

THE BULLETIN—VOL 45, NUMBER 32, August 18, 2019

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

PM: Harvey Allen

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

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO REAP AT THE LAST DAY?

**“Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth,
that shall he also reap.” - Galatians 6:7**

Test all things; hold fast that which is good. - 1 Thess 5:21

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

On Request
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time man wanted

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

We All Need Someone Else in Charge

In Revelation 20 the writer, John the apostle, wrote of two different occasions where Satan was defeated. The first mention, in verse two, has been the subject of much attention. It reads: “**And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.**” The scripture is vague in regards to this “thousand years” thus all the man-made speculation. We are not given a specific starting or ending point for this period of time. Contextually there is no reason to understand this time frame as literally over figuratively, as numbers in the Bible are often figurative. What is to be understood with complete certainty, and what fits well with the message of Revelation is the fact Satan is defeated by God. In a different text by John he wrote “**The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil**” (1 Jn. 3:9b). Again, Satan is defeated. A reading of the gospel of John informs the reader Jesus accomplished all the Father sent Him to do, failing in nothing. Having accomplished everything necessary for the redemption of man Jesus was made Lord (Acts 2:36). In very simple terms: Jesus is the boss of everything.

Who knows why, but just about everyone does not want a boss. We must have convinced ourselves there is some sort of freedom without oversight. The reality is we all have a boss. Everyone answers to someone and everyone should answer to someone. The Wal-Mart sectional employee must answer to the department manager just as the CEO answers to a board of directors and stock holders. Scripture tells us our Savior has defeated Satan, but it cost Him dearly to do so – such is the love of God. As a result we not only need Jesus to be our Lord we should want Jesus to be our Lord. No person knows how to defeat the devil; what sense does it make to run around without the oversight of the one who does? People are often followed due to their credibility. Jesus cannot prove to be any more credible; if what He has done does not prove He needs to be your Lord then you must be ignoring the evidence.

Everyone has a boss, it might as well be the only boss you’ll ever have who will seek out what is in your best interest above His own.

- T.J. Bolen, Gospel preacher, West Columbia South Carolina

“**And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**” - Philippians 2:8-11

“Test all things; hold fast that which is good.” - 1 Thess 5:21

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Don Blackwell, Merrie Christmus, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Barbara and Melvin Reeder, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Amy Strickland** is thankful for few days without pain. Pray her surgery date can be moved up. **Margaret Herring** is having more bad news about her health. **Pat Joyner** is still suffering as well, without any good news but remains faithful in attendance. Pray for these. Sending a card would encourage them.
- **Lauren Beard** requests continued prayer for her family.
- Also, continue to remember: **Jan Kelleher, Laura Nichols, and Steve Rigney.**
- **Keep ALL these in your prayers**, that the Lord be merciful and pray also that we **all** grow in **faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, mercy, knowledge.**

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." - 2 Corinthians 1:3,4

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Melvin and Barbara Reed** are in need of a ride to our assembly. People are lined up for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays. Details are on the bulletin board in the foyer.
- **Pray earnestly that our search for a sound preacher bears fruit!**
- **What does God Require of us?** Check the bulletin board for member's responses to this question, and add your own.

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” - Philippians 4:13

Test all things; hold fast that which is good. - 1 Thess 5:21

PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

THE ESSENTIALITY OF ASSEMBLING TOGETHER

An indispensable ingredient of the Christian life is to congregate with those of like precious faith for the purpose of worshiping God and to edify and exhort one another. God, in His infinite wisdom, created man to be a social being, that is, in need of fellowship with other men. It is a misunderstanding and a disregard of the intent of God when men abstain from the assemblies of the Lord's people. The corporate worship of the body of believers is not the whole of Christianity; nevertheless, assembling together is necessary for the spiritual growth and welfare of the individual disciple. It has never been the design and purpose of God for His followers to isolate themselves from other children of God. One can readily read of the various assemblies under the Mosaic economy and to learn the necessity of such gatherings (Exodus 5:1, 3; 12:6; Deuteronomy 16:8).

A proper investigation of the disciples of Christ will determine that various assemblies were in evidence in the first century. At the beginning of the church in Jerusalem you can read in Acts 2:44: "All that believed were together...". Following the first persecution, saints "gathered together" (Acts 4:31). It is recorded in Acts 11:26, that Barnabas and Saul assembled themselves with the church for a year in order to teach the brethren. After the first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch and "gathered the church together: to rehearse all that God had done by them (Acts 13:27). All Bible students are aware that the early Christians met upon "the first day of the week "to break bread, that is, to partake of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7). In fact, when Paul wrote to the brethren in Corinth, he admonished them to give as God had prospered them "upon the first day of the week" (I Corinthians 16:1, 2). He knew that they were already meeting on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper because he mentioned this fact earlier in chapter 11. Notice in 11:18: "For first of all, when ye come together in the church (meet as a congregation)..." Again in 11:20: "When therefore ye assemble yourselves together..." In chapter 14:23: "If therefore the whole church be assembled together..."

The fact was, one sure way to denote a Christian who was becoming unfaithful to Christ was in their habitual absence from the assemblies of the saints. Please study carefully the context in which you find Hebrews 10:24, 25. In our assemblies, we can exhort one another in the matter of love, good works, and, in short, faithful Christian living. Even in our songs we can teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16). Redeemed people find joy, strength and security in coming together to praise God the Father and the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Expressions of gratitude, honor, homage and devotion are natural for one whose heart is filled with love for God because of our salvation and the hope of eternal life. It is God's desire that we worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23, 24).

Raymond Elliott, former elder, minister, Prattville Church of Christ, Alabama

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;” - Hebrews 10:24,25