

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

PRISON DID NOT ROB PAUL!

Paul used every situation to advance the borders of Christ's kingdom; he even used prison as an opportunity to further the cause of Christ. While prison robs a person of freedom, family and choices, Paul was not robbed of certain things, such as:

1. **HIS PEN.** The prison epistles (Eph., Phil., Col. & Philemon) were all written while Paul was in a Roman jail.
2. **HIS PURPOSE.** Paul had been chosen to spread the name of Jesus to the Gentiles, Kings and children of Israel (Acts 9:15). His purpose was to preach and his life was for Christ (Phil. 1:21).
3. **HIS PULPIT.** Paul was successful in preaching to the elite Praetorian Guard (Phil. 1:14), something possibly unattainable had he been a free man. He capitalized upon every situation for sake of Jesus.
4. **HIS PRAYER.** While in prison Paul prayed for the brethren. Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Phil. 1:9-11 and Col. 1:9-12 illustrate his prayer life on behalf of the saints. Cf. Rom. 10:1; 2 Thess. 7:17; 1 Tim. 2:1-8.
5. **HIS PRAISE.** Paul and Silas sang praises to God at mid-night while in the Philippian jail (Acts 16). Although they were confined, their hearts were full of joy and thanksgiving in the form of melodious song.
6. **HIS PATIENCE.** Paul was confident in God's plan for his life, therefore he endured patiently. He was willing even to postpone going to heaven in order to help the Philippian Christians in their spiritual growth (Phil. 1:21-25).
7. **HIS PEACE.** Paul found peace in Jesus Christ. He said, “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content” (Phil. 4:11). Furthermore, he wanted the Philippians to know that while prison was a place of capture the gospel was continually preached (Phil. 1:12).

Paul is a great encouragement to all Christians. Though in trials, he was triumphant; though in chains, he was challenged. Paul was confined, but not controlled; restrained, but not restricted; incarcerated, but not incapacitated. Paul was in prison, but prison did not rob him of the most important thing in life; his desire to spread the gospel. Therefore, Paul can be described as the Apostle of the heart set free.

- **Mark N. Posey**, Preaching minister, Austinville Church of Christ Decatur, AL

LOVE GOD ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 26 June 27, 2010

RECORDS 6/20/2010

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 57
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 73
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 44
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 50
CONTRIBUTION: \$1540

SERMONS 6/27/2010

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: Jerry Manning

**“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,
and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” - Hebrews 12:1**

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

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

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Jimmy Gist, Jean Godley, Amy Wintermute, Lamar Reeves, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- Frank Allen is in Missouri with his with his mother, who is ill.
- We have many that are ill: Jean Boyd, Eddie Sheppard, Margaret Herring, Marilyn Brooks, Ron Banks, Deborah Stoyk, 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.

**"There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee:
neither is there any rock like our God." - 1 Samuel 2:2**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- John Manning will be moving to New York in July to do the Lord's work.
- Building Cleanup volunteers needed for July and months following.
- Vacation Bible School coming up, Mon-Fri July 26-30
- Gospel Meeting with David Pharr coming up Sep 12-15!
- Youth Devo SATURDAYS 7 pm.
- Pantry items to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

6/27 Delmonte Sliced Peaches 6/20 Campbell's Chunky Chicken Noodle Soup

**"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**

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:24

It's good to encourage our brothers and sisters with a kind word of recognition of their work—a Thank You! Being human though, we sometimes forget or don't notice. This might cause some to have their feelings hurt. To help with that, remember who it is we really are working for and that He never forgets or doesn't notice:

**"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love,
which you have showed toward his name,
in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." - Hebrews 6:10**

But an even better way to say "thank you" is by pitching in and helping in the work yourself. This will be a great encouragement to others and of great benefit to you! We all need to help promote our VBS, our upcoming Gospel Meeting with David Pharr, and remember: **We need people to sign up to help clean the building! Many hands make light work.** ☺

WORK FOR GOD AND ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

THE FACTS OF THE GOSPEL

1 Cor. 15:1-8 — Whatever else the Christian system unfolds in the New Testament, it is first of all a record of historical facts. It is a divine revelation, an unveiling of man, a body of ethical precepts — it became a religious system. In these scriptures a story of fundamental, primary facts are found:

“That Christ died.” This is recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The fact of His death, like the fact of His life, is universally conceded. The apostle Paul takes us back to the saddest scene ever enacted upon the earth, to the darkest day in the world's history. But, the greatest blessing ever offered mankind became available because of what happened that day.

- (a) As a sacrificial victim: "For our sins." Jesus did not die merely as a martyr, but also as an expiatory offering on account of our sins. John 1:29; 1 John 3:5; Gal. 1:4; Titus 2:14.
- (b) As a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy: "According to the Scriptures." It was not just the will of wicked men, but also in fulfillment of God's divine plan for saving man from our sins, that Christ died, Isa. 53:1-8

“That He was buried.” Jesus Christ, being human as well as divine, touched life at every point. He began as an infant at Bethlehem, and ended in a tomb just outside of Jerusalem. He was buried in a borrowed tomb — another point in His humiliation.

- (a) In a place of beauty. The tomb was in a garden, a lovely spot fashioned by the hands of a rich man. John 19:38-42.
- (b) In a place of purity. It was "in a new tomb wherein was never man yet laid." Matt. 27:60. He who came to resurrection and life, even his body did not see corruption. Psalm 16:10.

“That He was raised.” Jesus' resurrection is declared in Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20. "On the third day". Jesus foretold this in Matt. 16:21. On the first day of the week, which became the day of worship for Christians. Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:1-2

“That He was seen.” By Cephas, by the twelve – by over 500 brethren, by James, by all the apostles, and the last by Paul. All of these were eye-witnesses to His resurrection.

The facts of the Gospel:

- **Believe in Christ, John 8:24;**
- **Repent Acts 2:38;**
- **Confess Christ publicly, Matt. 10:32;**
- **Be baptized into Christ, Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5.**
- **Live faithfully Rev. 2:10.**

Then enjoy the blessings of eternal life ...

— Jerry Blount, Pillar church of Christ, Wichita, Kansas