

Corner of River and Rhett

Dear Friends of Alonzo and Esther Ramirez,

As you know we have been on a year-long journey (or more), helping Alonzo get his vehicle repaired, and back on the road. After wrangling with the insurance company to no avail, it became evident that we would have to raise the money to repair the vehicle through gifts. That's where you came in. Thank you so much for your generous gift that helped to raise the funds for the repairs. Alonzo sent me a note saying, "Please thank all our brethren who graciously gave their money for this poor little helper on wheels to get back on the road after one year and four months just today." Alonzo also sent some pictures. I have included a before and after picture. Again, thanks so much!

On behalf of Alonzo and Esther,

Roland S. Barnes



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The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

Return Service Requested

WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY

April 18, 2021

MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00 am

www.spcgreenville.org

GROW IN GRACE

2 Peter 3:18

Hymns: 475, 432/257, 526

Anthem: Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 pm

www.spcgreenville.org

JUSTICE WITH THE LORD

2 Chronicles 19:4-11

Hymns: 11B, 435, 196

Psalms 110A

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching



The West End Herald

Vol. CXXIX, Edition 15

The Second Presbyterian Church

Corner of River and Rhett Streets

Greenville, South Carolina

April 18, 2021

How to Listen to Preaching A Series on The Westminster Larger Catechism Q&A 154-160 by Joel Smit

This article appeared on GospelReformation.Net and is used with their permission.

Recently my wife and I had a rare opportunity to go out to eat. Wanting to make the most of it, I chose a restaurant that I knew had a good reputation and made reservations. Before getting there, I went to their online menu to see my dinner options. So, before I sat down, I already knew what I was going to have – in fact, I had been thinking about it all day. That little amount of planning and preparation allowed me to enjoy my meal and time with my wife that much more.

I'm sure you have done the same. However, I wonder if we give the same effort and attention to the preached word as it is "served up" every week by our pastors in the local church? Can we say that week by week we have fed upon the Word of God as fully as we might? Or could all of us use a little more diligence in this area and improve our spiritual appetite?

While I absolutely agree it is incumbent upon the pastor to, "Preach the word in season and out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2), there is an equal duty upon the hearer to hear what is preached. Jesus statement, "He who has ears let him hear" (Mt. 11:15) has much more meaning to it than having the auditory ability to hear. So how can we be better hearers of the Word of God?

This is the subject of Westminster Larger Catechism question #160, "What is required of those that hear the Word?" We can break down the answer into three parts – before, during, and after – the word is preached. Let's take a look at each one:

Before the Word Preached

Most churchgoers believe they are doing well if they show up, let alone doing *anything* before the word is preached. However, the catechism says that it is required to “attend upon [the preached word] with diligence, preparation, and prayer.” In other words, there should be a holy expectation for what will occur in and through the preached word and worship service. Just like I had an eager expectation for the meal at the restaurant, or you might have excitement for an upcoming event, so the believer should have an expectation for what the Spirit of God will do through the Word *before* it is given and have made preparations to receive it.

What type of preparation? Like arranging your schedule so that you can be in attendance, and free of other work and distractions; being in prayer for yourself, those attending, and the pastor as he prepares and then delivers the message; reading the Scripture passage beforehand so as to already have your mind set upon it. This last one is easy to do if your church preaches sequential expository sermons, but if not, perhaps you can get the passage early from an online posting of the bulletin, or by arriving early to the service to read the passage beforehand.

During the Word Preached

While listening may seem like a passive activity, being a good listener takes a lot of active effort. This is especially true while the word is preached and why the catechism calls for two actions – examining and receiving. The hearer of the word must, “*examine what they hear by the scriptures.*” This calls for discernment and being a Berean (Acts 17:11) to know that what is being said is the truth of God. If it is, then it is not the preacher’s words, but it is God’s word to His people and therefore should be received as such.

That preached truth is therefore to be received, “*with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the word of God.*” In other words, the hearer is to allow the word of God through the power of the Holy Spirit to deeply penetrate his or her heart, mind, and life. To bring to bear the full comfort and conviction of God’s living and active word through that preached word (Heb. 4:12).

After the Word Preached

Even when the sermon is over the requirements are not done. In reality the catechism seems to place the greatest emphasis on the work to be done *after* the sermon is preached, as it calls to, “*meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.*” The truth of God’s word should stick with us in our hearts and minds. We should bring it to thought throughout the week and ponder on it some more. Notice this is not to be just an individual task, but a corporate one. That is what it means when it says to “*confer of it*” – to discuss it with others. This conferring should take place in the family – both immediate family and church family – as well as to those outside of the church as we proclaim to the world the good news of what we have heard.

Furthermore, the truth of that preached word should find root in our hearts and minds, and by the power and blessing of the Holy Spirit bring forth evidence of it in our lives. As one pastor, when complemented at the back doors on a good sermon, replied, “*It has only been preached, it has yet to be lived,*” so too sermons should go far beyond the final “amen”.

Whereas I have shelves of books on how to preach, I have only one book on how to listen to sermons. This wonderful Catechism question helps to correct the misnomer that preaching is only upon the preacher. All of us as the Body of Christ have a part to play when it comes to the preached word and having the “*ears to hear.*” Let us therefore give greater diligence to the requirements of the word preached for our individual and corporate good.

Ken Ramsey, *Expository Listening* (Kress Biblical Resources; Woodlands, TX, 2010) is an excellent resource and speaks to this topic in a biblical and practical manner. Highly recommend it.



CHURCH INFORMATION
Telephone: 864.232.7621
Website: spcgreenville.org
Social Media
facebook.com/spcgreenville  twitter.com/spcgreenville 

Holiness by J.C. Ryle

All-Adult Sunday School is being held at 10 AM in the Gym from April 11 to August 22. We are studying *Holiness* by J.C. Ryle. Books are available in the bookstore.

Hardcover: \$22 **Softcover:** \$13

About Holiness

Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots is perhaps J. C. Ryle’s best-known and, arguably, best-loved book. Although many things have changed since 1877, when this book was first published, one thing remains the same: ‘real practical holiness does not receive the attention it deserves.’ It was to remedy this attention deficit, and to counter false teaching on this most important subject, that Ryle took up his pen.

SCHEDULE

| Date | Chapter | Teacher |
|------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 4/18 | Sanctification | Jonathan Master |
| 4/25 | Holiness | Kevin Mobley |
| 5/2 | The Fight | Wayne Kirk |
| 5/9 | The Cost | Kirby Kee |
| 5/16 | Growth | Hugh Player |
| 5/23 | Assurance | Dennis Zimmerman |
| 5/30 | Moses: An Example | Jim McGoldrick |
| 6/6 | Lot: A Beacon | Bill Watkins |
| 6/13 | A Woman to Be Remembered | Wayne Kirk |
| 6/20 | Christ’s Greatest Trophy | Ken Safford |
| 6/27 | The Ruler of the Waves | Chad Bailey |
| 7/4 | Visible Churches Warned | Bobby Mann |
| 7/11 | The Church Which Christ Builds | Mel Duncan |
| 7/18 | Lovest Though Me? | Johnny Mann |
| 7/25 | Without Christ | Jeremy Weaver |
| 8/1 | Thirst Relieved | Joel Barnett |
| 8/8 | Wants of the Times | Chad Bailey |
| 8/15 | Unsearchable Riches | Brendon Branigin |
| 8/22 | Christ Is All | Richard Phillips |

**The Lord's Supper
April 18, 2021
Evening Worship Service**

Children's Chapel Has Resumed

Children's Chapel resumed Sunday, April 11, at 9:50 am in the Sanctuary. All children 5 years old through 4th grade are invited to come share a special visit with the Pastor to discuss the worship service and the sermon.

**WIC Spring Luncheon
Mark Your Calendars**

Attention all ladies!
Plan to come to our
annual WIC Spring Luncheon
Saturday, May 8, 11:00 am-1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall
Watch for more details in upcoming Heralds.

Graduation Banquet

Wednesday, May 12, 2021
5:45 PM * Church Gymnasium

Join us as we honor our 2021 graduates:

*If you are graduating in May or December 2021, and have not contacted the church office please do so this week.
232-7621, ext. 101 or jgrant@spcgreenville.org*

CAT Kids Program

Wednesday, May 19
Supper: 5:30 PM
Program: 7:00 PM

Come and see what our covenant children have learned this year in CAT Kids.

Musical CAT Kids will begin June 2nd.

*The flowers are placed in the sanctuary this Lord's Day to the glory of God and in thankfulness for the many special days the Lord has given us together.
By Mr. and Mrs. Sam Robinson.*

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 18

- 8:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
- 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
- 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11:00 AM MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
- 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 PM EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Monday, April 19

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, April 20

- 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study

Wednesday, April 21

- 5:45 PM FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER
- 6:15 PM Covenant Choir/Youth Ensemble
- 6:30 PM Administration Committee Meeting
- 6:45 PM CAT/Covenant Kids
- 6:45 PM Jr. and Sr. High Bible Studies
- 6:45 PM PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL ADULTS
- 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 22

- 9:00 AM Calvary Presbytery at Woodruff Road PCA
- 7:00 PM Mission to Main Street

Friday, April 23

- 12:00 PM Men's Lunch and Bible Study

Calvary Presbytery

The 149th Stated Meeting of Calvary Presbytery will be held on Thursday, April 22nd at Woodruff Road PCA. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am. Please be in prayer for God's blessing on this meeting and for the commissioners attending from Second. Visitors are welcome.

New Members

We welcome the following new members into our church family. They were received by the Session on March 14 and 21 and introduced to the congregation on March 28.

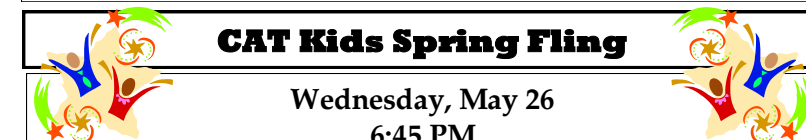
- Buck and Claire Brown
- Rob and Mary Kate Gamble; Mae (1)
- Seth Joiner
- David and Barbara Leeman
- Sean and Gerylyn McGaughran; Andrew (13) Elizabeth (11)
- John Oldham
- Andy and Lyndsay Senn; Cal (8) Luke (7) Owen (4)



**Evangelism Explosion
Training**

Have you ever wanted to tell a friend or relative about Jesus, but did not know how to start or what to say? Evangelism Explosion is an evangelistic training program designed to equip you to tell others the good news about Jesus Christ. The spring semester begins April 27th, at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room. Please call or see Ken Safford (419-8267) to sign up, or if you have any questions.

CAT Kids Spring Fling



Wednesday, May 26
6:45 PM

At the church
Musical CAT Kids will begin Wednesday, June 2nd.



National Day of Prayer

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

