

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

UNFAITHFUL CHRISTIANS

Why is it that some Christians just can't seem to stay faithful to God? We label them, "Hot and cold Christians," "On again and off again Christians" or "Lukewarm Christians." While they are in the "faithful mood," you'll see them at every church-related function ... BUT ... when they start backsliding, you can't count on them to be responsible for anything related to church work. After being AWOL for a month or two, they show for worship, acting as if nothing was ever amiss. Let me suggest some reasons why they are "On again, off again Christians." Consider these facts:

- When they become unfaithful and forsake the assembly, no one immediately goes to them to let them know they were missed.
- When they wander in after being gone a month or more, no one asks where they've been — no-one expects them to come forward confessing the sin of forsaking the assembly — and they don't!
- A brother or sister who forsakes the assembly is casting stumbling blocks before the more faithful by offending them, setting a terrible example for other babes. This is sin! **“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;” - Hebrews 10:25**

Biblical teaching on this subject is plain. Look at Matthew 18:15-17. If your brother sins, go tell him one on one: if he refuses to listen, take others with you and try to talk to him, bringing him to repentance; if he still refuses take the matter before the church; if that does not bear fruit, withdraw from him before he pollutes the whole church with the leaven of unfaithfulness which is ungodliness!

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.—Romans 16:17

A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.” - Titus 3:10-11

I wonder if the unfaithful ever read bulletin articles like this one?

- Mike Suiter, minister, Tipton church of Christ, Oklahoma

Strive to get **CLOSER TO HEAVEN IN 2007!**

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RECORDS 10/28/2007

SERMONS 11/4/2007

Sun 10 AM Bible Study:	52	AM: Jerry Manning
Sun 11 AM Assembly:	84	“The Throne of David”
Sun 6 PM Assembly:	67	PM: Jerry Manning
Weds 7 PM Bible Study:	55	“The Temple of Solomon”
CONTRIBUTION:	\$2054	

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” - 1 Peter 3:15

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

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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

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- Carolyn Lee is doing well after knee replacement surgery at LMC.
- Keith Carter's sister, Susan, is very ill and they aren't sure what the problem is.
- James Gamble, Jones' dad, is in Providence hospital after several heart attacks.
- Margie Banks was in a car accident, but fortunately escaped physical injury.
- Connie Hicks, niece to Ron Banks, Margie DeYoung and Carolyn Stidham passed away suddenly last week in Ohio with complications from Lupus disease.
- John Berrier, son of Anna Porter's neighbors has been given only a few months to live by his doctors.
- Marcella Klieves is doing better after an ear infection had her down a few days.
- Craig Robinson requests prayers that several job opportunities would bear fruit.
- Don Fields is in Virginia on a new job, Nancy was ill though and Donnie sprained his ankle.
- Remember brother Manning and his bible studies at LCDC.
- Remember all these in your prayers and also remember to thank our God that Don Kleives, Lamar and Janet Reeves, Jean Boyd, Eddie Sheppard, Anna Porter and Paul Dillard are all doing much better..

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” - Philippians 4:6

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

- Ladies Retreat, Kannapolis church of Christ in NC, Friday-Saturday 11/16-17, “**An Attitude of Gratitude**”. Highly recommended! Keith Carter is staying with one of their elders while he is working in Charlotte. Overnight accommodations provided at the Carolina Bible Camp for \$10. See Jan Kelleher if you'd like to carpool.
- We need volunteers to clean the building in December, and next year also.
- Ken Parks asks that people requesting CD's, for themselves or others, please put **THEIR** names on the request so he can know who to contact.
- This is the First Sunday in November, no work team meeting is scheduled.
- Scrap-booking Saturday November 10, 2-5 pm at the building.

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” - Colossians 3:17

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- We rejoice that Justin Jones was baptized into Christ last Thursday. He's a friend of Alton Elledge and had been studying with Jerry for some time. Pray for him and Alton, that they will remain faithful.
- Jan Kelleher's MRI results were good, no tumors!

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To whom shall we go?

“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God’” (John. 6:66-69 NKJV).

This exchange between Jesus and His apostles occurred following the feeding of the 5,000. The crowd continued to follow Jesus for awhile, waiting for more free food. But instead of food, Jesus gave them a strange sermon on seeking more permanent sustenance—something about eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The multitude was not interested in all this metaphysical stuff, so they left.

It must have been a bitter disappointment to the apostles to see all their hard work of the past several weeks fade away to nothing, especially considering that it was this weird sermon of Jesus that drove them away. Truth is, the apostles themselves were probably scratching their heads trying to figure out what Jesus was talking about. Judging from His question to them, Jesus apparently had some concern that even they would quit.

But the apostles did not quit. Peter's response to Jesus' question reveals the heart of a true disciple of Christ: “To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” This was not first time the apostles did not understand something Jesus taught, nor would it be the last. They frequently did not “get it,” and Jesus had to repeat some concepts over and over. Some lessons they never did fully grasp until after His death and resurrection. But regardless of their limited understanding, they continued to cling to Him, convinced that He was their best hope of making sense of a crazy world.

“To whom shall we go?” is a question that still confronts followers of Jesus today, especially when His religion appears difficult or inadequate. People struggle to understand the deeper teachings of the Bible. They become disenchanted with the strife and hypocrisy among fellow believers. Or they grow tired of a faith that has become stale and boring.

Eventually the temptation arises to do what the multitude did: just walk away. Some go to Buddhism, some to Islam, some to Scientology, some to atheism—there are plenty of options out there to satisfy everyone's desire for something “different.” Many simply reject spirituality entirely, choosing a life of crass materialism that lives for the present and refuses even to think about spiritual matters.

But as they eventually learn, all these alternatives have their own shortcomings and frustrations. So their search for meaning in life goes off in yet another direction.

Which brings us back to Peter's question: To whom shall we go? Whatever difficulties a Christian encounters in his faith, the foundation of that faith is a bedrock that no alternative can match: Jesus is the Son of God, demonstrated by His death and resurrection, and He alone has words of eternal life. Even if we struggle to understand and apply those words, He is better than anything else out there.

- David King, elder, Pleasant Valley church of Christ, Wichita, Kansas

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” - John 8:31,31