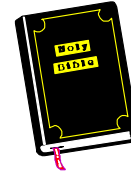


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## Is Salvation My Way Or God's Way?

"Thou believest that God is one; thou doest well: the demons also believe, and shudder" (James 2:19 ASV).

Believing in God is not enough. One must believe God and obey Him in order to be right with Him.

The wise man said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death" - Prov. 14:12. Jeremiah stated, "O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" - **Jeremiah 10:23 ASV**. God teaches us through these scriptures that what feels right and what seems good is determined by what He says, not how I feel and think about something. God directs our steps, showing us what is right and what is wrong.

Many people daily tell God how it is that He is going to save them. However, we cannot determine how God will save us. God has already determined this, and we must conform to his will in order to receive salvation. We know that Jesus is the only way of salvation (John 14:6) and He taught explicitly, "**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned**" (Mark 16:16 ASV). Yet people say "He that believes shall be saved and then baptized." Do you believe God or man?

Jesus stated, "**Remember the word that I said unto you, A servant is not greater than his lord. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also**" (John 15:20 ASV). Jesus gave his apostles authority to teach the whole world everything that he had taught them (Matthew 28.18-20). Jesus said that if we believe and accept his word, we would believe and accept their word also. Consider what Christ's apostles taught about baptism.

Peter stated, "**Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**" (Acts 2:38 ASV). Yet people say, "Believe for the remission of your sins, and then be baptized". Do you believe God or man? Peter also stated, "**The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us**" (1 Peter 3:21). Yet people say, "Even faith alone doth also now save us, then you should be baptized". Do you believe God or man? - (Continued on page 3)

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

## VOLUME 35, NUMBER 17 April 26, 2009

<u>RECORDS 4/19/2009</u>	<u>SERMONS 4/26/2009</u>
Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 52	AM: Jerry Manning
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 80	LOSING ONE'S WAY
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 54	PM: Jerry Manning
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 54	GOD'S MADMEN
CONTRIBUTION: \$2185	

"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor,  
and though I give my body to be burned,  
and have not CHARITY (LOVE)  
it profits me nothing." - 1 Corinthians 13:3

### 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

### EVANGELIST

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*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
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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.
- **Dot Burger**, a cousin of **Evalina Lowe**, passed away unexpectedly in Duncan, last Wednesday. Remember her and the family.
- **Margaret Herring** is recovering from knee replacement surgery. Her new address is: **1146 Pinecroft Dr. West Columbia, 29170**, same phone number **796-2131**.
- **Holly Wilson's** grandfather is gravely ill in Orangeburg.
- **Phyllis Sheppard**, Robbie's wife, is in Baptist hospital with pneumonia.
- **Marilyn Brooks** will be in Atlanta through May for weddings and graduations.
- **Gwen Pittman** will be in Alabama till Monday.
- **Betty Mathis** wasn't well last Sunday and wasn't able to get out.
- **Anna Porter** requests prayers for **Cletus Smith**, a Gospel preacher in W. Va and his wife **Betty**. Cletus is undergoing treatment for cancer, congestive heart failure and asthma.
- **Nancy Fields** requests prayer for **James Hart**, husband of Gwen who cared for Donnie, who has stage 3 lung cancer and also for her friend **Phyllis Nelson** who they fear has had cancer spread to her brain.
- Remember all these, those that are grieving and recovering from loss, and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

**"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." - Colossians 4:19**

**“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **Foundation Class**, Saturdays 11 am at the building. All are invited.
- **Visual Aids** help needed for VBS, see brother Manning.
- **Homecoming**, 20th year, **Twin City church**, 4/26 with **Mike Hinrichs** preaching.
- **Gospel Meeting** in Walterboro with **David Pharr**, 4/26-4/30.
- **YOUTH RETREAT!** North Columbia church of Christ Fri-Sat 5/15-16.

**"For we are his workmanship, CREATED in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should WALK in them." - Ephesians 2:10**

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

**WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 4/19—C 4/26—D 5/3—A 5/10—B**

**Work Team D will meet at the Gamble's Sun evening**

**Let Your Light Shine in 2009!**

**Is Salvation My Way Or God's Way? - (Continued from page 1)**

Paul was told, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Yet people say, "Have faith, and wash away thy sins, then be baptized". Do you believe God, or man?

There is much for us to do in order to be saved. We must have **faith**, (Romans 10:17). We must **believe God** and **confess the name of Jesus**, (Romans 10:9-10). We must **repent** of sins (Luke 13:3). We must **live faithful** lives until we die (Revelation 2:10; James 2:14, 17, 20, 24). James said, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:24). Yet people say, "Ye see then how by faith only a man is justified". Do you believe God or man?

We must follow God's instructions for salvation. **Baptism** is a necessary part of our salvation, just like believing, repenting, confessing, and faithful living. Without baptism, a person cannot be saved. Baptism puts us into Christ (Romans 6:3-4), yet people say that we invite Christ into our hearts through the "sinners prayer." Do we believe God or man? Baptism clothes us with Christ, (Galatians 3:27) and puts us into His body (1 Corinthians 12:13). Yet people say, "We must receive Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, then be baptized to show the world our faith". Do we believe God or man?

Without baptism friends, none of these blessings are possible. Baptism comes before salvation and is just one of the things required in order to be saved. These other means and sayings are the inventions of men. Do you believe God or man? Jesus once asked a powerful question to a group of Pharisees. "The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or from men?" (Luke 20:4 ASV). His point was to prove that anything authorized from heaven must be obeyed by those living on earth. The Bible has authorized the way of salvation. It is from heaven. Are these other sayings from heaven, or from men? Do you believe Jesus, or the words of men?

We must believe the words of Jesus and his apostles and reject the false ideas invented by men. Jesus, quoting Isaiah, said, "But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men" (Matthew 15:9 ASV). Any and every time we teach and believe the invented doctrines of men, our worship to God becomes vain. We must believe God rather than men.

Do you believe God? I know you do. Follow his word and teaching only, and reject the false teachings of men.

- **Josh Haley**, Gospel preacher, Piedmont church of Christ, Oklahoma

**“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” - Galatians 3:26,27**