

# East Columbus Bulletin

Vol. 2, No. 03 – Mar. 01, 2015



East Columbus church of Christ  
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*1John 1:5-10 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

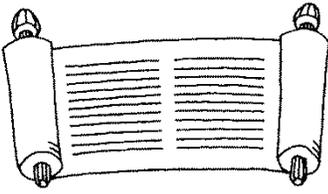
<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
9:00 a.m. Worship/10:05 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Worship with Lord's Supper	7:00 p.m. Bible classes for all ages

- Other Study and Worship Opportunities**
- Second Sunday 2:00 p.m., Trinity Care Home Worship Service
  - Second Saturday Men's Bible Study Ranch House Restaurant 6:30 A.M.
  - Third Sunday Bible Study 6:00 p.m. location (TBA)
  - Young Bible Scholars meet each month - Time and Location (TBA)
  - Fourth Tuesday Women's Bible Study 11:00 A.M. Church Building
  - Bible Study at the Pines - 5 p.m. Tuesdays & 8 p.m. Sundays, Cady Hill Thurs. 6 p.m.
  - CD's of sermons are available by signing up in the back
  - Gospel Meeting – April 19-23 with Jeremy Paschall
  - Ladies Annual Retreat – April 11 at the Hilfiker's
  - Guest Speakers – Mar 1 John Junkin, Mar 8 Marshall Anderson, Mar 15 John Junkin, Mar 22 Levi Presnell, Mar 29 Hayden Clark.

**Prayer Requests**

Home Bound Members: - Mike Butler, Annie McCrary, Jack Burks, Eula Mae Harliss  
 Others Limited by Health: - Frances Barham, Joyce Monasco, Joyce Ratcliff, Willena Woods  
 Sick: - Joyce Ratcliff is having serious health issues, and Burt Wheeler is now at Michael's getting specialized treatment.  
 Recuperating - April Green and Allen Jones continue to heal from major surgeries.

Elders: Jay McCrary and Jerry Paschall  
 Deacons: Clyde Hollis, Ed Williams, Don Zant  
 Preacher: Vacant



***Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (28) Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:***

## **Negative Preaching**

Have you ever said, or heard someone else say, "That preacher is too negative. He is always criticizing something or somebody. Why can't he just say what he is for and not keep harping all the time on the things he is against?"

Well, the fact is it is impossible to really be for anything without being against something. Imagine someone saying:

*"I'm for peace, but I have nothing against war."*

*"I strongly believe that everyone should love their fellowman, but I wouldn't want to say anything against hatred."*

*"I think it is very important that we always be truthful, but if someone wants to tell lies, I guess there's nothing wrong with that."*

*"I believe in God and want to live to please Him, but I have nothing bad to say about His archenemy, Satan."*

We could go on and on. The point is obvious—**standing FOR truth and right will always necessitate standing AGAINST error and wrong.** This is axiomatic.

But let a preacher plainly and specifically expose false doctrine or sin (even though he "speaks the truth in love") and you are sure to hear a howl arise from some about negative preaching. It is interesting to speculate what would have been the reaction of such people had they lived in New Testament times and heard John the Baptist rebuke the apostate Jews, "**O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?**"

Or Jesus, as he castigated the self-righteous leaders, "**Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.**"

Or Stephen, "**Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost.**"

Or Paul, "**O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?**"

Or Peter, "**There were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies.**"

Or John, "**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**"

Negative? Absolutely! These men (speaking and writing by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) exposed and opposed sin and error in very strong language. It was the only way they could consistently "contend for the faith."

While we are taught to be gentle, meek and longsuffering in our attempts to reach the lost, this certainly does not allow us to overlook error. Real positive preaching cannot be done without being negative about some things.

Let's not let the compromising spirit that prevails in the religious world today affect us to the point that we are ashamed of (or worse, opposed to) those who courageously expose and refute that which is contrary to God's revealed will.

**Leonard White, Bulletin (McCraven Road church of Christ, Clinton, MS), 1-1-15**