

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## FIGHT OR FLEE?

When the Israelites came to the Jordan River, the Lord told them to go into the land of Canaan and **fight**. The people said no, they wanted to **flee**. The Lord was angry and told them they would wander in the desert for forty years until they died. Upon hearing that, the people changed their minds and said they would **fight**, but it wasn't what the **Lord** wanted at that point. It was too late. They did go into the land of Canaan, but they were slaughtered and driven out. You can read of this in Numbers 14.

When **we** have a decision to make, do we think of what God wants first? Or, do we think of what we want, and *then* try and fit the Lord into it somehow? If the latter, we're bound to failure and frustration. We all must choose whether we'll follow God or not. But if we choose God—to **win**, we must do so with **all** our heart!

The Lord has given **us** commands just as he did the people of Israel. And like them, if we **ignore** His commands, we'll be beaten. We have an enemy and a battle to fight, and as they; with God—we will **win**! Without God—we will **lose**!

Fight or Flee? We can't do what we want, we must do what God wants us to do, **when** He wants us to do it—not later. Don't let the things of this world keep **you** from the things God wants you to do—right now: to be faithful in attendance, liberal in your giving, participating in the evangelistic and other works of the church, to be at Sunday morning and mid-week bible study, to be diligent in reading your Bible daily. Do not attempt to fight God or flee from Him, instead **embrace** Him and His church. **Fight** what God has said to fight. **Flee** from what God has said to flee. Do it now—you might not get a second chance!

**"But they that WILL be rich fall into temptations and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

**But thou, O man of God, FLEE these things; and FOLLOW after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. FIGHT the good fight of FAITH, lay hold on eternal life" – 1 Timothy 6:9-12**

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

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### RECORDS 4/11/2010

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 50  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 83  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 52  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 40  
CONTRIBUTION: \$1615

### SERMONS 4/18/2010

AM: Jerry Manning  
GOD OUR FATHER  
PM: Jerry Manning  
NAAMAN'S CLEANSING - A TYPE OF BAPTISM TODAY

**"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:  
Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." - 1 Peter 1:8,9**

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Carolyn Lee** was in the hospital with very low blood sugar, but is home and doing better. Carolyn takes care of getting the bulletin folded and mailed for us.
- **Eddie Sheppard** is doing better, off oxygen, and able to make the assembly.
- **Chris Parks** made it back safely from France.
- **We have many that are ill: 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 them.

**"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." - Acts 14:22**

## **“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 again, last Wednesday.
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

**4/18** Campbells Chunky Bean & Ham Soup **4/11** Chef Boyardee Spaghetti & Meatballs

**"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." - James 2:26**

## **“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15**

Our beloved sister **Vernecia Matthews**, "Nick" to many, left this world to meet her Lord and Savior at 6:50 Friday morning, 4/9/2010. The family had been standing vigil for 5 days. The whole time, Nick's thoughts were only for others. She couldn't talk, but wrote numerous short notes, encouraging and removing burdens from those around here. One member commented, "I understand fully the term "bittersweet" now. How pleasant it is to KNOW beyond the shadow of a doubt that her soul is safe. Yet how profoundly sad to know that the hole in our hearts left by her absence shall remain, as there is no one on this earth capable of filling it." Further information is on [www.Legacy.com](http://www.Legacy.com). Remember the family, and the church, in your prayers.

***"And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him."* - Acts 8:2**

**LOOK TO HEAVEN AND ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!**

## **WORK IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

Haven't you heard the old adage, "Work is good for you!"? We have tried to instill this into our children and we have tried to set the example for them. Of course, there are those who could not tell you much about work because they have never really become acquainted with it. Others, no doubt, would argue that work is not good for you and they try to stay far away from it. Generally speaking, people live longer who have worked diligently all their lives. Work also prevents one from becoming lazy (in mind and body). Work gives one an incentive to live from day to day. Statistics indicate that the mortality rate increases following retirement. This certainly does not mean that one should never retire from employment. But it does indicate that one should have regular activities in which to engage even after retirement.

But consider also that if you are a Christian, work in the church is good for you (spiritually). Perhaps you are familiar with the term "benchwarmer." This usually refers to those who attend worship services but that is all they do. This individual is usually content with doing nothing. If there is work to be done (visitation, Bible studies, extending invitations, etc.) someone else will have to do it. He may try to fall back on excuses such as, "I work long hours;" "I'm tired at the end of the day;" "I'm not very good at that;" or he may simply say, "I know I need to be more involved," but that is about as far as he gets.

If the term, "benchwarmer," describes someone reading this article, may I ask you something? How can you possibly be satisfied with yourself? Do you not feel that there is something missing in your life? If you talk to a diligent worker in the church, they will probably tell you how wonderful it is to know that you have brightened someone's day after visiting with them in the hospital; or how exhilarating it is to know that perhaps you have helped to lead a wayward brother or sister back to faithfulness or have helped to lead someone to the way of salvation.

Work not only benefits the church but it is good for the individual. We are instructed to **"be ready to every good work"** (Titus 3:1). We are to be **"always abounding in the work of the Lord"** (I Cor. 15:58). We have been **"created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"** (Eph. 2:10).

Work not only causes the church to grow (spiritually and numerically), but it strengthens the one working. It will cause you to grow spiritually. As you work in His vineyard, you will find that you are drawing closer to the Lord and your brethren. As if this is not enough, consider the fact that in the Judgment you will be judged by your works (Rev. 20:12). The "one talent man" in Matthew 25 was condemned as being a "wicked and slothful [lazy] servant" (Matt. 25:30).

If you are a "benchwarmer," or if you have become lax in your work in the church, dear brother/sister, you need to make a change for the sake of your soul! And I believe that I can guarantee that your life will change for the better

**- Jimmy Ferguson**, minister Nettleton church of Christ, Jonesboro AR

**“Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:” - Rom. 2:6,7**