



WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Free Coffee

Chick-Fil-A, unquestionably the greatest fast-food restaurant in existence (Zesto is not considered fast-food) has made either a brilliant move or a mistake which will cost them thousands of dollars, or maybe just hundreds; I don't really know as I am not privy to their accounting department. Either way, for myself this only raised their stock in my eyes. I am referring to the offering of free coffee this month. I'm sure many of you are aware of this (assuming “many” people will read this, maybe I should say “both” instead of “many”). In case you are unaware all month long in February you can walk into any Chick-Fil-A at anytime and order a small coffee or iced coffee free of charge. The obvious question to ask is, “Why do people put ice in their coffee?”

The benefits of this for the restaurant are not hard to see. People come for free coffee and accidentally order stuff on the menu which is not free. They also stand to grow their customer base if people like the coffee and do not mind paying for it after February. For the customer the thought is “Free coffee!” While the coffee is free it is not without requirement. There is the time it takes to get the coffee and the gas consumed to go get the coffee. Chick-Fil-A cannot give you your time back and they have not worked out a reimbursement plan for the consumer with the gas people. But if it's free we usually don't care about those items because we got the priority item and nothing came out of the wallet. The time and gas are just part of what it takes to get the coffee.

Acts 20:28 reads “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” Our salvation did not cost us anything, but Jesus paid everything for it. Jesus has requirements for the salvation He provides. Oddly enough we take issue with His requirements. Far too often after baptism too many would-be followers of Christ are not willing to put forth the effort it takes to live the Christian life. How much stronger could the church be, how much more would we accomplish if we looked at the requirements of following Christ the same way we do as the requirements for getting free stuff from a store?

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

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 7 February 15, 2015

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **T.J. Bolen— A Love of the Truth, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

PM: **T.J. Bolen— What happens when the church moves away from the simplicity of Christ? 2 Corinthians 11.**

MAN'S “WISDOM” VS. GOD'S

“Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.” - Proverbs 16:19

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The Bulletin
(USPS-994-500)
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

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Bring your Bible questions
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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Margret Herring** has an appointment on March 2nd to evaluate an abscess on her salivary gland. She is also still having trouble with her foot.
- **Anna Porter** is back home but still facing many issues, hoping she will not have to return to the hospital. **Tommy White** has moved back to his refurbished trailer.
- **Janet Boyd’s** mother and **Gail Allen** and her mother had falls recently.
- Prayers are requested for **Ronnie Baughcome**, who is beset with cancer and heart surgery. He is the father-in-law of Harvey and Gail’s daughter Erin.
- Remember those listed above and: **Grant Parks** and family; **Floyd Richbourg** with knee problems.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

**“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: “
- 1 Peter 1:22**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Sunday FEB 22, beginning at 2:00 PM we will be passing out do hangars in Cayce to advertise the upcoming **“How We Got the Bible Class.”** The class will begin on Tuesday, March 3rd @ 7 PM.
- **Carolina Men’s Fellowship** in Rock Hill, Saturday March 14, make plans to go.
- Lots of stray dishes in the kitchen, please pickup any that are yours.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” - Acts 2:46,47

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- **Tommy and Michelle Johnson**, recently of the Twin City church, but now preaching in Virginia suffered the loss of the child in the 17th week of pregnancy. Remember them in your prayers.

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

Sun AM Sermon— *A Love of the Truth, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12*

1. There is truth and there is everything else.
2. Something separates those who believe truth from those who do not.
3. Love of the truth is mandatory in order to act in accordance with truth.
4. What will a love of the truth accomplish?

The Gospel's Power To Save

There must be some connection made between power and the thing to be moved. There is great power in a locomotive, but it cannot move the train of cars till proper connection is made with power.

There is sufficient power in the gospel to move every sinner out of sin into the blessings of salvation, but that power moves no one until proper connections are made. Preaching is the means of establishing that connection. It is God's way of bringing the sinner under the influence of his saving power. For that reason, Paul was not ashamed to preach it. **(Rom. 1:16).**

The gospel exerts no power over the heathen who has never heard it, nor over the infidel who will not hear it, and it exerts but little power over him who looks for the power to come some other way. It exerts a power over us for good to the extent that we place ourselves under the influence of its teaching. The cyclone has no power over the man who is safely hidden away in his storm cellar, but it would be foolish for him to come out after the storm and confidently affirm that there was no power in the cyclone, but no more foolish than for a man who will not heed God's word to affirm that there is no converting power in it.

Genuine Faith

Genuine faith is based on evidence that admits of no doubt, and to believe in a person means more than to believe that such a person exists. **"He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).** In addition to accepting the truth that God is, we confidently trust Him for the fulfillment of His promises. In all genuine faith there is, therefore, the element of confidence and trust. We trust Him to fulfill His promises, and we confide in His wisdom and goodness.

It is true that Abel heard God's command and obeyed, and therefore he made his offering by faith **(Gen. 4:4; Heb. 11:4)**. But there was something back of all that. Why did he do what God said, and why did not Cain do what God said? Abel had confidence in God's wisdom and goodness. Cain had confidence in his own wisdom and way. Hence, Abel followed God's way and Cain followed his own way. Abel did what God commanded because he had more confidence in God than in himself.

(both by) - **R. L. (Robertson Lafayette) Whiteside**, 1869-1951 Gospel preacher

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

Are you doing all you can? If so, be happy for God knows! If not ... God knows!

But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” - Hebrews 6:9,10