

THE BULLETIN—VOL 44, NUMBER 19 May 13, 2018

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland

PM: Spencer Strickland

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

WHAT COUNTS WITH GOD?

**“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning ...
But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible,
even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit,
which is in the sight of God of great price.” - 1 Peter 3:3,4**

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)

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

WORD POWER

One of the lessons of the book of Genesis is that people organize themselves into groups based on affinity. The greatest apparent point of affinity among men is language. Nations are born out of the fact of a common language. Later in the Biblical text nations come to be known by the language they speak. The language we speak is a fundamental building block in the formation of society. The body politic is derivative of the people's use of language.

Americans have a way of understanding ideas that is held (or at least has been held until recently) by most people in the society. For example, we speak of freedom and independence. We know what we mean by these words. Other people use them differently. Dictators use the same words that are used by people in free societies. This contention is proved by the reading of Lenin and Hitler, to mention only two.

So we see that language is strong enough a power to form nations. But the student of the Bible knows that it can do more than this. The proper use of language can save souls. We quote Romans 10:17 all the time: **“So then faith comes by I and hearing by the word of God.”** The danger in being so familiar with a passage is that we overlook its power and profundity. Faith is essential if one is to ever come to God (Hebrews 11:6). This text tells us that this required faith comes from the Word of God. Now, this truth is embodied in words, the very things that are the components of language. Language can make nations and some of them free. More importantly, language can make souls free from sin.

We remember Paul from Romans 1:16: **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth....”**

— Continued on page 3

“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

Examine yourself, whether you are in the faith ... or not! (2 Cor 13:5)

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Connie** is to have a CT scan of her back on Thursday.
- **Steve** a friend of **Jason Parks** has been diagnosed with cancer.
- **Janet Boyd's** mother went to ER Tuesday night with blood pressure problems.
- Continue to remember **Lauren** in your prayers.
- Continue to remember **Stephanie** in your prayers.
- **Gail Allen** is recovering from foot surgery.
- **Adler** had an accident on her bike. She lost a tooth and has a swollen lip and skinned face.
- **Paula Kennedy** has bronchitis
- **Jan Kelleher** continues to suffer debilitating side effects from chemotherapy. She also continues to be in pain from bone cancer, but so far she is coping well and it is not spreading. All thanks and glory to **God** that the cancer is still not spreading, **Pray for all these**, and our search for an **evangelist** to help us with the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;" -Psalms 103:2-4

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **MEN! Plan on discussing Sunday** our latest evangelist search respondent.
- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jason, Jones** or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **ALL! Contact** those on the Directory list you've not seen recently (like last Sunday).
- **ALL! 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.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." - Hebrews 13:5

Examine yourself! Are you really in the faith? (2 Cor 13:5)

When Ye Pray

We are praying the wrong kind of prayers when we endeavour to reverse the proper relationship between God and man. Properly speaking, God is the Creator, man is the creature. If this is true, as we glibly assert, then our prayers should respect and exemplify that relationship.

But how often are we found praying as if God lives to provide us with what we want; so that, instead of seeking divine guidance, our obvious efforts are to obtain divine reinforcements. Prayers which are "thing-centered" or "self-centered," rather than "God-centered" are wrong kinds of prayers.

- **Leslie G. Thomas** 1895-1988 Gospel preacher

WORD POWER (continued from front page)

Language may be used for various ends. Its best use is as the gospel of Christ. The next best use of language is the presentation of that gospel to all who need to hear it. Preaching the gospel is the most significant use of language. If you do not think so, listen to Paul here:

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God” and here “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ, the power of God, and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18, 23-24).

Words have many powers. The greatest power of words is to save the souls of the lost. We must both know and share these words.

-Bill Irby, Evangelist, West Hobbs Street Church of Christ, Athens, Alabama

KEEP ASKING

When the Lord told Abraham He was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham asked the Lord if He would spare Sodom if there were 50 righteous people living there. The Lord said "No!" Then Abraham asked the same question of 45, 40, 30, 20 and finally 10. So Abraham made the same basic request 6 times (Gen. 23:33).

Now consider Lot, Abraham's nephew living in Sodom. Two angels came to Sodom in the evening while Lot was sitting at the gate. Lot bowed and invited them to spend the night in his home. They refused, saying they would spend the night in the square. So Lot urged them strongly, and they entered his house, Gen. 19:1-3.

Jesus taught that we should ASK, SEEK and KNOCK (Matt. 7:7-11). This suggests that we need to be persistent. It implies that God does not mind, and in fact prefers to hear our insistent plea. Now this is not senseless repetition condemned by Jesus in Matthew 6:7-8, but rather the attitude of heart that tells the Lord we are serious about our request. Abraham humbly and methodically increased the ante. Lot was at first turned down by the angels, and then they went with him - subsequently saving him.

So if you are serious about something it is ok to keep putting that request before the throne of God. Keep asking!

- **Rick Laing**, Gospel preacher, Highland Village church of Christ, Austin Texas

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” - Matthew 7:7-11

Examine yourself, whether you are in the faith ... or not! (2 Cor 13:5)