

THE BULLETIN—VOL 43, NUMBER 22 June 25, 2017

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland or Jariell Cooper

PM: Spencer Strickland or Jariell Cooper

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

THE BEST WAY TO KNOW YOURSELF FOR CERTAIN

"For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." - Hebrews 4:12

COMPARE YOURSELF TO THE WORD OF GOD, IN ORDER TO:

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

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

Saturdays 3 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

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

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Requisites Of Acceptable Worship

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth."- John 4:24

Three requisites of acceptable worship are set forth in this verse: **1) We must worship God. 2) We must worship God in spirit. 3) We must worship God in truth.**

The first commandment forbade the worship of any other being. It said, **"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."** (Deut. 5:7). Verse 9 of Deuteronomy 5 reads, **"Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I, Jehovah, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me."** Hence, however sincere might be the idol worshipper, his worship is highly displeasing to God, because it fails in the first of the requisites above given. It is not directed to God.

Secondly, the worship must be in spirit, i.e., proceeding from a sincere heart and rendered with attention and understanding. This forbids worship that is merely formal—worship that consists of rites and ceremonies in which the worshipper may engage without attention. Catholicism is a system of such worship where the worshipper may not know, and indeed is not expected to know, the significance of much in which he engages.

There is some danger that this type of worship should come to obtain in Christ's church. The unvarying routine of services, the formal and mechanical participation in song, prayer, and the Lord's Supper, the failure to give attention and enter heartily into the worship leads to that which is not in spirit.

This is that which Jesus rebuked in the Pharisees in Matthew 15:9—vain worship. Such people as this worship him with their lips and give utterance to phrases of worshipful nature, but the heart is not in it, and God is not pleased. We should ever be on our guard that we do not fall into a mechanical, formal, heartless type of devotion to God. *(continued on page 3)*

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." - Matthew 15:8,9

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www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 6/25/2017

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Richard Ramkinson, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Mike Kennedy** had surgery last Wed to help his kidney functions, and might have another next Wed to help further with dialysis. Keep him and **Paula** in your prayers..
- **Remember also: Jamie Sheppard** who got over shingles, but then got pneumonia; **Amy** and **Spencer Strickland**; **Stephanie Rigby** with recurrence of lymphoma; **Margaret Herring** with numerous health issues; **Dorothy Gray** dealing with the many needs of her family; **Pat Joyner** with vertigo; **Jan Kelleher** continuing in chemotherapy and a painful fight with metastatic disease.
- Visit **Anna Porter and Doris Sheppard** at National Health Care on US 378, **Doris** is supposed to be going home soon. **Pray for all these** and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"But we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope" - Romans 5:3,4

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Wedding Shower** for **Lauren Simons** and **Jordan Beard**, after the AM assembly.
- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jason**, or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- Remember signup sheet for **college student meals on Wed!** All are invited to stay.
- **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 use them.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." - Romans 5:1

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP

“... was well adapted to churches founded on the **Jewish** pattern of things and practicing infant sprinkling. That all persons singing who have **no spiritual discernment**, taste or relish for spiritual meditation, consolations and sympathies of renewed hearts should call for such an aid is but natural. So to those who have **no real devotion and spirituality** in them, and whose animal nature flags under the opposition or the oppression of church service I think that instrumental music would... be an essential prerequisite to fire up their souls to even animal devotion. But I presume, that to **all spiritually-minded** Christians, such aid would be as a cow bell in a concert.” — **Alexander Campbell** (from Robert Richardson's biography, *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell*, Vol. 2., p366)

Requisites Of Acceptable Worship—(Continued from page 1)

Finally, worship, to be acceptable, must be in truth. To be “in truth” is to be according to God's word. Jesus said, "**Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.**" (**John 17:17**). Any act of worship—however sincere might be the worshipper—is not acceptable to God if it is not in harmony with the scriptures. This teaches us that God will accept only that which he has specifically set forth in the scriptures for us to do in worship. We walk by faith and not by sight, (2 Cor. 5:7), and since faith comes by hearing God's word, (Rom. 10:17), we can offer in faith only that which is set forth in his word.

This will exclude from our worship everything not specifically mentioned therein. By this rule, we can never use instrumental music in worship, because it is nowhere commanded or even mentioned in Christian worship. Therefore, we cannot engage in it “by faith.”

True, David used instrumental music, but he also offered animal sacrifices and burned incense in worship. We do not take our orders from David today. Christ is our lawgiver and guide. (Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Heb. 1:1-2). He has nowhere authorized instrumental music, the Holy Spirit-inspired apostles did not sanction it, no New Testament writer mentioned it in Christian worship, and no apostolic church practiced it. To engage in it is to fail to worship “in truth.” But God is pleased when one only worships in truth. Therefore, instrumental music is not pleasing to him.

The items of worship are set forth in Acts 2:42 and Eph. 5:19. These are (1) teaching, (2) singing, (3) prayer, (4) the contribution, and (5) the Lord's Supper. These items were observed on every first day of the week by the church in apostolic times. (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them ...” - Acts 20:7a

The disciples were directed by men who were empowered with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:42; 2:1). We can do no less than this and be assured to pleasing God today. What pleased him then will surely please him today. All else must be rigidly excluded from worship and service to God. **“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” (1 Sam. 15:22).**

- Henry Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel Preacher

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” - John 14:15

Jesus had commandments, do you love him?