

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## Man's Duty To "Prove All Things"

Men are prone to go to extremes. This has always been true. Paul seems to have been guarding against this tendency when he wrote, "**Despise not prophesyings; prove all things; hold fast that which is good**" (1 Thess. 5:20-21). In his day, there were those who claimed to "prophesy" by the Spirit, and did; and there were those who claimed to "prophesy" by the Spirit and did not. The result was that, at least, some "despised" all "prophesyings" by reason of the false claims of the pretenders. Such a wholesale rejection of all "prophesyings" was unreasonable and unsafe. It was wrong. It is not right either to reject the true because some is false or to accept the false because some is true. Paul indicated the safe course: "**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**" If there had been no evil mixed with the good, the admonition to "**prove all things**" and to "**hold fast that which is good**" would not have been necessary.

What is the meaning of the word "prove?" In this connection it cannot mean that the genuineness of "all things" is to be established, for the simple reason that the "all things" to be "proved" are not all genuine. It rather signifies to try, to put to the test. The word is employed elsewhere in the New Testament in this sense (**Luke 14:19**). It means that we should examine everything we hear before we receive it or reject it, as the case may be. At this point, Adam Clarke said, "Whatever ye hear in these 'prophesyings' or preachings, examine by the words of Christ, and by the doctrines which, from time to time, we have delivered unto you in our preaching and writings. Try the spirits — the different teachers — by the word of God."

In the words of the prophet, "**To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them**" (Isaiah 8:20). The conduct of the Bereans was in keeping with the spirit of the command under consideration, for we read, "**Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so**" (Acts 17:11 ASV). The people of Berea put what they heard to the test, using the scriptures as their standard of examination. They acted rightly and wisely.

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IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 11 March 25, 2012

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: ED KELLEHER

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

PM: ED KELLEHER

FOLLOWERS RESPONSIBILITIES

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

JOIN US IN

NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” - John 12:48

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

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

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### SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study  
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

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Margaret Herring, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.*
- **Anna Porter is home now and was able to be with us last Sunday.**
- **Jan Kelleher** and **Merrie Chrismus** are visiting Merrie's family in San Antonio, TX.
- **Ken Parks** is back from working in Ohio last week.
- **Margaret Herring** continues to suffer many health problems, sinus and bronchitis.
- Give thanks to God for His mercy, and pray for all these, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia.

**"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing?**

**And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father." - Matthew 10:29**

## **“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15**

- **Paula Kennedy's** daughter **Ann** was married in a private ceremony this past Friday to **Brian Reynolds**. They'll be living in Ridgeland, SC. Keep them in your prayers.

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **Signup sheet** for times when **Lorraine Porter** will need a ride to the assembly. **Jan Kelleher** has been handling this mostly, but will be out some Sundays in the next few months. Please take a look and help out where you can.
- **Building Cleaning** signup for the New Year is posted in the Foyer.
- **Marshal Mancuso** has gotten some **new cards** to send to visitors and those we haven't seen recently. See Marshall to get some to use. **Jones Gamble** publishes a list each week of visitors and those we missed on Sunday. Give those folks a call, or send a card to see if they're ok, and to encourage them and let them know we miss them.
- **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.

**"But now has God set the members every one of them in the body,  
as it has pleased Him." - 1 Corinthians 12:18**

**Studying God's Word is one way how ...  
IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012**

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

- **Gospel Meeting** at West Columbia with David Pharr Sun-Wed April 22-25.
- **Bible Studies** at the building, most Saturday afternoons at 3pm. Invite people!

**"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**

## **Man's Duty To "Prove All Things" - (Continued from page 1)**

Why will people not do the same today? It is common for the message of a modern preacher to be accepted without thought, testing or investigation by those who are his friends religiously, and just as common for the same message to be rejected, without consideration, by his prejudiced religious enemies. These two unreasonable extremes are two of the most unmitigated curses of Christendom.

Let it be observed that this passage which *allows the right* also *enjoins the duty* of proving, testing, and investigating what is heard. It does not permit one to be an indifferent and passive listener. This some seem to prefer. They attend the services, not to be taught, not to bring into use any faculty of discernment or testing, but to be impressed, and that without effort on their part. **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world"** (1 John 4:1 ASV). All professed Christians should endeavour to become - **"fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil"** (Hebrews 5:14 ASV).

**- B. C. Goodpasture, 1895-1977, Gospel preacher, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama**

## **God's Changeless and Immutable Word**

The word of God has the power to convict and convert, to sanctify and to edify. But it has another power and province. The Bible is the mirror of its Author, intended to reveal, unveil, magnify, and glorify Him from whom it originally came.

One of the main uses of the word of God is to supply us with a standard of both doctrine and duty. Therefore, there is no substitute for God's written word. Men may turn in every direction seeking for something to take the place of the word of God, but when their search is ended they remain empty-handed.

In every department of life, the need for a standard as exact and unvarying as those which measure weight, length and time compels one to resort to the word of God for guidance. Here alone, one finds perfect forms and changeless models. Man's best timepieces must be set according to those of God, who has appointed the sun, moon, and stars for time and seasons.

So, from all human oracles, however self-confident, we must turn at last to the inspired Word, where, instead of untrustworthy utterances, we find distinct, definite, authoritative, and infallible teaching.

**- Franklin Camp, 1915-1991, Gospel preacher, Alabama**

**"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**