

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

THE CHURCH OF GOD’S CHOICE

God created man and gave him the freedom to make choices. This freedom does not, however, mean that man is justified in God's sight if he makes a wrong choice. To ensure that man cannot hold Him accountable if he makes wrong choices, He always made His desire or requirements known to him (**Micah 6:8**). Man rejects God's offer to his own destruction. For instance, Adam and Eve had the freedom to either eat of the forbidden fruit or to abide by God's law that forbade them from eating it (**Genesis 2:16,17**) but they willingly chose to disobey God (**Genesis 3:6-13**). "...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (**Deuteronomy 30:19**), Moses at one time told the children of Israel. To choose life and blessing, Israel had to obey God otherwise they would have chosen death and cursing. Like his predecessor, Moses, Joshua challenged Israel to make a choice as to whom they would serve (**Joshua 24:15**).

The prophet Jeremiah acknowledged that man cannot successfully direct his own steps (**Jeremiah 10:23**). This is true considering the deceitfulness of the heart of the unregenerate man (**Jeremiah 7:9**). This is also shown in God's message to man through His Prophet Isaiah: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9). It's little wonder the wise man states in Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

There is multiplicity of churches in the world today. One of the churches owes its origin to Christ while the rest (denominations) originated from man. Churches of men tell their prospects to accept Christ as their personal Saviour through a human-devised system and then join the church of their choice. Christ, however, promised to build only one church, His own church in **Matthew 16:18**. The book of **Acts** made us understand that He built it and adds those being saved to it (**Acts 2:47**), leaving no room for them to choose the church to belong to if they truly obey the gospel with the desire to worship Him in spirit and in truth (**Acts 2:38, 41-42, 47; John 4:24**).

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“ ... and upon this rock I will build my church;” - Matthew 16:18

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

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THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 37, NUMBER 3 January 16,

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Bill Young

PM: Bill Young

COME JOIN US FOR
THE NEW YEAR!

YOUTH LOCK-IN!
Fri 1/21—Sat 1/22

“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue;
but in deed and in truth.” - 1 John 3:18

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

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Margaret Herring, Jean Godley, Amy Wintermute, Lamar Reeves, and Phyllis Johnson.
- The Parks family is taking a few days off at Hilton Head.
"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

- Brother **Bill Young** will be preaching this Sunday. Bill preached for the church in Florence, used to attend here at West Columbia and is now attending at St. Andrews Road.
 - **YOUTH LOCK-IN** Friday night Jan 21. Brothers **KC Dunbaker**, **Michael Gamble** and **Chris Parks** will be giving short devo's and there will be singing, games and other recreation. Boys will spend the night in the building, girls in the residence. **Kaitlyn Sheppard** volunteered to cook breakfast for everyone.
 - **BIBLE BOWL 2011**—BOOK OF **MATTHEW**—Sign up sheets in the foyer for youth and adult teams. The Bible Bowl Machine has been setup for practice.
 - **Building Cleanup** availability is going fast, we're signed up through April. Signup quickly to reserve your spot in making the building spotless! ☺
- "Lord, to whom shall we go? THOU hast the WORDS of eternal life." - John 6:68

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ.” - Ephesians 1:3

“And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” - Ephesians 1:22,23

THANKS

Don't you like to hear people say "Thank you"? And even more so when they show they **mean it** by some **action** of theirs. Do you thank a cook better by saying thank you, or by enthusiastically eating what they've prepared for you? Do you thank a teacher better by saying thank you, or by **using** what they've taught you in some good way? God has given us something we should be thankful for: "**But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**" - 1 Corinthians 15:57 Wouldn't you like to hear God say, "You're welcome"? Let's thank him then, not in word but in **deed** (1 John 3:18) by **using** what he's given us, as He told us:

"But to **DO** good and to **COMMUNICATE** forget not: for with such **SACRIFICES** **GOD** is **WELL PLEASED.**" - Hebrews 13:16

THE CHURCH OF GOD'S CHOICE—(continued from page 1)

MARKS THAT IDENTIFY THE CHURCH OF GOD'S CHOICE:

1. The Builder of the church is Jesus Christ Himself (**Matthew 16:18**).
2. Christ said it belongs to Him and so it is designated "the church of Christ" (**Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16**).
3. His shed blood was to purchase the church (**Acts 20:28**).
4. The church is described as His bride (**Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:22-32**).
5. Christ, not any human living or dead, is her head (**Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23; Colossians 1:18**).
6. It is a Kingdom over which Christ is the King (**Matthew 16:18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25**).
7. The church is only one and has no earthly headquarters; it is registered or enrolled in heaven where Christ her Head resides (**Ephesians 2:16, 4:4; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 12:23**).
8. Its terms of entrance remain the same as it was on the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection as shown in **Acts 2**. They include the following:
 - Hearing the Gospel (**Mark 16:15-16**);
 - Believing the Gospel (**John 8:24, 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16**);
 - Repenting of one's sins (**Luke 13:3-4, 24:47**);
 - Confession of Christ as the Son of God (**Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:10**);
 - and being Baptized (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16**).
9. Items that accompany her worship include:
 - Teaching/Admonition (**Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 2:2**);
 - Prayers (**Acts 2:42; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6**);
 - Breaking of bread/Communion or Lord's Supper (**Acts 2:46, 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29**);
 - Singing, unaccompanied by mechanical instruments of music (**Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19**);
 - Contribution/Collection based on freewill (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7**).
10. It does not allow women to teach or have authority over the men, hence women evangelists or elders/pastors have no place in it (**1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:8-15**).

No church founded by man adheres to the whole marks identifying the church of God's choice, the church of Christ (**Romans 16:16**). If the church of which you are a member does not conform to the marks outlined above, then you need to rethink because it is not the church of Christ.

“... The churches of Christ salute you.” - Romans 16:16

- Felix O. Aniamalu, Voice of Truth International