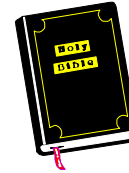


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

UNFAITHFUL CHRISTIANS

Why is it that some Christians just can't seem to stay faithful to God? We label them, "Hot and cold Christians," "On again and off again Christians" or "Lukewarm Christians." While they are in the "faithful mood," you'll see them at every church-related function ... BUT ... when they start backsliding, you can't count on them to be responsible for anything related to church work. After being AWOL for a month or two, they show for worship, acting as if nothing was ever amiss. Let me suggest some reasons why they are "On again, off again Christians." Consider these facts:

- When they become unfaithful and forsake the assembly, no one immediately goes to them to let them know they were missed.
- When they wander in after being gone a month or more, no one asks where they've been — no-one expects them to come forward confessing the sin of forsaking the assembly — and they don't!
- A brother or sister who forsakes the assembly is casting stumbling blocks before the more faithful by offending them, setting a terrible example for other babes. This is sin! **“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;” - Hebrews 10:25**

Biblical teaching on this subject is plain. Look at Matthew 18:15-17. If your brother sins, go tell him one on one: if he refuses to listen, take others with you and try to talk to him, bringing him to repentance; if he still refuses take the matter before the church; if that does not bear fruit, withdraw from him before he pollutes the whole church with the leaven of unfaithfulness which is ungodliness!

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.—Romans 16:17

A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.” - Titus 3:10-11

I wonder if the unfaithful ever read bulletin articles like this one?

- **Mike Suiter**, minister, Tipton church of Christ, Oklahoma

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 42 October 18, 2009

RECORDS 10/11/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 56
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 84
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 58
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 43
CONTRIBUTION: \$1610

SERMONS 10/18/2009

AM: Jerry Manning
SETTING THE BAR ON THE HEIGHTS OF HEAVEN
PM: Jerry Manning
THE DEPTH OF CHRIST'S LOVE

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." - 1 Peter 3:15

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

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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

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- Please keep **Vernecia Matthews** in your prayers as she has been diagnosed with cancer and will soon face surgery
- Remember **Donald Klieves** in your prayers as he seeks new work.
- **Marylyn Brooks** is bed-ridden and would appreciate prayers, visits, calls and cards.
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember these, those that are recovering from loss, in your prayers.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” - Philippians 4:6

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Transportation** needed for sisters **Betty Mathis, Jean Boyd and Marilyn Brooks.**
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

10/18—DelMonte Citrus Salad 10/11—Campbells Chunky Chicken/Dumplings

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” - Colossians 3:17

Sin Is Not Inherited From Adam

In the Bible, sin is never described as an inheritance. In the very nature of the case, sin or guilt cannot be inherited. As a matter of fact, it is impossible to inherit sin. Sin is an *act*. We cannot inherit an act. We may sin in thought, word, or deed, but no one inherits a thought, word or deed. The creeds of men however tell us that we are guilty of Adam's first sin.

Suffering from the consequences of another's guilt is a very common experience, but there is a vast difference between the sin and its consequences. A wife or husband may suffer much from the sins of the other. Children may suffer much on account of the wickedness of father or mother. It is in this way that the sins of the fathers are visited upon their children. The robber may bruise your head and take your money. You suffer the consequences of his guilt but certainly you do not share in his guilt. And we suffer as a result of Adam's sin without inheriting his guilt.

God made man in His own likeness and image. He was not then partaker of any sin. God made man upright, clean and pure. And man then had all the human nature that anyone ever had. It is a mistake, therefore, to think that sin is an essential part of human nature. Adam's sin is no more part of human nature than are your sins.

- R. L. Whiteside, 1869-1951, Gospel Preacher.

“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.” - Ezekiel 18:20

To whom shall we go?

“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God’” (John. 6:66-69 NKJV).

This exchange between Jesus and His apostles occurred following the feeding of the 5,000. The crowd continued to follow Jesus for awhile, waiting for more free food. But instead of food, Jesus gave them a strange sermon on seeking more permanent sustenance—something about eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The multitude was not interested in all this metaphysical stuff, so they left.

It must have been a bitter disappointment to the apostles to see all their hard work of the past several weeks fade away to nothing, especially considering that it was this weird sermon of Jesus that drove them away. Truth is, the apostles themselves were probably scratching their heads trying to figure out what Jesus was talking about. Judging from His question to them, Jesus apparently had some concern that even they would quit.

But the apostles did not quit. Peter's response to Jesus' question reveals the heart of a true disciple of Christ: “To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” This was not first time the apostles did not understand something Jesus taught, nor would it be the last. They frequently did not “get it,” and Jesus had to repeat some concepts over and over. Some lessons they never did fully grasp until after His death and resurrection. But regardless of their limited understanding, they continued to cling to Him, convinced that He was their best hope of making sense of a crazy world.

“To whom shall we go?” is a question that still confronts followers of Jesus today, especially when His religion appears difficult or inadequate. People struggle to understand the deeper teachings of the Bible. They become disenchanted with the strife and hypocrisy among fellow believers. Or they grow tired of a faith that has become stale and boring.

Eventually the temptation arises to do what the multitude did: just walk away. Some go to Buddhism, some to Islam, some to Scientology, some to atheism—there are plenty of options out there to satisfy everyone's desire for something “different.” Many simply reject spirituality entirely, choosing a life of crass materialism that lives for the present and refuses even to think about spiritual matters.

But as they eventually learn, all these alternatives have their own shortcomings and frustrations. So their search for meaning in life goes off in yet another direction.

Which brings us back to Peter's question: To whom shall we go? Whatever difficulties a Christian encounters in his faith, the foundation of that faith is a bedrock that no alternative can match: Jesus is the Son of God, demonstrated by His death and resurrection, and He alone has words of eternal life. Even if we struggle to understand and apply those words, He is better than anything else out there.

- David King, elder, Pleasant Valley church of Christ, Wichita, Kansas

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” - John 8:31,31