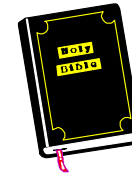


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## DOES THE CHURCH SAVE? (Part 2)

In Christ "we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins..." (Eph. 1:7). Salvation is in Christ. "That they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ..." (2 Tim. 2:10). Obtain what? Salvation. Salvation is where? In Christ. And to be in Christ is to be in the one body, the church, "He is the head of the body, the church." (Col. 1:18).

From this, it follows that if one is not in "the body" he is not in Christ, and if not in Christ, he is not saved. But to be in "the body" is to be in the church. The church does not save you, but the church is the saved ones.

### The Church Is Blood-Purchased

Christ "is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 Jn. 2:2). Though Christ died for the whole world, not all will be saved, because there are some who refuse to appropriate the blessings provided. Those who embrace the blessings are "loosed" from their sins by His blood (Rev. 1:5). Who are that number? "To feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28). Those composing the church are the ones who have been "loosed" from their sins "by his own blood." They are the purchased ones. It is not the church that saves you. The church is the saved number.

"But if I tarry long that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God..." (1 Tim. 3:15). "The house of God" is the "church of the living God." No one entertains the idea that the house of God is the meeting house in which His children meet for worship. God's house is not composed of brick and mortar, but of men and women who are his children. Crispus "believed on the Lord with all his house..." (Acts 18:8). His house was his family, not his residence.

Of those saved in Ephesus, Paul said, "Ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." (Eph. 2:19). Since the church is "the house of God" — "the household of God" — and one's household is composed of his family, it follows that if one is a child of God, he is in the household of God. To affirm that you are a child of God, but not in the church, is to declare that God has children not in His household, or family! The church does not save you, but the church is the saved number. Are you saved? Are you in His church? (Rom 16:16)

- C. R. (Charles Ready) Nichol, 1876-1961, Gospel Preacher

Choose the Strait Gate in 2008!

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 41 October 19, 2008

RECORDS 10/12/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 61  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 106  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 70  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 62  
CONTRIBUTION: \$2640

SERMONS 10/19/2008

AM: Jerry Manning  
**ONE NEEDS AN APPETITE IN ORDER TO EAT**  
PM: Jerry Manning  
**THE ASTONISHMENT OF UNBELIEF**

"Lord, to whom shall we go? THOU hast the WORDS of eternal life." - John 6:68

"That your faith should NOT stand in the WISDOM of MEN  
but in the power of God." - 1 Corinthians 2:5

### 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

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

### EVANGELIST

Jerry Manning  
Home Phone (803) 936-1502  
Cell Phone (803) 429-3738  
E-Mail: jerry1Manning@yahoo.com

### BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher  
Office Phone (803) 796-8858  
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

The Bulletin  
USPS-994-500  
Periodicals Postage Paid  
West Columbia, SC  
Published Weekly By:

West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169

## **"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.
- Pamela Palmgren has been fighting gall stones and may have to have surgery.
- Remember Jan Kelleher and Craig Robinson as they recover from surgery. Craig is waiting to see if the latest surgery will give him back use of his arm after his assault in Georgia.
- Cletis Smith, a Gospel Preacher at the Ben Creek church in W. Virginia where Sister Porter used to worship, is losing his eye sight.
- Little Trey Ford, 3 mos, is home after spending several weeks in the hospital.
- Remember Ron Banks and Marilyn Brooks as they struggle with illness.
- Jeanette Reeves continues to struggle with sin. Pray for her repentance.
- Remember all these, our new brothers and sisters in Christ, and brother Manning and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

**"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" - Matthew 7:7**

## **"AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY" - Acts 2:42**

- The Young Ladies invite the Over 50's to a special dinner at the building 11/15.
- Ladies Day 2009 Planning sheets have all not been filled out. Please pick up a sheet from the foyer, fill it out, and give it to Marcella or Lynn soon.
- **GOSPEL MEETING!** Windsor Lake Church of Christ, with Bro. Mickey Burleson, minister at St. Andrews, on October 24-26, 2008. Please see flyer in the foyer and plan to attend to support our sister congregation.
- **New Convert Class** Saturdays 11 am at the building, for all. They're studying about the Bible using Keith Mosher's book, **The Book God Breathed**.
- A new **directory** of church members is available in the foyer.
- The Tuesday morning **Ladies Bible class** is no longer being held. However, there will be a Ladies Bible Class held every **second Tuesday** of the month. The first class will begin Tuesday, November 11, 2008, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the West Columbia building. Our study will be from Sis. Jane McWhorter's book, "Roses In December, Why God Gave Us Memory". There is a sign up sheet for ordering the book and how many plan to attend on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome to attend. Please see Sis. Marcella Klieves if you have any questions.

**"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." - 1 Corinthians 12:18.**

**WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 10/19—A 10/26—B 11/2—C 11/9—D**

Work Team A will meet at Betty Mathis' home, Sunday 10/19/2008 at 4 pm.

**Choose the Strait Gate in 2008!**

## **Man's Duty—To "Prove All Things"**

Men are prone to go to extremes. This has always been true. Paul seems to have been guarding against this tendency when he wrote, "**Despise not prophesyings; prove all things; hold fast that which is good**" (1 Thess. 5:20-21). In his day, there were those who claimed to "prophesy" by the Spirit, and did; and there were those who claimed to "prophesy" by the Spirit and did not. The result was that, at least, some "despised" all "prophesyings" by reason of the false claims of the pretenders. Such a wholesale rejection of all "prophesyings" was unreasonable and unsafe. It was wrong. It is not right either to reject the true because some is false or to accept the false because some is true. Paul indicated the safe course: "**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**" If there had been no evil mixed with the good, the admonition to "prove all things" and to "hold fast that which is good" would not have been necessary.

What is the meaning of the word "prove?" In this connection it cannot mean that the genuineness of "all things" is to be established, for the simple reason that the "all things" to be "proved" are not all genuine. It rather signifies to try, to put to the test. The word is employed elsewhere in the New Testament in this sense (Luke 14:19). It means that we should examine everything we hear before we receive it or reject it, as the case may be. At this point, Adam Clarke said, "Whatever ye hear in these 'prophesyings' or preachings, examine by the words of Christ, and by the doctrines which, from time to time, we have delivered unto you in our preaching and writings. Try the spirits — the different teachers — by the word of God."

In the words of the prophet, "**To the law and to the testimony! if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them**" (Isa. 8:20). The conduct of the Bereans was in keeping with the spirit of the command under consideration, for we read, "**Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so**" (Acts 17:11 ASV). The people of Berea put what they heard to the test, using the scriptures as their standard of examination. They acted rightly and wisely.

Why will people not do the same today? It is common for the message of a modern preacher to be accepted without thought, testing or investigation by those who are his friends religiously, and just as common for the same message to be rejected, without consideration, by his prejudiced religious enemies. These two unreasonable extremes are two of the most unmitigated curses of Christendom.

Let it be observed that this passage which allows the right also enjoins the duty of proving, testing, and investigating what is heard. It does not permit one to be an indifferent and passive listener. This some seem to prefer. They attend the services, not to be taught, not to bring into use any faculty of discernment or testing, but to be impressed, and that without effort on their part.

**"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world"** (1 John 4:1 ASV). All professed Christians should endeavor to become "**fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil**" (Heb. 5:14).

**- B. C. (Benton Cordell) Goodpasture, 1895-1977, Gospel Preacher**