

THE BULLETIN—VOL 45, NUMBER 3, January 20, 2019

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Wallace Beasley

PM: Harvey Allen

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

ARE YOU SAYING IT? OR DOING IT?

**“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue;
but in deed and in truth.” - 1 John 3:18**

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

On Request
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

Always Saved?

In the days of the prophet Haggai the Jews had returned from Babylonian captivity. Initially the return was full of excitement and zeal. They began to restore the sacrifices of the altar for worship and resumed the feast they were to keep; as commanded in the Law of Moses. They also began to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, which was destroyed decades earlier. The rebuilding came with much celebration. The enemies of the Jews would soon force and scare them into ceasing their work on the temple. During this time the Lord's "house" remained unfinished yet the Jews once again became too comfortable and grew more concerned with their own possessions rather than completing their God-given work.

Something the short book of Haggai displays is that the nature of people has not changed. The problem of zeal morphing into complacency is hardly a new problem for God's people; it is still a problem in His church. The danger of complacent Christianity is we trick ourselves into thinking we are pleasing God because of a few Christian-like practices, all the while lacking a Christ-like mind and heart. The Jews of Haggai's time allowed themselves to think they were pleasing God, but God stated they and their work were unclean (Haggai 2:14). Correction was needed, even though they had assured themselves they were fine.

There is a doctrine which is popular entitled "once saved always saved." It's teaching is just as it sounds: when someone becomes a Christian they will never lose their salvation. It's easy to see why that's a popular doctrine, despite scripture not permitting such a thing to be true (Luke 9:62; John 6:66-69; Galatians 5:4; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; Hebrews 10:26-27). However, is there any difference in knowing a teaching is false yet living as if it is true? Just like the people of Haggai's time we can assure ourselves we are clean in God's sight yet a life that is absent of joy and zeal because of and for Christ is not one pleasing to God. We can mask our true feelings and even efforts of following Christ to others and to ourselves. But we all know that can't be done with God. Beware of the eternal danger of convincing yourself you're saved because of a few Christian "deeds" all the while there is an absence of a Christ-centered mind and heart.

- T.J. Bolen, Gospel preacher, 2015, West Columbia church of Christ, SC

“Be watchful, strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die” Rev 3:2

“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.*

- **Margaret Herring** is suffering from multiple debilitating conditions, send her a card or give her a call to go visit.
- **Judy Cornelius** fell and hurt her ankle but is able to drive.
- **Connie** was to have a YAG (laser) treatment on her eyes last Friday.
- **Courtney Dunbaker** was in the hospital with apparent colitis but is home now and doing better. **Katie Kennedy** was also ill with some crud.
- **Paula's** cousin's husband, Charles Lockley, died last week. **Paula** continues to have great difficulty with shingles and much pain.
- **Pat Joyner** continues to have spells of great dizziness and pain also.
- Also remember in prayer: **Connie, Amy Strickland;** and **Lauren.**
- Pray also that we all grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**

"Lord, to whom shall we go? THOU hast the WORDS of eternal life." - John 6:68

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **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, **be faithful** to use them.

“The churches of Christ salute you” - Romans 16:16

The Claims Of The Bible

The Bible claims to be the word of God. And not that only; it claims to be the inerrant word of God, the infallibly and verbally inspired word of God. "All Scripture is given by inspiration" — Theopneustia, God-breathed words. "Unto us God revealed" these things "through the Spirit... Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words" (1 Cor. 2:10-13 ASV). Divine thoughts and divine words to convey them is Paul's statement, with emphasis, of the verbal inspiration of the Bible.

Who says it is not the inerrant word of God? The devil (Gen. 3:3-4) and worldly-wise men of today (Rom. 1:22); but we are warned against such and should shun them, for they cannot be converted (2 Thess. 2:10-11) and may destroy faith in you "through philosophy and vain deceit" (Col. 2:8).

- **Foy E. Wallace, Jr.**, 1896-1979, Gospel preacher

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” - 2 Timothy 3:16,17

GIVE ME A CHANCE

Have you ever asked the Lord to open a door for you? To give you a chance to serve him? It's a good thing to pray for. In Matthew 7:7 the Lord promised us "**Knock, and it shall be opened unto you**".

How many of us, though, **believe** that promise? How many of us **keep** asking, and asking, and asking? But maybe we never seem to get the chance we're looking for. Maybe that's the problem—we're not **seeing** the chances or opportunities to do good the Lord is giving us. Maybe we're being too picky or choosy: "Not that one Lord, I want a **really** good work to do!"

Let's remember that it is the **Lord's work** we're about, not ours. It's He who gives us the opportunities we have. It's He that gives the increase (1 Cor 3:6, 2 Tim 2:25). Let's trust Him, that He'll give us what we need, because He **has**—His Word, the gospel! Let's take advantage then of the opportunities we have, no matter how small they might seem to us. Let's open our eyes and hearts to them:

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." - Luke 16:10

Maybe when we want to do some great thing, what we're **really** wanting is to say: "Look what **I** did." **We** want the recognition for the deed; from people instead of from God. But the real power and strength we have can only come from God:

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”—Philp 4:13

He wants us to know this and **act** like we know it. He'll be pleased with us if we do—if we trust in His power and strength, just as He was pleased with the church in Philadelphia. Look at what the Lord praised about them though:

"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

They didn't **deny** the name of Christ by seeking to please themselves and trusting in their own power or wisdom. They humbly **did** what the Lord put in front of them, trusting in Him and His word - looking to please God and not themselves. Let's do the same, so our Lord will say the same—of **us**.

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

In Christ—In the church!

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ.” - Ephesians 1:3

“And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” - Eph 1:22,23