

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

ONLY THE CONVINCED CAN CONVERT

It is impossible to teach something to someone that you do not really believe. If you are going to be successful reaching the lost, you must be a true believer. You must understand what is at stake. When you understand what is at stake, you will be willing to say what needs to be said, you will understand how careful you need to be, and you will take your responsibility and the salvation of others far more seriously.

There are at least a couple of things that you must be convinced of before you can teach anyone. You must truly be convinced that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). You must be convinced that the person you are talking to is lost (Rom. 3:10-11). You also must understand how difficult it might be. Sadly, some of our evangelistic successes in the past have caused people in the world to pull back, because many people think they know what we believe and why. They honestly think we believe in water salvation or works salvation. They will attack quickly with the line, "You think you're the only ones going to heaven." They know that we have "a funny view about music." And that's a lot to overcome. Therefore, we must be convinced going in about their need, so that we can talk passionately - not about why they are wrong, but about how the Bible is right!

Also, someone who is truly convinced is going to offer something else to the subject - enthusiasm. There will be a backdrop to everything the person says about Jesus Christ that shows how much He means to us personally. People need to see that. You are not going to convince people by dryly going over a few verses of scripture. After all, most people approach the Bible emotionally in the first place. For the people we are trying to reach to value the truth, we first must show them that we value it.

- **Kevin W. Rhodes**, preacher, Granbury Street Church of Christ, Cleburne Texas

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” - Romans 1:16

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011!

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

THE BIBLE COMFORTS US

PM: Ed Kelleher

**COME JOIN US THIS
NEW YEAR!**

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul? “ - Mark 8:36

REMEMBER! - EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

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

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Betty Mathis, Margaret Herring, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier* and *Phyllis Johnson*.
- Remember **Betty Mathis** in your prayers, and with a card or visit also.
- **Judy Walker** has been having leg problems and **Jan Kelleher** jaw problems and the doctors don't seem to having much luck in helping them. Pray for them.
- Remember **Frank Allen** in your prayers as he is home in Missouri visiting his mother and we've had no word if he has been affected by the recent tornados there.

"Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou" - Matthew 26:39

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Updated directories are in the foyer.**
- Please choose a week to help **clean the building**, and more if you can!
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It's a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." - Matthew 6:33

IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

If you know something is important to someone and that someone is important to you, what do you do? If something is important to your spouse, your boss, a friend, neighbor or favorite relative, don't you try and help them out if you can? Sure we do. Because we care for them and that's a good way to show that we **do** care for them.

Is God important to you? Have you asked yourself, "What's important to God?" If you knew something was important to God, wouldn't that be important to you also—if you loved God? Well, here's something that's important to God:

In Acts 5:12 and following we read that the Apostles were preaching with great power. Multitudes believed, obeyed and were added to the Lord. The Jewish leaders hated this and put the apostles in jail to stop them. It was important to God that the apostles preach. Therefore, God sent an angel to free the apostles, who told them:

“Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.” - Acts 5:20

The apostles had that word of Life, given to them by the Holy Spirit. We have those same words in the Holy Bible. God loves this, it's important to Him. Satan hates it and has many servants corrupting the word of God and killing people as a result. People now, as then, need to hear God's words of Life. You can do your part by being a light. Use the church card! Invite people to come visit and hear God's words of Life.

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

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

HEALTHY SOULS

The apostle Peter was a mature elder in the church when he wrote his first epistle, and with it he brought all of his experiences into his explanation of the Christian life as God would have it. Perhaps the most important principle he stresses throughout this entire writing is the need for maturity in the lives of individual Christians. This oft-mentioned term is usually left to die when any action is required, but Peter spoke of it as a reality which all can achieve if they will follow the procedure given in **1 Peter 2:2** where he writes:

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

The first important step in maturing is that of desire. In the same way that a newborn infant desires his mother's milk, Christians should want to learn more concerning spiritual matters. “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” But, a Christian will starve to death spiritually if he or she lacks a desire for spiritual food. The desire to grow ever closer to God, our Savior, should not be forced but should come naturally from our love for Him and our gratitude for the salvation of our souls.

The second step in the maturing process involves our choice of food. No one would consider it right to feed a baby sugar and corn flakes steadily—even if the child desired such. Loving parents will see that their child is properly fed, receiving the nutrients that a growing body needs. In the process of spiritual growth, the same principle applies. While there are some who desire a sugary, watered-down version of the gospel (2 Tim. 4:3-4), they should not receive it because it will destroy their souls (Gal. 1:6-9). Only the inspired word of God has all of the spiritual nutrients that can properly provide for the souls of men (2 Pet.1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Anything less than the unadulterated word of God is neglecting the spiritual health of the individual. The desire is to be for the word of God and not for man's religions (Matt. 15:9).

The third step taken in the maturing process of a Christian is that of growth. After desiring the word and learning from the study of it (2 Tim. 2:15), one will grow closer to God (Jas. 4:8), closer to being Christ-like (Gal.2:20), closer to other Christians (Rom.12:10) and closer to heaven (Matt. 6:33; 2 Tim.4:8). The maturation process is manifested in a life filled with selfless actions that are a result of living for Christ.

This growth process that Peter speaks of is not something that is limited to novices or to those newly born in the faith. It is for all who wish to live a faithful life unto God (Rev. 2:10). When one ceases to grow, he begins to decay. In Christianity, one must apply himself to the truth of God's word to grow closer to the Creator and Savior of mankind. To decay, simply do nothing.

- Kevin Rhodes, Preacher, Granbury Street Church of Christ, Cleburne, Texas

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;” - Ephesians 4:14