

THE BULLETIN—VOL 46, NUMBER 4, January 26, 2020

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Jan Glott

PM: Harvey Allen

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

"I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." - Romans 12:1

Why Reasonable?

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." - 2 Corinthians 5:14,15

"But it is good to be zealous always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18

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

Any Time 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

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

WHAT IS BIBLICAL FAITH?

"Without faith it is impossible to please God" - Hebrews 11:6. Since we must have faith to please God, we must know what faith is. Some in the religious world believe that faith and evidence, or faith and knowledge, are not compatible. That is, they believe that knowledge, or knowing, destroys the whole idea of faith. Faith to them is nothing more than a "leap in the dark," a trust based not on evidence but on pure "hope" without proof. With that as the criteria, it could be observed that one could just as easily be a Buddhist or a Mormon, or any other type of religious category in life and be justified in so doing. But, Biblical faith is not held with a lack of evidence! It is precisely held because the evidence proves that it must be. Some might suggest that the very nature of "faith" necessarily involves doubt. Thomas Warren said of such an idea, "This claim, in the light of James 1:6, is indeed a strange one. James said, **'But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubteth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed'**" (Warren, "Logic and the Bible," p.118). We are commanded to walk by faith and the Bible does not teach that "faith is the acceptance of that for which one does not have adequate evidence" (Warren, 117).

The Bible teaches that faith is a law (Rom. 3:27), a system (Acts 6:7), and a choice (Acts 2). The Bible uses the word "faith" as a noun, never as a verb. What is Biblical faith? It is hearing and obeying God. Joseph Thayer in his Greek Lexicon says that "faith" is "trust...conjoined with obedience." Hebrews chapter eleven fully demonstrates that faith is heading and obeying God.

Some suggest today that if a miracle were to really occur, witnessed by many people, it would be possible to bring many to Christ. However, even in the days of miracles (First century) people believed due to the testimony of others (John 4:39), due to the Old Testament writings of God (Luke 16:31), and due to that which was written by the Apostles (John 20:30- 31). Apart from miracles, we have all of these avenues available today, and God says it is enough to know the truth (John 8:31-32).— **(Continued on page 3)**

"But it is good to be zealous always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

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

- **Beth Johnson** has been diagnosed with a malignant oral cancer and is being treated here in the US. **Dennis** is India, hoping to return shortly. Keep them in your prayers,
- **Gail Allen's** mother, **Maude Linder**, has moved to NHC in Clinton.
- **Stephanie** had a follow up doctor's appt. in Augusta concerning one spot on her leg
- **Janet** is still suffering with shingles. We are glad she is with us regularly now.
- **Pat Joyner's** dizziness continues, keeping her from getting out.
- **Barbara Reeder** has her port in for dialysis but it needs to heal before she can start.
- Give thanks to God for His mercy, and pray for all these, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia that we will grow in love for Him and each other.

""**There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.**" - 1 Samuel 2:2

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Suggestions** for content of the sign, especially for the New Year are sought.
- **Annual Area Wide Singing**, Twin City Church, Sunday, Jan 26th, 2 PM-4 PM

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” - 1 John 4:11

"But it is good to be zealous always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18

God has told us the relationship of Belief and Obedience:

“Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,”

- 1 Peter 2:7

UNBELIEF OF MOSES AND AARON

On one occasion, Moses turned his confidence from God to self. The people were thirsty in their journey. God commanded Moses to assemble the people and to speak to the rock that it bring forth its water (**Num. 20:8**). Moses and Aaron assembled the people before the rock, but he did not speak to the rock, but to the people: **"Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?" (Num. 20:10). "Must we"** — thus leaving God out of the transaction.

Then God said to Moses and Aaron, **"Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them"** (Num 20:12).

Moses had no more doubt then of the existence of God than he had any other time. Yet, God says he and Aaron did not believe in Him. They did not have sufficient confidence in God to do what He said, but followed their own way; and no man does that except through lack of faith in God.

R. L. Whiteside, 1869-1951, Gospel preacher

WHAT IS BIBLICAL FAITH? — (Continued from page 1)

Faith is not mysterious. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), for God chose preaching to save them that believe (1 Cor. 1:20-21). We are defended by faith (Eph. 6:16) and we can defend the faith (Jude 3). Biblical faith involves six facts that can be proven beyond any doubt: (1) God exists; (2) Man exists; (3) God can and has revealed Himself to man; (4) Man has the ability to respond to God; (5) The Word of God is God's only revealed Word; (6) Evidence is necessary to have faith.

Faith can be misplaced, and misplaced faith will not save (Deu. 28:52; Luke 18:9). The only faith that will benefit us is faith that is "in Christ" (Gal. 3:26; Eph. 1:3).

There is no shame in wanting evidence for what one believes. Jesus never rebuked Thomas for wanting to put his hand on Jesus' nail pierced body before he would believe. Thomas merely wanted as much evidence as was possible. When Thomas saw and accepted the evidence he said, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). Jesus said, "Because thou hast seen me thou has believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed (John 20:29). Though some had not seen, they did have evidence—from the testimony of others, from the Old Testament, from the disciples, from the empty tomb, and from the many eyewitnesses. Today, the evidence which we must acknowledge is the Word of God, and when we accept the evidence therein, we will be able to walk by faith (evidence) even though we cannot see (physically those events that are recorded) (2 Cor. 5:7; John 20:30-31).

- **Mike Dugger**, minister Nettleton church of Christ, Jonesboro, AR

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
- Galatians 3:26,27

"But it is good to be zealous always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18

HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYETH

“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” - Revelation 3:4-6