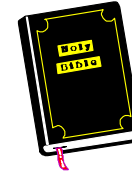


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

Four Thieves of the Crucifixion

1. **The thief who regretted (John 12:6).** Oh the advantages Judas had! He had been selected by Jesus to be an apostle, was entrusted by his peers with the position of treasurer, and observed many of the Lord’s miracles (Matthew 11:5). It was this Judas who betrayed the Lord for money. His betrayal turned to regret (Matthew 27:3), but rather than look forward to forgiveness, he only looked back and hanged himself. True repentance means more than feeling sorry for a wrong. It is the desire to change and do better (2 Corinthians 7:10).

2. **The thief who was replaced.** It was customary to release a prisoner at the Passover. Thus Pilate offered the crowd either Jesus or Barabbas. They requested the notorious murderer and robber released rather than Jesus (Matthew 27:15–16). Barabbas had someone else (Jesus) take his punishment for him. Barabbas could say that Jesus died in his place. Of course, we can say it, too! (2 Corinthians 5:20–21).

3. **The thief who rebelled.** At first both thieves crucified with Christ spoke against Him (Matthew 27:41–44), but only one kept on doing it (Luke 23:39). This thief remained impenitent because he forgot God, ignored death at hand, and justly deserved what he was receiving (Luke 23:40–41). This man died in a state of rebellion in spite of the rebuke and repentance of the other thief and a Savior close at hand.

4. **The thief who repented.** This thief had a change of heart (Luke 23:40–43). In his agony he looked to the Savior and admitted his sinfulness and Jesus’ innocence (Luke 23:41–42). His repentance did not bring escape from death but did bring relief and fellowship with Jesus in the next life (Luke 23:43). He did what the Lord asked him to do, and in that sense he is an example to us.

All of us are represented by one of these thieves. Have you let Jesus down? Have you allowed Jesus to take your place? Are you rebellious? Have you repented? Which are you?

—Gary Puryear, Minister Henderson church of Christ, Henderson Kentucky

“Having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself.” —Colossians 1:20

Strive to get **CLOSER TO HEAVEN IN 2007!**

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 18 May 6, 2007

RECORDS 4/29/2007

SERMONS 5/6/2007

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 54
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 96
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 56
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 71
CONTRIBUTION: \$2151

AM: Jerry Manning
How To Have Christian Growth
PM: Jerry Manning
The Tabernacle And The Church

“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” - Galatians 6:8,9

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Margaret Herring, and our shut-ins Jessica Herring, Zudora Clegg, and Phyllis Johnson. Also, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack Edwards (Melissa Parks' father), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson).
- Melissa Parks' father, Jack Edwards, had to have emergency surgery for a ruptured stomach aneurysm with a very poor prognosis from the doctors. However, several days later he seem to be improving. Remember him and Melissa who is up there with him, in your prayers.
- Don Fields requests prayers for a relation Phyllis Johnson in Little Rock and his cousin's daughter, Karen Hunter. Both are fighting cancer.
- Billy McVeigh, minister of the church in Kingstree, is recovering from cancer surgery. He's temporarily enlisted Craig Hinrichs to help a little more with the work in South America.
- Laura Henry is in Room 726 at Lexington Medical center and would like a visit.
- Also remember Tom Rinehart, who has some back problems, in your prayers.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."
- Psalms 31:24

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- All ladies are asked to meet with Sis. Marcella Klieves after the fellowship meal at 1:30 p.m. on 5/06/07. We will be discussing your role as gleaned from your work sheet in the planning of the ladies day. Please allow at least 20-25 minutes. Children are welcome.
- Remember our sister Anne Louise Gordon and the work at LCDC in your prayers. Brother Manning has been able to teach regularly and reach many who want to obey God and be baptized into Christ but are prevented from doing so. Also remember William Horan, an inmate in Pod G, who is teaching others the truth and wants to be baptized himself, but is hindered by the authorities. Send a card or letter to him at: **PO Box 2019, PG-5 Lexington, SC 29071**

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." - Matthew 7:12-14

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:24

- **ELDER'S MEETINGS & FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON** Sunday May 6, 2007. The elders will meet with the men at 1:30 PM and the ladies at 5PM at the building. Bro. Eddie Sheppard will be BBQ'ing a hog Saturday for this.

Strive to get **CLOSER TO HEAVEN IN 2007!**

“ELDERS ... FEED THE FLOCK OF GOD” - 1 Peter 5:1,2

"And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellency of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

In this passage, God (through Paul) is telling us two very important things:

First, there are two kinds of wisdom: Man's and God's. And there is just no comparison between the two. (Isaiah 55:8,9; Prov. 3:5-8). We must remember, however, HUMAN WISDOM does produce results (but not the type we want). It gets results because it is based on man's understanding of man. But, who are we out to please? And, if we say it's God, can we please God by using MAN's wisdom?

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” - Heb 11:6

Second, faith can be built on man's wisdom. We can use the wisdom of the world to teach men about God and Christ. We can even give men faith using the wisdom of men. However, is this kind of faith acceptable with God?

“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” - Matthew 15:8,9

As we serve God and teach others about Him, we must be careful to do it **HIS** way, to speak "as the oracles of God." We must use God's word and the ability He has given us, in order to glorify God and not ourselves.

“If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.” - 1 Peter 4:11

We must decide whether we will serve God His way or our way. And if we don't do it His way, who are we really serving? We may kid ourselves, but God won't be fooled.

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

- Ed Kelleher, elder, West Columbia church of Christ