

THE BULLETIN—VOL 45, NUMBER 26, July 5, 2019

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Wallace Beasley

PM: Harvey Allen

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

DO YOU KNOW THE GOSPEL WELL ENOUGH TO SHARE IT?

**“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:  
for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;  
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” - Romans 1:16**

IF NOT, ARE YOU ASHAMED OF IT?

**“Test all things; hold fast that which is good.” - 1 Thess 5:21**

West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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 man wanted

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WEST COLUMBIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## The One Body

**“There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” (1 Tim. 2:5-6).**

Christ is the only mediator between God and men, and we cannot be saved except through him. Those who reject Christ will be left out.

Not only is there one God and one mediator between God and men, but there is one body (Eph. 4:4). **“But now are they many members, yet but one body.” (1 Cor. 12:20).** That one body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Christ is the head of the church, as the man is the head of his wife. **“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” (Eph. 5:23).** That church is the one body, which is made up of Christians.

There are not two bodies — a kingdom and a church — for the church is the kingdom of Christ. This harmonizes with the statement that there is one body. Then there is "but one body", whether it be called "church" or "kingdom." Christ is the head of the church, or He is the King of the kingdom.

- E. M. Borden, Gospel preacher

## The Same Way Now

Since the church of Christ is still in existence, should I be considered out of order when I contend that people enter the church now just as the people in the first century? **“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).**

Peter preached the word, the people heard, believed, and repented, and the preachers baptized those who demanded it, but Christ accepted their obedience and received them into the church. **“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47).** Are people added to the same church in the same way now? The answer is, **“Yes,”** for the Bible has not changed, and neither has Jesus Christ. Will you obey the Lord as they did on Pentecost and be added to His church by Him?

- E. M. Borden, Gospel preacher

**“Test all things; hold fast that which is good.” - 1 Thess 5:21**

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

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Don Blackwell, Merrie Christmus, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Barbara and Melvin Reeder, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Connie** was ill Sunday, but back with us Wed.
- **Pat** continues to be dizzy and nauseated and isn't getting much, if any, better.
- **Amy** is to see a surgeon as she continues to seek relief from pain..
- **Laura Nichols** doing better as she recovers from her traumatic fall and **Steve Rigney** facing uncertainty in his job situation.
- **Keep ALL these in your prayers**, that the Lord be merciful and pray also that we **all** grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**

**"And so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" - 1 Thessalonians 4:18**

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

- First Sunday! All are invited to stay after the morning assembly to meet and get to know one another better. Men's meeting afterwards.
- Our sign out front is to be replaced this month with an electronic message board.

**"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" - Colossians 1:10**

## **ARE YOU LISTENING?**

Here's a verse that ought to get our attention:

**“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: - John 15:2**

God, being spirit, wants (and requires!) **spiritual** fruit from us. Fruit that will make **us** more **pleasing** in **His** sight and **valuable** to Him and **worth** keeping. When we, as branches in Christ, have and abound in the spiritual qualities of: Mercy, faith, faithfulness, love, patience, meekness, hope, zeal, joy, grace etc. God will be pleased because these are the things He **wants** in us. Here's what you should do:

1. First, you must **want** to bear good fruit (Proverbs 16:9)
2. Get your **heart** (the soil) ready (2 Peter 1:5-8), read the word and pray.
3. Plant the right **seed** (Luke 8:11, Colossians 1:5,6)
4. Water and **nurture** the seed and the soil (1 Corinthians 3:6, 1 Peter 2:2)
5. **Recognize** good fruit, reject the poorer (Colossians 1:10, Titus 3:14)
6. Remember, the fruit is for **God**, we're just the servants (John 15:8)

**That ye might be ... Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness" - Colossians 1:10,11**

**“Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.” - Luke 12:43**

## **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, [http://icotb.org/resources/Hardeman\\_Bogard1.pdf](http://icotb.org/resources/Hardeman_Bogard1.pdf) 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**