

THE BULLETIN—VOL 46, NUMBER 17, April 26, 2020

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ethan Allen/Daryl Macon

PM: cancelled

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

**"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord,
and not unto men" - Colossians 3:23**

DOES THE LORD APPROVE WHAT YOU DO IN HIS NAME?

**"It is good to be zealous always in a good thing" -Galatians 4:18
(but make sure it's the RIGHT thing!)**

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

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

CHURCH ATTENANCE AND DAILY LIVING

I once heard a man say he went to church once a month to keep out of hell. He may not have been altogether serious, yet his saying implied the idea that many people have — that going to church gives them favor with God, apart from any benefit they may receive from the services. It is about like the notion that making the sign of the cross, or keeping a Bible on the parlor table, will protect from evil and harm.

Under a similar misconception, many believe they will get to heaven because they have held, as a mere conception of the mind, the belief that Jesus is the Christ. And still others, who ought to know better, cherish the illusion that they will be admitted into heaven on the ground that they have gone two steps further and added repentance and baptism to their faith — and there stopped.

Years ago I was troubled with the idea that millions of people would be sent to heaven, and other millions be sent to hell, just because the former had been baptized and the latter had not. I could not see the justice of making such a tremendous difference in their future destinies on such a slight basis. But I remember also that my mind was greatly relieved by some teaching of David Lipscomb on that subject. This teaching — now mixed with some of my own — was to the effect that God does not arbitrarily send anyone to either place, but each responsible person "sends" himself to his final destination by the kind of life he chooses to live.

We believe certain things to be true because the Bible teaches them. We can turn that statement around and say with truth that the Bible teaches certain things because they are true. For example, it is true in human experience that a certain way of living leads to (comparative) contentment and happiness, while a different way of living leads to discontent and unhappiness. These results are sure to follow in each case: No one can escape the consequences of an ill-spent life, nor can anyone obtain the rewards of a well-spent life without living such a life.

One thing, however, that we learn from the Bible and accept by faith is that God, knowing the great evil that men bring upon themselves and others by their ways of living, has pointed out to men the wrong way and the right way, and the consequences sure to follow in each case. Furthermore, in His mercy and love He has given man every incentive, encouragement, and help to induce him to turn away from the wrong way and walk in the right one. He does not propose to save man from the consequences of the wrong life.

— (Continued on page 3)

“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.*

Lord willing, the church doors will be open at 11 AM each Sunday for the worship assembly. This assembly is broadcast on Facebook and it is recorded for later viewing. Most members are participating remotely. All other meetings are canceled.

For help connecting through Facebook, please call **Connie Richbourg 413-8533**.

“And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them “ - Acts 20:7

The Bulletin is sent to an email list and posted each week on the church website. We're also **mailing** the bulletin each week to those without computer access. When you contact other members, see if they're getting the bulletin, and if not, let **Ed** know.

We want to share news on members in this bulletin — How they're doing and any needs they might need. Members are calling each other, which is a good thing we all should be doing! Some members don't have family they can count on for help.

Here are some who are **NOT** connected electronically and need to be checked on by phone regularly. Call them, see how they're doing and then let **Paula** know so it can get in this bulletin:

- **Trevia Parks** 673-8411, 129 Duchess Trail, Lexington 29073
- **Judy Cornelius** 606-6401, 2402 Breeze Rd, Cayce 29033
- **Pat Joyner** 807-9332, 5 Chicorana Rd, W Cola 29169
- **Margaret Herring** 926-1786, 1146 Pinecroft Dr, W Cola, 29169
- **Barbara Reeder** 834-4265, 216 Burlie Ct, Apt K, W Cola 29169

There is food at the church building for the **Reeders**. If you can help by getting food or taking it to the Reeders, please call **Martha or Dawn** to coordinate.

IMPORTANT! If you have news on members, even just to say you've contacted them and they're ok, please share it with **Paula Kennedy** by call or text to 260-2000 or by email to **KennedyPaulaM@Gmail.com**. She will summarize it on Fridays to be included in the next bulletin.

This will greatly help maintain our fellowship during this troubled time!

"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." - Acts 14:22

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

CHURCH ATTENANCE AND DAILY LIVING—(cont. from page 1)

The only way He can save man is to get him to find the right way and walk therein; for, **"whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"** (Gal. 6:7). Under these circumstances, if anyone refuses God's proffered mercy and walks in his own way, then he cannot blame God for the plight in which he finds himself.

The right way of living, of course, is the life which Jesus Himself lived and taught — a life of self-denial and service in behalf of others. **"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"** (Matt. 16:24). The only entrance into this life is through faith, repentance, and baptism; and the only way to continue this life is through the means which God has appointed in the church. Anyone who neglects these means is not even trying to live a life of self-denial and service. The blessings offered men in the gospel are not so much things that God will do for men as that they are the certain results or consequences of their way of living. These blessings are gifts of God, but men can obtain them only through the means which God has appointed. A loaf of bread is a gift of God, but men can obtain this gift only through the orderly processes of sowing, reaping, milling, and cooking.

God does not — I may even say cannot — hand out His gifts directly to men apart from a life of self-denial and service — a life of "faith which worketh by love." When He would give men the gift of fruit, such as apples or peaches, He does not bring the fully ripened fruit and hang it upon the barren branches of the trees.

The "good news" of Christ brings its gracious influence to bear upon the hearts of men. Their minds become filled with new objects of thought, new ideas and ideals, new attitudes toward life. The whole current of their thoughts, feelings, imaginations, desires, and purposes is changed. They have been "born again" and are made "new creatures." The tree has been made good, and henceforth the fruit will be good. And this bearing of fruit not only brings happiness to others, but brings the greatest possible happiness to the one bearing the fruit.

In one respect, living a life of self-denial and service may be compared to playing some game — tennis, for instance. In such a game, the players do not look upon the playing as a disagreeable task to be done for the sake of some external reward, but they expect their enjoyment from the playing itself. While the exercise lasts, the enjoyment lasts. When the game ends, the enjoyment ends.

Just so does happiness come from living a life of self-denial and service. And it is reasonable to suppose that if anyone finds his happiness in such a life here on earth, he will continue such a life with such a result in the world to come. But if he does not live such a life now, he will never do so later, and there is no hope of happiness for him either here or hereafter.

"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" - Matthew 7:21

- **E. G. Sewell**, 1830-1924, Gospel Preacher, Tennessee

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