

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

CAN I DO RIGHT WHEN I'VE BEEN DONE WRONG?

Text: **James 5:7-11** We've all experienced the hurt of mistreatment, misunderstanding, intolerable work situations, family conflicts, etc. Our natural tendency is often to retaliate, return evil for evil, to get back, or hold a grudge and become bitter in our soul. When we're hurt, taken advantage of, or used by others, our nature says, “strike back.” But God's approach is patient endurance. Anyone can submit to one who is considerate, gracious and gentle. There is no virtue in such submission because there is no threat of mistreatment. But trials of the sort mentioned above, as trying as they are, must still be endured (James 1:12).

How should we react when we have been done wrong? James says first in verses 7 & 8 to be patient. Why? Because God is not going to right all wrongs until Jesus returns; so believers must be patient. Patience means to stay put and stand fast when you'd like to run away. How can we as Christians experience this kind of patience as we wait for Christ's return? Like the farmer who waits for the seed to grow and produce plants, Luke 8:11 says our hearts are the soil and the word of God is the seed. Time and work precede the harvest (1 Cor. 3:6). This is the secret to endurance (5:11). God is producing a harvest by allowing trials and troubles in our lives.

Second, when being patient and holding back a reaction for a long time, we become discouraged and filled with self-pity. James says, “strengthen (establish) your heart.” You can't enjoy the harvest unless your hearts is established.

Third, we are not to complain (vs.11). We shouldn't complain because complaining conveys the idea of sighing or groaning, and suggests bearing a grudge. God has a way of balancing privileges with responsibilities, blessings with burdens. If it were not so, you and I would be spoiled, pampered children. In the story of Job we see distress, defense, and deliverance. Job did not realize what was going on behind the scenes with God and Satan. He lost his wealth, health, and children. His wife, and friends were against him, and it even seemed God was against him. *(continued on page 2)*

“Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned:
behold, the judge standeth before the door.” - James 5:9

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

STEPHEN—PART 1

PM: Ed Kelleher

STEPHEN—PART 2

**“Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16**

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

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CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!**

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SERVICES

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Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

To be announced

EVANGELIST

BULLETIN EDITOR

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Betty Mathis, Margaret Herring, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier* and *Phyllis Johnson*.
- **Anna Porter** is fighting an infection in her leg.
- **Tommy White** requests prayers for his sister-in-law **Nancy** who is fighting cancer.
- Also keep the **Willson** family, and especially **Lisa**, in your prayers.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." - Psalms 27:14

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Stewart Schnurr** of the Twin City congregation is scheduled to speak Sunday 10/16 as Ed and Jan will be on vacation then. **Harvey Allen** is doing well and will be preaching for us Sunday AM and PM 10/30, after his daughter's wedding that Saturday.
- **Bible Bowl** is to be Saturday 2/25/2012, the subject is Genesis Chapters 37-50. If you're interested in this please **Ken or Faye Parks**.
- **Sign up to help get Lorraine Porter here on Sundays!**
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It's a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” - 2 Corinthians 9:8

CAN I DO RIGHT WHEN I'VE BEEN DONE WRONG?— (Continued from Page 1)

What did the story of Job mean to the believers James wrote to and to us today? It means that some trials of life are caused directly by Satan, and God will allow this but with limitations. Satan wants us to be impatient with God. The answer for us is found in 2 Cor. 12:7-9, God's grace is sufficient.

Last of all, James says in verse 12, do not swear. The Greek term translated "swear" means to, "grasp something firmly, or sacredly for the purpose of supporting what one is saying or doing." When we suffer we should not try to tie God into our explanations. It's easy to say things we don't mean or even bargain with God when difficulties come.

The application is simple:

1. Don't focus on the situation or we'll become angry.
2. Don't focus on ourselves or we'll become filled with self-pity.
3. Don't focus on someone to blame or we'll begin complaining.
4. Don't focus on the present, or we'll miss the point of what God is trying to achieve in our lives.

—**Bill Young**, St. Andrews Road Church of Christ, Columbia, SC

“... forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 3:13,14

IF THE ANSWER IS YES

“... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” - Matthew 16:18

In determining whether or not any given denomination is the one true church revealed in the New Testament, a simple question can be posed to its sectarian adherents. The question is as follows: **"Can an individual be saved outside your denomination?"** If the answer is yes, then that religious group is most assuredly not the church. Here is why.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised that He would build His church. Notice that Christ said HE would build the church and that only one would be built. That church is identified by the apostle Paul as the body (Eph. 1:22-23) and is said to be the only body (Eph. 4:4), hence the only church. This church is also identified as the bride and Christ as its bridegroom (Eph. 5:22-23; cf. Matt. 9:15; 25:1). Christ is not a polygamist. He has but one bride for which He nourishes and cares.

The beautiful bride of Christ, the church, consists of a blood-bought people who, by faith, have been baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38,47). Collectively, these baptized believers are known as the saved, the church, the body, the temple, and the kingdom (Acts 2:47; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:27; 1 Cor. 3:16; Col. 1:13, respectively). They belong to Christ, and wear His name (Rom. 16:16; 1 Pet. 4:16). It is this entity of people whom Christ will take to glory at the Judgment. Christ is clearly and unmistakably the Savior of this body - His body, the church (Eph. 5:23). Undeniably, salvation is to be found in the church and only in the church. Since the church is the body of Christ, and salvation is only in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10; Acts 4:12), it follows that one cannot be saved outside the church. When Christ comes again, He will save only those who are in His church.

Therefore, if an individual tells me that I do not have to be a member of their church to be saved, then I can know with certainty that their church is not the church of our Lord. Nearly all denominations assert that you can be saved even though you are not a member of their church. However, no one can be saved apart from the Lord's church. Thus, any religious group espousing the doctrine that salvation can be procured outside the church is not a church which belongs to Christ. Salvation is in the church. If you want to be saved, then you must be in the church.

“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” - Acts 2:47

- **John Moore**, minister, Dripping Springs church of Christ, Texas

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