

THE BULLETIN—VOL 45, NUMBER 42, October 27, 2019

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher “Noah”

PM: Ed Kelleher “Faith Romans 5”

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

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." - 1 Peter 3:15

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

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

UNFAITHFUL CHRISTIANS

Why is it that some Christians just can't seem to stay faithful to God? We label them, "Hot and cold Christians," "On again and off again Christians" or "Lukewarm Christians." While they are in the "faithful mood," you'll see them at every church-related function ... BUT ... when they start backsliding, you can't count on them to be responsible for anything related to church work. After being AWOL for a month or two, they show for worship, acting as if nothing was ever amiss. Let me suggest some reasons why they are "On again, off again Christians." Consider these facts:

- When they become unfaithful and forsake the assembly, no one immediately goes to them to let them know they were missed.
- When they wander in after being gone a month or more, no one asks where they've been — no-one expects them to come forward confessing the sin of forsaking the assembly — and they don't!
- A brother or sister who forsakes the assembly is casting stumbling blocks before the more faithful by offending them, setting a terrible example for other babes. This is sin! **“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;” - Hebrews 10:25**

Biblical teaching on this subject is plain. Look at Matthew 18:15-17. If your brother sins, go tell him one on one: if he refuses to listen, take others with you and try to talk to him, bringing him to repentance; if he still refuses take the matter before the church; if that does not bear fruit, withdraw from him before he pollutes the whole church with the leaven of unfaithfulness which is ungodliness!

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.—Romans 16:17

A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.” - Titus 3:10-11

I wonder if the unfaithful ever read bulletin articles like this one?

- **Mike Suiter**, minister, Tipton church of Christ, Oklahoma

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 10/27/19

“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.

- **Stephanie Rigney** was to have her 9th surgery last Thursday. Pray for God’s mercy as she and Steve they deal with this.
- **Adler** was to see a pediatric gastroenterologist last Thursday. Pray they may find some answers.
- **Janet Boyd** still struggling with shingles and was unable to be at services Wed.
- **Pat Joyner** is still getting out, despite her dizziness which may be due to a spinal stenosis. It might need surgery, but this is not in the offing. Pray for her relief.
- **Barbara Reeder** is soon to start dialysis, and continues in need of prayer.
- **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**.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” - Philippians 4:6

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- All had a good time together last Friday at our Fall Festival and Chili Cookoff. Our thanks to Dawn, Lauren and other helpers for providing this good opportunity for us to grow closer together.

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” - Colossians 3:17

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

Is your heart like Paul’s, whose heart was like Christ’s?

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. ... For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. ... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” - Romans 10:1-14

People believe in God, but they have not obeyed the Gospel, because they have not heard the whole counsel of God preached. They will hear it here! Tell them of it! Invite people to attend or join us on a Saturday afternoon Bible study. Follow up with them, to see they come **hear—that they might be saved!** Remember ...

“... know ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?” - Luke 2:49

To whom shall we go?

“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God’” (John. 6:66-69 NKJV).

This exchange between Jesus and His apostles occurred following the feeding of the 5,000. The crowd continued to follow Jesus for awhile, waiting for more free food. But instead of food, Jesus gave them a strange sermon on seeking more permanent sustenance—something about eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The multitude was not interested in all this metaphysical stuff, so they left.

It must have been a bitter disappointment to the apostles to see all their hard work of the past several weeks fade away to nothing, especially considering that it was this weird sermon of Jesus that drove them away. Truth is, the apostles themselves were probably scratching their heads trying to figure out what Jesus was talking about. Judging from His question to them, Jesus apparently had some concern that even they would quit.

But the apostles did not quit. Peter’s response to Jesus’ question reveals the heart of a true disciple of Christ: “To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” This was not first time the apostles did not understand something Jesus taught, nor would it be the last. They frequently did not “get it,” and Jesus had to repeat some concepts over and over. Some lessons they never did fully grasp until after His death and resurrection. But regardless of their limited understanding, they continued to cling to Him, convinced that He was their best hope of making sense of a crazy world.

“To whom shall we go?” is a question that still confronts followers of Jesus today, especially when His religion appears difficult or inadequate. People struggle to understand the deeper teachings of the Bible. They become disenchanted with the strife and hypocrisy among fellow believers. Or they grow tired of a faith that has become stale and boring.

Eventually the temptation arises to do what the multitude did: just walk away. Some go to Buddhism, some to Islam, some to Scientology, some to atheism—there are plenty of options out there to satisfy everyone’s desire for something “different.” Many simply reject spirituality entirely, choosing a life of crass materialism that lives for the present and refuses even to think about spiritual matters.

But as they eventually learn, all these alternatives have their own shortcomings and frustrations. So their search for meaning in life goes off in yet another direction.

Which brings us back to Peter’s question: To whom shall we go? Whatever difficulties a Christian encounters in his faith, the foundation of that faith is a bedrock that no alternative can match: Jesus is the Son of God, demonstrated by His death and resurrection, and He alone has words of eternal life. Even if we struggle to understand and apply those words, He is better than anything else out there.

- David King, elder, Pleasant Valley church of Christ, Wichita, Kansas

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” - John 8:31,31