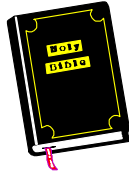


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

The New Birth And Baptism

The effect of the new birth is to bring persons into the Divine family, and give them equal rights and privileges with the other children; to make them "heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ." Without it they cannot enter (John 3:5).

The effect of baptism is to bring persons into Christ. "So many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27).

Therefore the new birth — of water and Spirit — is equal to baptism, at least in its effects, or results. Things equal to each other are equal to the same thing.

Unless there are two ways of getting into Christ, and so becoming heirs of God, they must be the same for all practical purposes.

But there is only one way of getting into Christ and becoming heirs of God. Does not Jesus say, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God?" (John 3:5). Man here is generic and includes all men. "He cannot enter" limits his entrance to this way, and is equal to saying there is no other way by which he can enter the kingdom of God.

Yet we are baptized into Christ, the king. It would be absurd to talk of being in the king and not in the king-dom, which means the reign of Christ. It rather means into the very head and center of the kingdom. And therefore, scriptural immersion is the consummation of the new birth.

The promises to those born again and to those baptized are the same; and in this way also, identify them.

Is it not said, "ye shall be heirs of God"; "ye shall inherit all things"; and "I will be your God and ye shall be my son"? And do we not read in the great commission, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved?" (Mark 16:16). "Shall be saved" is equivalent to being heirs of God — sons, etc. All God's children are saved. All are heirs. **(Continued on page 3)**

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 11 March 15, 2009

RECORDS 3/8/2009

SERMONS 3/15/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 58
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 87
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 64
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 63
CONTRIBUTION: \$2630

AM: Jerry Manning
MAKING A RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT
PM: Jerry Manning

CONTINUE

"WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD, RATHER THAN MEN" - ACTS 5:29

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

The Bulletin
USPS-994-500
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

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

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Margaret Herring** is recovering from a heart catheterization. No blockages were found, but she is still very weak. Pray for her.
- **Anna Porter** is back, much refreshed, from several weeks in Arizona.
- Remember our brother **Darius Silbawa** who has not been with us.
- Remember all these and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

**"Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly,
than to divide the spoil with the proud." - Proverbs 16:19**

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

- **Courtney Gamble** was named to the USC President's Honor Roll with a 4.0 average for the semester.
- **Evan and Daniel Manning** passed rigorous tests and advanced to the next degree in their karate classes.
- Baby Shower for **Natalie and Landis Cobb**, at the building, March 22 after the evening assembly.
- **Lorraine Welsh**, Lynn's mom, is visiting for several weeks.

**“That there should be no schism in the body;
but that the members should have the same care one for another.” - 1 Corinthians 12:25**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Lord's Business meeting** for all the men of the congregation, at the building, 4:30 pm this Sunday. Please plan to attend.
- **Foundation Class**, Saturdays 11 am at the building. All are invited.
- **Visual Aids** help needed for VBS, see brother Manning.
- **Gospel Meeting** St. Andrews Road church with **Melvin Sapp** 3/22-3/24.
- **Homecoming**, 20th year, **Twin City church**, 4/26 with **Mike Hinrichs** preaching.

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:" - 2 Corinthians 9:8

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

The New Birth And Baptism— (continued from page 1)

And therefore the new birth, and baptism, as the consummation of the birth of water and Spirit are the same. And so all the ancient fathers taught, without exception.

Jesus spoke to Nicodemus of the new birth in a parable. **"Without a parable spake he not unto them."** (Mark 4:34). But Jesus told his disciples that the time would come when he would speak no more to them in parables, but would **"show them plainly of the Father."** (John 16:25). That time came as the history of facts proves, when the apostles first began to preach the gospel of Christ. Otherwise, when the penitents, on the memorable Pentecost (Acts 2) asked what they should do, Peter should, and would, have answered, "You must be born again — born of water and the Spirit." But because the time for change in the Divine manner of teaching had come, and Peter knew very well that they would at once inquire what he meant by being born again, he just gave them the literal of the figure, saying, **"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."** (Acts 2:38). So afterwards they never told people to be born again — never used the figurative style in such cases, but told the inquirers plainly — without a figure.

And therefore, the new birth and scriptural baptism, as the literal of the figure, are the same.

Carroll Kendrick, 1815-1891, Gospel Preacher, Texas

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” - Matthew 28:18-20

“... PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS.” - Titus 2:14

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 3/15—B 3/22—C 3/29—D 4/5—A

All members in the congregation are assigned to a Work Team

Check your Work Team assignment—your participation is vital!

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!