

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 17 April 29, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

GOD KNOWS IF WE DO WELL ...

**"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love,
which you have showed toward his name,
in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." - Hebrews 6:1**

AND IF WE DON'T

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

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
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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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"every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master." Luke 6:40b

Man Is Saved by Nothing "Alone"

Just a cursory reading of the Bible reveals that men are saved by many things. Yet we so often read from supposed Bible-scholars that men are saved by "grace alone" or by "faith alone." They no sooner say this than they contradict themselves. Some say man is saved by "grace alone" but that he must believe. Others say he is saved by "faith alone" but he must "repent" of his sins and say the "sinner's prayer." If they would just stick with what the scriptures say, they could eliminate all this confusion. Note what the Bible says about being saved:

1. We are saved by grace (Eph 2:5).
2. We are saved by faith (Eph 2:8).
3. We are saved by baptism (1 Pet 3:21).
4. We are saved by obedience (Heb 5:9).
5. We are saved by confession (Rom 10:9-10).
6. We are saved by repentance (Luke 24:47).
7. We are saved by belief and baptism (Mark 16:16).
8. We are saved by repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38).
9. We are saved by hope (Rom 8:24).
10. We are saved by works (James 2:24).
11. We are saved by mercy (Titus 3:5).
12. We are saved by the washing of regeneration (Titus 3:5).
13. We are saved by the renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

Reformation theologians and their modern Protestant heirs are so fearful of the medieval Catholic doctrine of salvation by works that they distort beyond recognition the Bible doctrine of the "obedience of faith" (see Rom 1:5; 16:26). To do this they subtly add the word "alone" or "only" to the teaching of salvation by grace and salvation by faith.

Yes, the scripture does condemn the Judaistic doctrine of "salvation by works"- by works of law or works of the law (see Gal 2:16). Every discussion of this topic in the New Testament refers to salvation by perfect obedience in the absence of grace (see Gal 3:10-11). It has no reference to works of obedience in acceptance of God's gracious blessings in Christ. ... *(continued on page 2)*

"Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." - James 2:23,24

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

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Mike Kennedy**, Paula’s husband is in Health South Richland.
- **Margaret Herring** is in Millennium rehabilitation, US 378, West Columbia room 119.
- **Lauren Beard, Judy Cornelius, Marshall Turbyfill** continue with difficulties from illness.
- Continue to remember these in prayers to God, for His mercy, and their relief.
- **Jan Kelleher** continues to suffer debilitating side effects from chemotherapy. She’s feeling well enough to speak at a church ladies meeting in North Carolina.. She continues to be in pain from bone cancer, but so far it is not spreading. All thanks and glory to **God** that the cancer is still not spreading,
- **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.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." - Romans 8:18

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **MEN! Plan on discussing Sunday** our latest evangelist search respondent.
- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jason, Jones** or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord’s table, singing, etc.
- **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 use them.

“And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.” - Acts 8:2

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

Man Is Saved by Nothing "Alone" (continued from page 1)

Paul, for example, says we are all sons of God by faith because we have been baptized into Christ and have put on Christ (Gal 3:26-27). Men are not saved by merely being baptized, but because in the obedience of faith they have come into Christ and unto God's grace. Paul also says of Christ that men are baptized "into his death," where his blood was shed, and are, thus, saved by grace. Out of baptism they arise to walk as new creatures who are free from sin (see Rom 6:3-4; 2 Cor 5:17).

Those who add "only" to grace, faith, baptism, obedience, confession, repentance, hope, works, mercy - or anything else - are perverting the teaching of scripture and rejecting God's plan of salvation by grace through the obedience of faith.

--L. A. Stauffer, Evangelist, Kirkwood Church of Christ, Kirkwood, MO

BE CONTENT - MOVE ON

A poor man was out looking for food for himself and his family. It was cold, and he wore an old, cast off, badly torn and stained overcoat. It looked bad, but kept him fairly warm. A passer by asked him if he wouldn't like a better coat? He replied, "No, it's ok" and moved on. There were a lot of things he'd **like** to have, but he was looking for those things he **needed**. His coat was sufficient and he knew it. What he **needed** was to find food for himself and his family, not to stop and worry about a coat. If he hadn't been satisfied with the coat and instead gone looking for something better, he would have been distracted from looking for the more important and necessary things. He and his family would then likely go hungry. No, he had his goal and priorities right.

What's your goal? This world, or the next? Are cares for things of **this** world distracting you from what you **need** to be doing in the church—preparing for the **next** world? God doesn't want you to be distracted:

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." - Hebrews 13:5

God wants us to be content with the physical things we have **so** we'll devote ourselves instead to the **spiritual** things, the unseen things, the eternal things and grow in Godliness. Satan, the god of this world, wants you to be distracted with the things of the world. Read **2 Corinthians 4** to see this. Who are you listening too? If you're pursuing the things of the world, don't be surprised if you're not happy.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.” - 1 Timothy 6:6-8

The Lord hasn't given us "Hand-me-downs". What could we want that would be better than what he's given us — His **Son**, a **hope of resurrection** to eternal life with Him, and **three promises** to get us there, **if** we'll have faith and **act** on them:

"ASK, and it shall be given you; SEEK, and ye shall find; KNOCK, and it shall be opened unto you:" - Matthew 7:7

Let's be content with what we have, and look forward to what we need!

(BTW)

“Remember Lot’s wife.” - Luke 17:32

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

**“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”
- Mark 8:36**