

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

HOW TO WALK WORTHY? (Ask, Seek, Knock)

**"For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth;
and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." - Matthew 7:8**

**But you can't do this outside the church—Jesus!
Don't be a stranger to Jesus.**

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

**JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
COME SEE!**

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM , 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays 3 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time position open

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

WOULD YOU DIE...FOR CHOCOLATE PIE?

I "love" chocolate cake (not "pie" as the title suggests, since "die" rhymes with "pie" and not "cake" -- but I digress). I always have. I also love God. I "love" them both. What's the problem? Well, I know there's a difference in loving food, and loving God, so the problem is not my *heart*. The problem is my *language*. The word "love" in our language has basically been diluted, to the point that it has almost totally lost its original meaning. What other conclusion can you come to when one word can, to most people, encompass both food, and deity?

Obviously when I say "I love God," I *mean* something different than when I say "I love cake." The word is the same, but the meaning is clearly different, when you look at the context.

In the Greek language (commonly recognized as the language of the first century) when Christ asked Peter if he loved Him (John 21), he wasn't asking if he loved Him the same way he loved his favorite food. He wasn't asking if he loved Him the same way he loved his favorite pair of sandals. He was asking if he loved ("agapa" = in the original language) Him so much that he would *die* for Him. Peter wouldn't die for his favorite pair of sandals. I wouldn't die for chocolate cake (or "pie" if you're in a rhyming mood). And yet I say I "love" it?

It seems as though the word "love" has been used so flippantly, that its original meaning is hard to be discerned. A man may tell his significant other that he loves her, having just known her for a couple of weeks. Would he die for her? I think not. Eventually they may get married, and raise a family. Would he die for them then? Yes he would. Because now he truly "loves" them. The word has meaning to him now. Recall what Paul said about the sacrifice of Christ: **"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8).**

Christ died because He "loved" us. Would Christ have died for His favorite food (He was human, I'm sure He had a favorite food)? No. Would He have even said He "loved" his favorite food. Probably not. Consider what Paul said concerning the Christian's love for Christ: **"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long..." (Romans 8:36).** Would a Christian die for Christ? Yes. Why? Because he **loves** Christ. Would he die for...chocolate pie? No. Now tell me why... Let's make sure, then, that we're careful about the words we use.

Matthew Martin, Assistant Minister, Forest Hill church of Christ, Memphis, Tenn

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Richard Ramkinson, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Judy Cornelius** is to have hip replacement surgery April 6.
- **Remember also:** **Karen Wyatt** recovering from eye problem; **Stephanie Rigby** with recurrence of lymphoma; **Margaret Herring** was in the hospital for 4 days with esophageal problems; **Dorothy Gray** dealing with the many needs of her family; **Tommy White** and leg problems; **Jamie Sheppard** with upper respiratory infection; Jason Parks Traveling; **Pat Joyner** with vertigo; **Laura Nichols** friend and co-worker **Tammy** with spread of cancer, not much time and not much hope, pray that she desire to hear the word of God and a door be opened to her heart; **Jan Kelleher** continuing in a painful fight with metastatic disease.
- Visit **Anna Porter** at National Health Care on US 378. **Pray for all these** and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard." - Psalms 22:24

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **LEAPHART ROAD I-26 BRIDGE OUT SUNDAY AM.** I-26 traffic will be re-routed. US #378 and #1 may be backed up. There may be other delays also in your getting to the assembly, so plan accordingly.
- **First Sunday!** All are invited to stay after the morning assembly to share a meal and get to know one another better. Also, men's meeting following.
- Remember signup sheet for **college student meals on Wed!** All are invited to stay.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- Invite people to come to the informal Q&A **Bible study**, Saturdays 3pm.
- Brother **Gamble** reports late Wed PM:: I talked with **Tommy White** about an hour ago. His brothers back surgery went well yesterday and the surgery on his hand today went well. **Tommy** appreciates the prayers and wants everyone to keep them coming. His brother is resting comfortably but not out of the woods yet. He's in Emory University Medical Center near Atlanta.

"Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness." - Romans 4:3

Noah too! But what did they both DO?

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!

Don't despair! Remember:

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

The One Body

"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (1 Tim. 2:5-6). Christ is the *only* mediator between God and men, and we cannot be saved except through him. Those who reject Christ will be left out.

Not only is there one God and one mediator between God and men, but there is one body (Eph. 4:4). **"But now are they many members, yet but one body." (1 Cor. 12:20).** That one body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Christ is the head of the church, as the man is the head of his wife. **"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." (Eph. 5:23).** That church is the one body, which is made up of Christians.

There are not two bodies — a kingdom and a church — for the church is the kingdom of Christ. This harmonizes with the statement that there is one body. Then there is *"but one body"*, whether it be called "church" or "kingdom." Christ is the head of the church, or He is the King of the kingdom.

- **E.M. Borden**, Gospel preacher, late 1800's– early 1900', in Texas

The Same Way Now

Since the church of Christ is still in existence, should I be considered out of order when I contend that people enter the church now just as the people in the first century? **"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).**

Peter preached the word, the people heard, believed, and repented, and the preachers baptized those who demanded it, but Christ accepted their obedience and received them into the church. **"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).** Are people added to the same church in the same way now? The answer is, "Yes," for the Bible has not changed, and neither has Jesus Christ. Will you obey the Lord as they did on Pentecost and be added to His church by Him?

- **E.M. Borden**, Gospel preacher, late 1800's– early 1900', in Texas

Godly Living — A Dire Need

Am I guilty of willful neglect? Am I too weak to do what I know is right? Do I blame others for my mistakes? Have I resolved in my heart that I will do my duty regardless of what others do or think? Have I made a good impression on my neighbor by my faithfulness to the Lord and His church?

Do you realize the influence of a godly life? The influence of gospel preaching is doubled by "practicing what we preach." Let us **"walk in the light as he is in the light"** and have fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7). **"I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils" (1 Cor. 10:20).** **"What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?" (2 Cor. 6:14).** Truth and error will not mix.

If Naomi had been weak like some of the people in our day, she would never have converted her daughters-in-law to the truth, or to the true God (**Ruth 1**). She would never have converted them by partaking of their evil religion. If a thing is not right, **"Touch not, taste not, handle not" (Col. 2:21).** The doctrines and commandments of men are condemned by the Lord (**Matt. 15:9**).

- **E.M. Borden**, Gospel preacher, late 1800's– early 1900', in Texas