

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

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**" (Isaiah 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.

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Seeking the truth, from God's Word is one way to ...

OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

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RECORDS 3/7/2010

SERMONS 3/14/2010

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 52
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 76
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 45
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 43
CONTRIBUTION: \$2138

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: Jerry Manning
REVIVE US

BECAUSE THERE IS A CHOICE

"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil:" - Psalms 97:10

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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A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Eddie Sheppard** is in LMC with pneumonia, but is hoping to come home soon!
- **Anna Kennedy** requests prayers for **Betty Smith**, a preachers wife in W. Va.
- **Sarah Ray nee Kelleher** came forward Wed. night requesting the prayers of the church.
- **Marcella Klieves** is back safely from West Virginia, but had some back problems. **We have many that are ill: Vernecia Matthews, Marilyn Brooks, Ron Banks, Margaret Herring, Jean Boyd, Anna Porter, Sue Eiland, Craig Robinson, Carolyn Lee, and Margie DeYoung.**
- Remember all these in your prayers. Write them a card, give them a call, let them know you're praying for them and see if they'd like a visit:
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember these, those that are recovering from loss, in your prayers.
- Remember also **Evan Roberson** who was recently baptized into Christ. His address is: **109 Manning Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169**

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." - Romans 8:28

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

- **Tiffany Williams** was baptized into Christ this past Sunday afternoon after studying with our evangelist. Tiffany helps our sister **Marilyn Brooks**.
- Our prayers have been answered and **Amy Wintermute** should be back with us this Sunday.
- **Vernecia Matthews** had her last radiation treatment Wednesday.

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.” - Matthew 2:10

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Youth Devo SATURDAYS 7 pm, College age Bible study TUESDAYS 7 pm.**
- **Any of the men of the congregation** with a desire to teach are encouraged to see brother **Manning** to prepare some Wednesday night devotionals/invitations. We were all encouraged by our brother **Lamar Reeves** who gave a devotional and invitation last Wednesday.
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

3/7 Campbells Chunky Chicken Noodle **3/14** DelMonte Sliced Peaches

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." - 2 Corinthians 9:6

OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

Man's Duty To "Prove All Things" - (Continued from page 1)

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 endeavour to become - **"fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14 ASV).**

- **B. C. Goodpasture**, 1895-1977, Gospel preacher, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama

God's Changeless and Immutable Word

The word of God has the power to convict and convert, to sanctify and to edify. But it has another power and province. The Bible is the mirror of its Author, intended to reveal, unveil, magnify, and glorify Him from whom it originally came.

One of the main uses of the word of God is to supply us with a standard of both doctrine and duty. Therefore, there is no substitute for God's written word. Men may turn in every direction seeking for something to take the place of the word of God, but when their search is ended they remain empty-handed.

In every department of life, the need for a standard as exact and unvarying as those which measure weight, length and time compels one to resort to the word of God for guidance. Here alone, one finds perfect forms and changeless models. Man's best timepieces must be set according to those of God, who has appointed the sun, moon, and stars for time and seasons.

So, from all human oracles, however self-confident, we must turn at last to the inspired Word, where, instead of untrustworthy utterances, we find distinct, definite, authoritative, and infallible teaching.

- **Franklin Camp**, 1915-1991, Gospel preacher, Alabama

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12