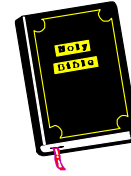


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



BIBLE FAITH

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1). Faith is belief, confidence, or trust in some person, fact, or thing. Jesus used the words "faith" and "belief" interchangeably — "Be ye not faithless, but believing" (John 20:27). All faith is based upon testimony of evidence — no evidence, no faith.

Because of His great love wherewith He loved us, God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that "whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus Himself emphatically says, "Except ye believe that I am he (i.e., the Christ, OH) ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). But God has not required that men believe that Jesus is the Christ without ample evidence to convince them. John says the things recorded in the gospel "are written that ye might believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life in his name" (John 20:30-31).

Today, faith in Christ comes by the evidence recorded in the New Testament — "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17.) Since God has provided ample evidence to produce faith, men are required to believe that Jesus is the Christ and submit to His will, and will be condemned if they do not. "He that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16). For this reason, the gospel is to be "made known in every nation for the obedience of faith" (Rom. 16:25-26). Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:15-16).

Not only is faith dependent upon evidence for its existence, but also for its essence, character, and content. Faith is conditioned by its evidence and partakes of the essence of that testimony. If the evidence is fantastic, grotesque, or false, so will be the faith it produces. If the evidence is true, so will be the faith it produces. Untrue testimony, baseless faith; human testimony, human faith; divine testimony, divine faith. Like evidence, like faith. - (continued on page 3)

Choose the Strait Gate in 2008

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org B641 South Carolina 8/10/2008

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 31 August 10, 2008

RECORDS 8/3/2008

SERMONS 8/10/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 56
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 94
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 72
Wed 7 PM Bible Study: 73
CONTRIBUTION: \$2721

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: Jerry Manning

“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!

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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

ELDERS

Donald Klieves

Home Phone (803) 996-3793
E-Mail: DKlieves@yahoo.com

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858
Home Phone (803) 791-0950
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

EVANGELIST

Jerry Manning

Home Phone (803) 936-1502
Cell Phone (803) 429-3738

E-Mail: Jerry1Manning@yahoo.com
Bulletin Editor—Ed Kelleher

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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**.
- Sister **Marilyn Brooks** came forward Sunday morning requesting the prayers of the church. She'll be gone the next 2 weeks visiting family.
- **Michael and Megan Stoyk** will be visiting family in Tennessee next week.
- **Gail Linder** is in Lexington Medical Center ICU.
- **Tricia Kelly** had cataract surgery last Thursday.
- **Jan Kelleher** was out last Sunday with severe head and body aches. She's to have surgery on her foot soon to relieve some of the pain.
- **Don Klieves** was ill last Sunday. He is working in Greenville during the week. He's able to return home on the weekends. His cell phone is **381-5489**.
- Remember **Dianne** and **Tiffany Dillard** in your prayers.
- **Jeanette Reeves** continues to struggle with sin. Pray for her repentance.
- Remember all these, our new brothers and sisters in Christ, and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

"For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow." - **Phillipians 2:27**

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

- **Natalie Boyd (Gerald and Janet's grand-daughter)** and **Landis Cobb**, who were recently baptized here, were married last week in a private ceremony.
- **Margaret Herring** has a new great grandson (her first), **Kenneth Aiden Sineth** was born last week weighing 6 lbs 7 oz. He had a little fluid in his lungs but mother, father, baby, and great grand-ma, are doing fine now.

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Volunteers needed to clean the building! Sign up in the foyer.**
- **INTRODUCING! The Young Ladies Class**, Thursdays, 7 pm at **Jamie and Debbie Sheppard's** home. **Lynn Manning** will be teaching. Just for the girls, teens to young adults.
- **New Convert Class** Saturdays 11 am at the building, for **all** who are interested.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** is scheduled Sun-Wed, **Sep 14-17, 2008** with **Billy Bland**, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.
- **Work Team D** meets Friday 8/15 6 pm at the **Stoyk's** home.

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 8/10—C 8/17—D 8/20—A 8/27—B

"But be ye **DOERS** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." - **James 1:22**

Choose the Strait Gate in 2008

BIBLE FAITH, (Continued from page 1)

Men speak of kinds of faith, but such a distinction is not found in the Bible, and science knows of no separate and distinct kinds of faith. The Bible speaks of degrees of faith — "great faith," "weak faith," "dead faith," etc., but kinds of faith like "historic faith," "saving faith," etc are not spoken of.

It is the thing believed that determines whether we shall be saved. Faith in a lie will not save a man. Faith in some man-made doctrine will not save, though that faith may as firm as any man's belief in the truth. "**If Christ be not raised, then your faith is vain**," (1Cor. 15:17) Paul says. Hence it is essential that the truth be preached. For this cause, Paul warns against false teachers, pronouncing a curse upon anyone, man or angel, who preaches "**any gospel other than that which we [Apostles, OH] preached**" (Gal. 1:8-9). It is not faith in just any sort of gospel that will save, but faith in the true and unadulterated gospel of Christ. It makes all the difference in the world what men believe.

Salvation is not dependent upon a faith, but upon the faith. For that reason, Jude exhorts Christians to "**earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints**" (Jude 3).

- **Olan Hicks**, 1907 - 1963, Gospel preacher, teacher

When Does God Mean What He Says?

If what we are hearing in some circles, the answer would be: "Whenever the subject of grace enters the picture."

You probably thought that you have to be baptized in order to be saved, since that is what the Son of God said, along with the inspired writers who wrote the Bible (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21**). But now we are being told that to teach the essentiality of baptism for salvation is to be legalistic even though the Bible teaches it.

You also probably thought that repentance is necessary for salvation, since that is what Christ taught (**Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31**). But supposedly only self-righteous people now teach that, because grace covers all our mistakes.

Perhaps you also thought that faith is absolutely demanded of mankind in order to be saved (**John 8:24; Heb. 11:6**), but even faith is a work (**John 6:29**), and that would bring us back to the legalistic charge being hurled once again! However, since the works that God demands of us are not the meritorious works of men, then we are still obligated to work the works of God.

No, we cannot earn our salvation, but doing what God says is not earning salvation. It is loving the Lord (**John 14:16; Luke 6:46**). Since Paul taught that we are not to "**continue in sin, that grace may abound?**" (**Rom. 6:1-2**), we better just keep on trying to obey God, truly relying upon the grace of God, instead of accepting man's perverted version of a cheap grace that makes no demands (**Titus 2:11-12**). Cheap grace ultimately leads to universalism!

- **Wayne Price**, Evangelist, McCloud Church of Christ, Oklahoma