

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

“For the husband is the head of the wife,  
even as Christ is the head of the church.” - Ephesians 5:23

There is a common sentiment that it makes no difference what church one belongs to, if any at all, and that church membership is not essential to salvation. So the indifferentism of “*join the church of your choice*,” as though God had none, is age-old in religious nomenclature. Such expressions can only be viewed as a sort of “pious profanity” by those who know and believe what the Bible says about the church.

Jesus built the church; he died for it and purchased it with his blood; ransomed and redeemed it; washed and cleansed it. He is the Saviour of it and he will come again to own and claim it. Yet we are told that it is a very “non-essential” thing.

There are only two senses in which the church can be scripturally viewed. First, the comprehensive, or universal, sense, to include all the saved of the earth—all who have obeyed the gospel. Second, the limited, or local, sense, to include all Christians, or saved people in a particular place described and limited by geographical terms. The denominational idea does not fit either case. A denomination is smaller than the whole church, but larger than a local church in that it is composed of many local churches of the same faith and order; therefore, a denomination is both too large and too small to be scriptural.

It is admitted that one can be saved without belonging to any denomination. The Lord adds saved people to the church (Acts 2:47). Therefore a man can be added to the church and never belong to a denomination. Hence, it is the denomination and not the church that is non-essential.

**The Church Is The Body:** Paul's theme in the book of Ephesians is the church in its relation to Christ—Christ and the church. In the first chapter he compares the church to a body, with Christ as head (vv. 21-22) and in chapter four he declares that “there is one body” (v. 4) ...in chapter five he compares Christ to the husband and the church to the wife (v. 21-23). Hence, Paul's view is: one head and one body—one husband and one wife.

- Continued on page 3

IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012

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### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **BRIAN MCKUTCHEON**

PM: **BRIAN MCKUTCHEON**

“But he that hateth his brother is in darkness,  
and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth,  
because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.” - 1 John 2:11

JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

*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**

To be announced

**EVANGELIST**

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- **Judy Walker** is at **Agape on Leaphart Road**, room 104 at she slowly gets her strength back. Pray she'll be able to be with us soon.
- **Anna Porter** is at home but weak, and also greatly desires to be with us, but is not able.
- **Richard Ramkinson**, minister at Windsor Lake congregation is on dialysis and needs a new kidney. He's ill, but still able to work with the church there.
- Keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here. To those faithful in visiting and attendance, encouraging others by talking with them. To those quietly doing the many jobs necessary to keep the congregation functioning.

**"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**

- **EVANGELIST WANTED:** The men are actively seeking a man to help us full time with reaching the lost here in West Columbia. We'll be having them visit to get to know them better. If you have suggestions, or comments, please get them to brother Gamble.
- **Chris Park's** will be landscaping at the building as part of an Eagle Scout project. He needs some help getting bushes as part of the plan. Contributions can be made to the church for this if you can help.
- **BULLETINS BY EMAIL** sent each Friday. To subscribe, send email address to Ed.
- **Tommy White** needs a ride to the assembly Wed. nights. Give him a call at 794-6249 and help this brother who looks forward to our meetings.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors.** **Marshall Mancuso** had had a bunch of nice cards printed, and **Jones Gamble** faithfully gets visitor cards posted with addresses. So help out yourself! Send a card, invite people to visit, then send more cards! Postage for a post card is \$.32, Send 3 for a dollar and keep the change!
- **Theme for 2013?** Please help us think of one that will encourage us all to grow closer to God in the upcoming year.

**"and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor."**

**- 1 Corinthians 3:8**

## **IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012**

**“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,  
shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;**

## **CHRIST AND THE CHURCH**

**—(Continued from Page 1)**

Continuing his comparison, Paul uses the family analogy—God the Father, the church the family (Ephesians 3:15). Hence, one Father and one family. And reverting to the second chapter, he points out the unifying power of the cross of Christ in making the "twain"—Jew and Gentile— "one new man" —the church—thus reconciling them "in one body."

If Christ would not accept Jew and Gentile in separate bodies, but united them that they should be "one fold and one shepherd," what must be his attitude toward the spectacle of (more than) 200 denominational bodies today that dishonor his name and ignore his prayer? (John 17:20-21).

**Salvation Is In The Church:** The idea that one is first saved by some mystical or mystified, unintelligible or intangible process, and afterwards "joins some church" is a common religious delusion. Yet there is no truth more plainly emphasized in the Bible than the fact that the process of being saved is the process of entering the church (Acts 2:47).

First, it is affirmed in Acts 4:12 that salvation is in Christ. Then, to have salvation, one must get into Christ. But Paul, by analogy, in Ephesians 5:30, teaches that as husband and wife are one, so Christ and the church are one. "I speak concerning Christ and the church," he said. Christ and the church being one, how can one be in Christ and out of the church?

Second, Paul makes the fact that Christ is "the Saviour of the body" (Ephesians 5:23) the ground of his exhortation to the Ephesians concerning the church as the bride of Christ (v. 25). He washed it and sanctified it; cleansed and saved it; purchased it with his blood and redeemed it; reconciles us to God in it, and adds all the saved to it. Therefore, out of the church there is no cleansing, no blood, no redemption, no reconciliation to God, no salvation.

Third, the relation between Christ and the church is the same as that which exists between God and Christ. Christ is the "fullness" of God (Colossians 1:19), and the church is the "fullness" of Christ (Ephesians 1:22). Therefore, no man can come to Christ and ignore the church for the same reason that no man can come to God and ignore Christ.

We exhort the unsaved to come to Christ, "gladly receive the word," be "baptized into Christ," and the Lord will add you to his church.

**- Foy E. Wallace, Jr 1896-1979, Gospel preacher**

**“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” - John 17:20,21**