

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

Where In The Bible Will I Find... We are to Preach Christ, Not the Church?

The church of the Bible is not a denomination. In fact, the only reference to denominationalism in the New Testament condemns division (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” - 1 Corinthians 1:10

Many and various are the teachings of denominations concerning their thoughts on God's plan for saving the world. The different plans offered by men do not change God's divine plan in the least. Some teach babies should be "baptized" by sprinkling or the sinner should pray instead of obey or faith alone saves, which is expressly condemned in the Bible (James 2:14, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26) or that Jesus saves and not the church and one can be saved outside as well as in the church of Christ.

None of these are the plan brought to the earth by God. God sent His only begotten Son to seek and save the lost (John 3:16, Luke 19:10). God's plan was that Jesus should seek the lost by establishing the church. The church was planned, prophesied, promised, and predicted for several hundred years before its establishment. In Acts 2, the church is an established reality, and is represented as being the place prepared by Christ for the saved (Acts 2:41, 47).

The church is not a part of the plan of salvation. It is the plan of salvation. According to the Bible, men cannot be saved outside of Christ, the church, or body of Christ, which terms all refer to the place of salvation. The plan for entering the church of Christ includes a man hearing, believing in Christ with all of his heart, repentance, confession, and being baptized (Acts 8:35-39).

Jesus, in carrying out God's will, never promised to save anyone outside the church which He built with His teaching and purchased with His blood (Matthew 16:18-19; 28:19-20; Acts 20:28). The church is the only institution over which He is head (Ephesians 1:22-23) and the only one on the earth now that He promised to save eternally (Ephesians 5:23).

— (Continued on page 3)

Speaking only what God has spoken is one way to ...
Choose the Strait Gate in 2008

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 18 May 4, 2008

RECORDS 4/27/2008

SERMONS 5/4/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 64
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 91
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 64
Wed 7 PM Bible Study: 71
CONTRIBUTION: \$2270

AM: Jerry Manning

EXPECT BAD THINGS

PM: Jerry Manning

LESSONS FROM I & II TIMOTHY AND TITUS

“But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:19

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, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Lamar Reeves** is home now, recovering from successful double hip replacement surgery. He's in quite a bit of pain, but is improving steadily. A nurse and therapist are visiting him several times a week. Remember Lamar in your prayers, not only for his physical well being, but also as he continues to struggle with a very difficult home situation.
- **Jeanette Reeves** continues to struggle with sin. Pray for her repentance.
- **Lynn Manning's** mom, **Lorraine Welsh**, is in the hospital in New York for tests.
- Remember all these and **Dianne and Tiffany Dillard** and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

"The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." - Proverbs 19:23

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **YOUTH LOCKIN!** Fri-Sat June 6,7 at Thompson Georgia. **Jerry and Lynn Manning** will be chaperones but would welcome any other adults who could help.
- The **youth** are meeting on a regular basis at the building, Mondays at 7 pm to work on murals for our upcoming VBS.
- **Ladies** work on the **visual aids** every **Tuesday** 7:00 pm, at the building.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** is scheduled Sun-Wed, **Sep 14-17, 2008** with **Billy Bland**, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." - Romans 12:10

WHAT CAN THE WORLD DO FOR YOU?

“..., which, when they have heard, they go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection” - Luke 8:14

And ...

**“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”
- Matthew 7:19**

Knowing the world can kill you then, for eternity, don't you think you'd rather:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” - 2 Timothy 2:15

And thus ...

Choose the Strait Gate in 2008

Where In The Bible Will I Find...

We are to Preach Christ, Not the Church? —(cont. from page 1)

With these thoughts clearly before us, one expresses his ignorance of the Scriptures who might say, "I am so glad to hear someone preach Jesus as the Saviour and not the Church as the Saviour." When deadly persecution arose with the stoning of Stephen, the members of the church at Jerusalem were "scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria..." and "went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:1-4).

Preaching Christ and preaching the Word are one and the same (Acts 8:4-5) and the same as preaching the church or kingdom (Acts 8:12). It is important for us to study to be approved of God (2 Timothy 2:15)

- Gary Colley, Gospel Preacher, Teacher, Memphis Tennessee

“... even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” - Ephesians 5:23-27

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

Jamie Sheppard was baptized into Christ Sunday evening after the assembly. Jamie attended often with his wife **Debbie** and children **Ryan** and **Kaitlyn**, who had all been added to the body of Christ previously. His recent hospitalization gave him time to reflect on what he had heard many times from God's word, and after hearing two powerful sermons Sunday from God's word by our evangelist, Jamie met with the evangelist after the evening assembly. They talked of God's word and Jamie repented unto life.

“AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE! - Philippians 4:4

Natalie Boyd and **Landis Cobb** were both added to the Lord's church Wednesday evening after our assembly. They had recently begun attending our bible class and assemblies regularly and heard many lessons from God's word. They approached our evangelist Wednesday who studied further with them from God's word. Afterwards, they came forward, made the sweet confession before the church and were immersed for the remission of their sins.

Remember these new babes in Christ in your prayers. Encourage them to grow, by word and example. We all fall down in rejoicing at God's great mercy and the power and hope that the Gospel of Christ brings. Truly we are blessed.

“ ... my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.” - Psalms 23:5,6