The gospel is the sword of the Spirit and as the sword is distinct from the soldier and the soldier distinct from the sword, yet both soldier and sword work together to slay the enemy, even so the Spirit and the word work together to save the soul." (Ben M. Bogard, 2nd Affirmative, "The Work of The Holy Spirit, Hardeman-Bogard Debate, Gospel Advocate Co., Nashville, 1938, p. 31).

Those today who say the Holy Spirit wields the sword make the same fundamentally flawed argument. In the context of Ephesians 6:17, Paul delineates the defensive and offensive items of spiritual warfare to be utilized by the Christian soldier. The truth is girt about his loins, he wears the breastplate of righteousness, is shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, holds the shield of faith, wears the helmet of salvation and wields the sword of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit wears none of the armor, nor does He wield the sword.

"It is said that the Word is the sword that the Holy Spirit uses. Rather, the Word of God is the sword that the Holy Spirit forged for us to use. The Spirit does not wield the sword — we ourselves wield it, and if we do not wield it, then it will not be wielded. If the Holy Spirit performs some direct operation in wielding the sword, the action and method should be subject to definition and description, and demonstration...

As the smith forges instruments and weapons, the Holy Spirit by inspiration in the apostles of Christ forged the sword of the Word for us to wield." (Foy E. Wallace, Jr., *The Mission and Medium of The Holy Spirit*, Foy E. Wallace, Jr. Publications, 1967, p. 85).

If the Spirit wields the sword, advocates of the direct operation of the Holy Spirit are correct in their assertions and Bogard was right in his debate with Hardeman. But they argue from a faulty premise. The Holy Spirit does not wield the sword any more than God wears the "whole armor of God." (Ephesians 6:11). The "armor of God" is the armor God provides and the "sword of the Spirit" is the sword the Holy Spirit forged. If the "sword of the Spirit" means the Spirit wields and uses the sword, then the "armor of God" means God wears the armor as a defensive measure. If not, why not?

- **Jerry C. Brewer**, Gospel Preacher, publisher