

THE BULLETIN—VOL 47, NUMBER 22 June 27, 2021

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Dave Watkins

PM: no assembly

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

THE BEST WAY TO KNOW YOURSELF FOR CERTAIN

"For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." - Hebrews 4:12

Give our shut-ins, Pat Joyner and Barbara Reeder a call.

"God will render to every man according to his deeds" - Romans 2:6

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 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 position open

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Requisites Of Acceptable Worship

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth."- John 4:24

Three requisites of acceptable worship are set forth in this verse: **1)** We must worship God. **2)** We must worship God in spirit. **3)** We must worship God in truth.

The first commandment forbade the worship of any other being. It said, **"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."** (Deut. 5:7). Verse 9 of Deuteronomy 5 reads, **"Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I, Jehovah, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me."** Hence, however sincere might be the idol worshipper, his worship is highly displeasing to God, because it fails in the first of the requisites above given. It is not directed to God.

Secondly, the worship must be in spirit, i.e., proceeding from a sincere heart and rendered with attention and understanding. This forbids worship that is merely formal—worship that consists of rites and ceremonies in which the worshipper may engage without attention. Catholicism is a system of such worship where the worshipper may not know, and indeed is not expected to know, the significance of much in which he engages.

There is some danger that this type of worship should come to obtain in Christ's church. The unvarying routine of services, the formal and mechanical participation in song, prayer, and the Lord's Supper, the failure to give attention and enter heartily into the worship leads to that which is not in spirit.

This is that which Jesus rebuked in the Pharisees in Matthew 15:9—vain worship. Such people as this worship him with their lips and give utterance to phrases of worshipful nature, but the heart is not in it, and God is not pleased. We should ever be on our guard that we do not fall into a mechanical, formal, heartless type of devotion to God. *(continued on page 3)*

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." - Matthew 15:8,9

"God will render to every man according to his deeds" - Romans 2:6

"PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER" - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Barbara and Melvin Reeder, Pat Joyner, Merrie Chrismus, Margaret Herring, Jan Kelleher*

- **Paula Kennedy** will be travelling this week.
- **Judy Cornelius** will be in Texas for several weeks. Then they both will be driving back to visit here several weeks. Pray the Lord is willing and is with them.
- **Katie Kennedy** broke her shoulder, maybe both, in a riding accident. She had an MRI this week. She has limited mobility in one forearm, the other not at all. Paula is helping getting her dressed. Keep them both in your prayers.
- **Marshall Mancuso** is still having problems with kidney stones. A CAT scan showed a lot still there. Samantha graduated from high school.
- **Pat Joyner** is having problems walking, even using a walker at home, and can't get out. She has in home PT once a week.
- **Barbara Reeder** is shut-in also with a variety of ills. Both miss being with the church. Please give them a call or send a card. It would mean a lot to them. And to you also!
- **Keep ALL these, and the rest of us, in your prayers! God hears and knows!**

"But we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope" - Romans 5:3,4

"AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY" - Acts 2:42

- **Ethan and Sydney Allen** have completed their move to Atlanta remember them in your prayers. We bid them Godspeed and will miss them here.
- **Meeting each week now!** At the building, Sunday AM and Wednesday PM.
- **Bible Studies!** Please join us Sunday 10am in Psalm 36 and Wed 7pm in Acts.
- **MEN! Contact Jones** and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer**

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." - Romans 5:1

"God will render to every man according to his deeds" - Romans 2:6

WHY WAS JESUS A MAN OF SORROWS AND GRIEF?

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:" - Isaiah 53:3a
Here's one reason:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!" - Matthew 23:37

Don't YOU add to His sorrow. Be involved in the Lord's work. Do more! He knows.

Requisites Of Acceptable Worship—(Continued from page 1)

Finally, worship, to be acceptable, must be in truth. To be "in truth" is to be according to God's word. Jesus said, "**Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.**" (John 17:17). Any act of worship—however sincere might be the worshipper—is not acceptable to God if it is not in harmony with the scriptures. This teaches us that God will accept only that which he has specifically set forth in the scriptures for us to do in worship. We walk by faith and not by sight, (2 Cor. 5:7), and since faith comes by hearing God's word, (Rom. 10:17), we can offer in faith only that which is set forth in his word.

This will exclude from our worship everything not specifically mentioned therein. By this rule, we can never use instrumental music in worship, because it is nowhere commanded or even mentioned in Christian worship. Therefore, we cannot engage in it "by faith."

True, David used instrumental music, but he also offered animal sacrifices and burned incense in worship. We do not take our orders from David today. Christ is our lawgiver and guide. (Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Heb. 1:1-2). He has nowhere authorized instrumental music, the Holy Spirit-inspired apostles did not sanction it, no New Testament writer mentioned it in Christian worship, and no apostolic church practiced it. To engage in it is to fail to worship "in truth." But God is pleased when one only worships in truth. Therefore, instrumental music is not pleasing to him.

The items of worship are set forth in Acts 2:42 and Eph. 5:19. These are (1) teaching, (2) singing, (3) prayer, (4) the contribution, and (5) the Lord's Supper. These items were observed on every first day of the week by the church in apostolic times. (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

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

The disciples were directed by men who were empowered with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:42; 2:1). We can do no less than this and be assured to pleasing God today. What pleased him then will surely please him today. All else must be rigidly excluded from worship and service to God. **"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."** (1 Sam. 15:22).

- Henry Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel Preacher

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