



WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

BELIEF DEMANDS OBEDIENCE

On Pentecost, those who accepted Peter's preaching were commanded to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus, the Christ, unto the remission of their sins, and about 3,000 rendered prompt obedience. And so in other cases in the book of Acts. In reports of these cases of conversion under the preaching of these inspired men there is not a hint that sinners were saved the moment they believed. "And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number that believed turned unto the Lord." (Acts 11:21). If they were saved the moment they believed, they were saved before they turned unto the Lord; but healing, or salvation, follows the turning to the Lord (Isa. 55:7; Matt. 13:15; Acts 28:27).

No arguments of the "faith-only" advocates can do away with the plain statements of our Lord and His inspired preachers on the necessity of obedience. The fact is that in their arguments they array Scripture against Scripture. Our Lord makes this plain statement: “**Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven.**” (Matthew 7:21). To say, "Lord, Lord," shows some degree of faith; but it is a dead faith, for there is no obedience to God's will. Such faith profits nothing — puts no one into the kingdom of heaven.

The writer of Hebrews says of Jesus, the Christ, “**Though he was a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation.**” (Heb. 5:8-9). No one can misunderstand that plain statement, nor twist its meaning into something that it does not say. Some are so set on evading its force that they seek to array some other passages against it, and that is not fair dealing with the word of God. If a man does not obey the Lord Jesus Christ, He is not the author of salvation to such a man.

- R. L. Whiteside, 1869-1951, Gospel Preacher

God has told us the relationship of Belief and Obedience:

“**Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,”**

- 1 Peter 2:7

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 12 March 22, 2015

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen— **Set your house in order**

PM: T.J. Bolen— **What is that to you? John 21:22**

“In those days there was no king in Israel:
every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” - Judges 21:25

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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CHRISTIANITY
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Everyone Welcome!
Bring your Bible questions
Saturdays 3 pm

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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.*

- **Donald Prunty**, who attended here, is in hospice care in Florida with Leukemia.
- **Sharon Mancuso** has been under the weather. Remember these and: **Margaret Herring, Anna Porter; Gwen Pittman; ; the Brisbons in NY ; Grant Parks** and family; **Debbie Sheppard; Nikki Willis; Eileen Lester;** and **Floyd Richbourg.**
- 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)**

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses:

but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." - Psalms 20:7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **How We Got the Bible** class continues each Tuesday at 7pm. Attend and bring a visitor with you.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

"He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." - 1 Corinthians 1:31

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

A Sordid Biblical Picture Of Modern America

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working unseemliness, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was due." (Rom. 1:26-27).

Paul is not indulging in a lot of fanciful speculations nor presenting baseless theories. He is showing how the heathen nations had reached the lowest degree of moral degradation. When people cease to respect God, they will not long respect their own bodies. They give themselves up to passions of dishonor. Their women become abusers of their own bodies. The men indulged in the debasing practice of sodomy.

We are told that this was a common practice among the prominent men of Greece, and also the Romans. When the greatest men of a nation descend to the lowest conceivable form of immorality, it shows how powerless education and philosophy are to save men from the deepest depths of moral pollution.

- R. L. Whiteside, 1869-1951, Gospel Preacher

Sun AM Sermon— *Set your house in order*

1. Your house must be ordered by the word of God.
2. You must protect the house.
3. When necessary, rebuild the house.
4. Whose house are you truly in?

Justification By Faith Includes Baptism

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were swallowed up" (Heb. 11:29 ASV). The Israelites crossed the Red Sea "by faith," but they were not on the other side the moment they believed. They spent a night of anxious toil and great fear before they could sing the song of deliverance on the other side. Here the phrase "by faith" spans the Red Sea, and includes every step they took in crossing.

By some it is thought that because Paul says we are "justified by faith" (Rom. 5:1) that baptism is excluded. But the phrase "by faith," instead of excluding the acts of faith, which, in reality, make faith perfect, actually includes obedience. And it can be plainly shown that "by faith" in this case includes baptism. Paul says, **"For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea" (1 Corinthians 10:1-2 ASV).**

They crossed the Red Sea "by faith," and in crossing they were baptized. "By faith" includes what was done in crossing. But in crossing they were baptized. Therefore, "by faith," in this example includes baptism.

- C. R. Nichol, 1876-1961, Gospel Preacher

A Matter Of Bible Authority

My objection to mechanical instruments in worship is not out of bitterness toward them; not because I think there is harm in the instrument, per se, but the objection is simply this: I have adopted the principle and pledged myself to the platform of not going beyond that which the Bible authorizes.

My digressive brother asks me, "Where does the Bible prohibit it?" I answer, "Where does the Bible authorize it?" Christians walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). No man can use mechanical instruments and walk by faith.

By searching the scriptures you will find that God does not authorize it, does not command it, does not demand it, and that there is no example in all apostolic history for such a practice. The man who is faithful and loyal to God's word will not go beyond it.

"Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God" (2 John 9 ASV).

- N. B. Hardeman, 1874-1965, Gospel Preacher