



# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## Milk and Solid Food

Over the seven Sunday's from November 24<sup>th</sup> - January 5<sup>th</sup> our morning sermons covered two topics: The Bible and The Church. This was part of a "foundational series" in which we have been, and are covering basic principles of what constitutes the church and the individual Christian. Certainly what we have covered so far was old news to many of you, but perhaps not to everyone. Being in a place which is still fairly new to me, it seemed prudent to begin with the basics or as Peter called it "milk". He wrote in 1 Peter 2:2-3, ***"Like newborn infants, long for the pure milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."*** (ESV)

We began with four lessons on the Bible. Without the Bible we have no direction. Uniqueness of the scriptures was covered first. The Bible was given to humanity as no other writing ever has been or will be. It is the only book to contain God's revelation to man. The subsequent sermon was on the proper application of the scriptures and common mistakes made when applying them. Most notably was the removing of scripture from its context. Even when we are well intended, removing scripture from context is a misapplication of the word. The third lesson covered the completed gospel message. The Bible is complete and within the Bible is the saving gospel message of Jesus. God has nothing more to reveal to the world about how to be saved, it is all found in the Bible and to be proclaimed by His church. The final lesson the "sub-series" on the Bible came from Deuteronomy 5:1 - "hear, learn, do." Three simple words describing how we are to respond to and use the Bible.

Following lessons on the Bible was a three week study on fundamental ideas on the church. We talked about why we call ourselves the "church of Christ." We use that name for a variety of reasons but the one of most import is by saying "of Christ" we are identifying who we belong to. Next was a sermon on the planned and prophesied kingdom of God, which is His church we are all a part of. God's plan for His kingdom was spoken of by the Old Testament prophets and fulfilled by Jesus in establishing the church. Finishing off this second group of lessons was acknowledging the church as an organism, not an organization. We are viewed as an organization and even comply with state laws regarding such. However, as Jesus established the church it is a living entity, making us an organism which lives, grows, and even dies. ***(Continued on page 3)***

**NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!**

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 3 January 19, 2014

### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J BOLEN—Willingness for Good Bible Study

PM: T J BOLEN—1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age,  
*even those who by reason of use*  
have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” - Hebrews 5:14

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

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

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Anna Porter, Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.**

- Sisters **Dorothy Gray** and **Lisa Jenkins** came forward Wed. evening requesting the prayers of the church, that they be strengthened. Both face difficult situations at home and at work. We're thankful for their faithfulness and faith in God. Pray for them. **Lisa** is also concerned about her young son **Josiah** who has been baptized, but due to Lisa's work schedule needs more involvement with Christians.
- **Michelle Bolan** and the children are recovering from the flu.
- **Jan Kelleher** was in great pain Wed. and unable to get out.
- **Anna Porter** is weak. Pray for these, and also continue to remember: **Simone Diggs, Margaret Herring, and Judy Walker** who all need our prayers.
- Remember to send cards and call those you've not seen for awhile.

**"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" - Matthew 7:7**

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

- **A Thank You card** from the Hutchinson family is on the bulletin board in the foyer. Also check the board for announcements of **church activities** in the area.
- **LORD'S WORK SHEETS!** All members are asked to update theirs as we will be assigning necessary work monthly to members of the congregation, based on what you say you'll do. Please fill one out and put it in the basket in the **church office**.
- **YOUNG ADULT and NEW CONVERT** class Sundays, 10 am, upstairs classroom.
- Informal **Bible Study**, at the building **3 pm Saturdays**. Ask your Bible questions.
- Entire assembly is now being recorded on DVD thanks to brother Marshal Mancuso. See **Marshall** or **Jones Gamble** to get a copy for yourself or to share with someone.
- We need **volunteers** to take the DVD and the Lord's supper to our shut-ins.
- Did you notice—the new logo on the first page.

**“Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness” - Romans 4:3**

## **NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!**

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

- We rejoice with the angels in heaven that **Jeffrey Marks** was baptized into Christ and added to the church by the Lord last Friday. Jeffrey had stopped by one Wednesday evening in December, curious about the church. Jeffrey lives a few blocks down from the church and passed by often. He learned about the church from many Bible studies with our preacher. Keep **Jeffrey** in your prayers as he shows much faithfulness.

**"But seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
and his righteousness;**

**and ALL these things shall be added unto you." - Matthew 6:33**

## **Milk and Solid Food—(continued from page 1)**

Beginning last week (Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>) we moved into the third and final portion of this foundational series. This last bunch of lessons will take us through Christian practices, living, and worship. Our first lesson was on fasting, a commonly ignored Bible practice. This final grouping of lessons will by far be the largest section in our foundational series. The point of all of this can be found in Hebrews 5:11-14, where we are informed that we must move on from milk to solid food because **"solid food is for the mature for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil." (ESV)** Milk is necessary but at some point more is required. Moving from milk to solid food is different from person to person, even congregation to congregation, as it is with children who are learning how to eat. But developing the appetite for the solid food of the word is up to each of us individually. Spiritual food can be prepared and served, but if not eaten and digested it is wasted. It's my hope that all of us want to grow up in our salvation and become skilled in the word of righteousness.

- **T.J. Bolen**, Gospel preacher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

**It's up to you! ... NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!**

## **THANKS**

Don't you like to hear people say "Thank you"? And even more so when you know they mean it by some **action** of theirs. Do you thank a cook better by saying thank you, or by enthusiastically **eating** what they've prepared for you? Do you thank a teacher better by saying thank you, or by **using** what they've taught you in some good way? Those that give know which is best. God has given us something we should be thankful for: **"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Corinthians 15:57** Wouldn't you like to hear God say, "You're welcome"? Let's thank him then, not in word but in **deed** (1 John 3:18) by **using** what he's given us, as He told us:

**"But to do good and to communicate forget not:  
for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."- Hebrews 13:16**

If you don't, what message are you sending to God about what he has given you?

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

## **SERMON OUTLINE—WILLINGNESS FOR GOOD BIBLE STUDY**

1. God's people want to know as much about God as possible.
2. Deepening our knowledge of the Bible is simply part of following Jesus.
3. Your level of desire to grow spiritually is indicative of your love for God.