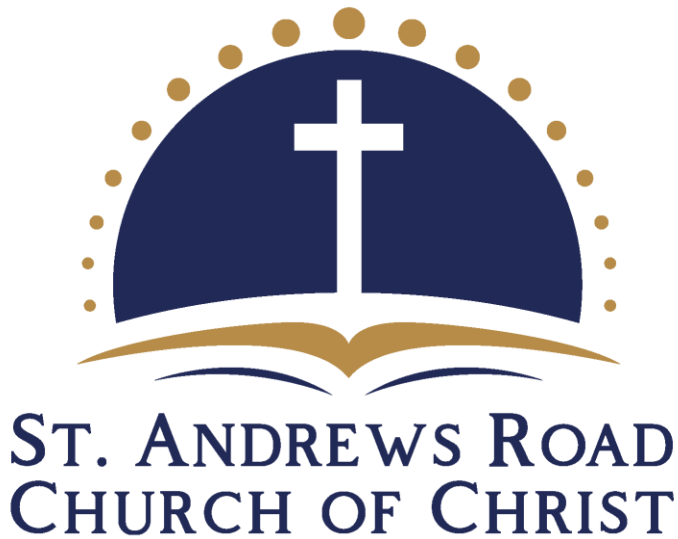


September 10, 2023

Volume 57 Issue 37



Worship Services & Bible Study

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM	Bible Class
SUNDAYS	11:00 AM	Worship
SUNDAYS	6:00 PM	Worship
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM	Bible Study

425 Saint Andrews Rd / Columbia, SC, 29210
803-772-0102

YouTube: Church of Christ St Andrews Rd

Unless You Repent

Have you ever thought that you would not come out of a grocery store alive? That is what happened to some in Boulder, Colorado on March 22, 2021, as a man entered a King Soopers and started shooting. Those who died were employees, customers, and a police officer who led the charge into the store. Ten people's lives were cut short violently, quickly, and mercilessly.

As terrible as that is, what would be even more tragic is if those victims were not ready to stand before **the Judge of all the earth (Genesis 18:25)** having not been reconciled to Him in Christ. Jesus spoke of an occasion when another group of people died without warning: **Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish (Luke 13:4-5, NKJV)**. Jesus was saying that the tower's falling upon them was an accident, but those eighteen souls also perished spiritually, in addition to losing their lives, as they were in need of repentance. To perish spiritually is to be condemned to a devil's hell for all eternity. The soul lives on in a state of ruin. Jesus describes it as **everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46)**.

Jesus is concerned for every soul. His answer in Luke 13:5 also tells us that the time for repentance is now, not some time that may be convenient for us (cf. Acts 24:25). The Lord does not promise us tomorrow (James 4:14); however, he does give us hope for today. It is because of the grace of God that you and I have the option of repentance. **Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:46-47)**. You and I have hope because God will accept our repentance. That hope is eternal life instead of the dread of condemnation. If we want to go to heaven, we must obey our Lord's command to repent (cf. Acts 17:30). Repentance is, as one brother put it, "a change of the will produced by sorrow for sin, and leading to reformation" (J.W. McGarvey, Original Commentary on Acts, pg. 55). The apostle Paul told the Corinthian brethren, **Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death (2 Corinthians 7:9-10)**. Instead of being sorry for what their sin had done to them (embarrassment, legal trouble, regret), they were sorry for what their sin had done to God (grief, cf. Ephesians 4:30). This "godly sorrow" produced a change of their will. The result of their repentance was a reformed life. We must bear fruit worthy of repentance, as John the immerser preached (Luke 3:8), as well as Paul (Acts 26:20). This reformation is the result of repentance. So, if your behavior did not change, you did not repent.

We pray for the family members of the victims of this senseless and evil act that happened in Boulder. We should also pray for the murderer, that he may **repent, turn to God and do works befitting repentance (Acts 26:20)**. Let us also pray for our Lord to come so that our great enemy, death, will finally be defeated (1 Cor. 15:24-26). We cannot control the evil actions of others, but the Lord has given us the opportunity to control our eternal destiny. He **is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)**.

Brotherly,
Jamie

Gospel Meeting with BJ Clarke

September 17 - 20

Door Knocking Day

Saturday, September 16

9 AM – Noon

Anyone who is interested in participating may come to invite our neighbors to the Gospel Meeting.

Fellowship Luncheon

September 17, Sunday

Bring food enough for your family and our visitors please.

Men's & Preachers Meeting

Tuesday, September 19

10:00 AM

Speaker: BJ Clarke

Training Men to Lead

Senior Bible Study

Tuesday, September 12

10:00 AM

Youth Girls Baking Day

Saturday, September 23

3 – 5 PM

@ home of Wo Family

Youth Game Night

Friday, September 29

6 – 11 PM

BECOME A BIBLE TEACHER

A Jot from John,

With the number of our congregation seemingly growing, we will constantly find ourselves in need of teachers. No position in life is superior to a teacher of God's Word. No influence more lasting for good. A dedicated teacher can deeply implant and faithfully cherish the "**Seeds of Truth**" in the young and tender hearts.

God will help a teacher to develop into a stronger one if an earnest effort is put forth. The reason why God favored Cornelius (Acts 10) was because He saw in Cornelius a sincere desire to learn. He had an open mind and willing to comply with every known requirement. That spirit has always pleased God. He, therefore, opened the way for Cornelius to learn the whole truth from Peter that he might be saved.

God still offers light to a sincere, consecrated follower. The promise is given, "***If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.***" (James 1:5).

The devoted teacher realizes the work extends outside the classroom. It is a twenty-four-hour job. A daily demonstration of eagerness to grow in God's favor is manifested.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6). No teacher knows the future of the pupils. But God knows, as He did in Peter. Whether it is His purpose for some in this present generation to rule the world, as did Joseph, as prime minister: or for others to "**stand before kings,**" as did Moses, Esther, and Daniel; or for many to serve and suffer for Christ, as did Stephen, James and Paul. The sacred privilege is to teach faithfully and diligently during their formative years.

Among the many rewards of a teacher growing older is seeing another generation follow in the footsteps of former pupils. Eternity alone will reveal the good done through the Christ-like life of a Bible Teacher.

**Onward Rejoicing,
John B. Daniels, Associate Minister**