

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## CHRISTIANS—THE SAVED—ARE IN THE CHURCH

The church of the first century had no proper name. The term "the church of Christ" is a possessive term indicating ownership. When one speaks of "the farm of John Brown," he isn't naming the farm, but indicating who owns it. The same is true of the term "the church of Christ." It is Christ's church and its numerous local bodies were known as "**churches of Christ**" in the New Testament (**Rom. 16:16**). As Christ and the Father are one, it was also termed "**the church of God**" (**1 Cor. 1:1-2; cf. John 17:10, 20-21**).

Neither do members of the church of Christ denominate themselves into parties by their names. There were no hyphenated Christians in the first century, such as "Baptist-Christians," "Methodist-Christians," "Presbyterian-Christians," or "Anglican-Christians." The saved are simply Christians and wear this God-given name without hyphenating it. The name "Christian" is worn by individuals, not the church. This was the new name of which Isaiah prophesied, and was given in precise fulfillment of his prophecy. "**For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name**" (Isa. 62:1-2).

The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in **Acts 10** and **11** in the New Testament. The "**righteousness**" of Jerusalem and that which the Gentiles would see was the gospel which would be preached among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (**Luke 24:45-47**) and which would save Jew and Gentile alike (**Rom. 1:16-17**). The apostle Peter was called to preach to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile who was a Roman soldier (**Acts 9-10**). It was at the house of Cornelius that the Gentiles first heard and obeyed the gospel, and in the exact order of Isaiah's prophecy the disciples of Christ were given a new name — "Christian" — in **Acts 11:26**. That's the first of three times the word is used in the New Testament. The others are in **Acts 26:28** when Agrippa said, "**Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian,**" and in **1 Peter 4:16** where Peter wrote, "**Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed.**" There isn't a single denominational name that is found in the New Testament which is divinely applied to the disciples of Jesus Christ. *-(Continued on page 3)*

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org) South Carolina 8/28/2011

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### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

THE NAME CHRISTIAN

PM: Ed Kelleher

JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

“And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.” - Acts 11:26

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

*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

### BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858  
E-Mail: [Ed@macro-inc.com](mailto:Ed@macro-inc.com)

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

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Betty Mathis, Margaret Herring, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Margie DeYoung** is home now from rehab, we hope to see her with us soon.
- Also keep **Margaret Herring, Anna Porter** and the **Willson** family, and especially **Lisa**, in your prayers as they deal with health problems.
- **Tommy White** requests prayers for **Judy Nixon**, a friend from where he works.

"This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickend me" - Psalms 119:50

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

- **Sign up to help get Lorraine Porter here on Sundays!**
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It's a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011**

## **FAITH ALONE IS NOT BELIEF IN GOD**

“He that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life” (John 3:36 ASV). This truth is seen when “Jehovah said unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed not in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel” (Num. 20:12 ASV). They had not the "conviction" to **do** just what God said do. God said unto them, “...speak ye unto the rock before their eyes” (Num. 20:8 ASV). But they “smote the rock” (Num. 20:11). Hence God says, “Ye believed not in me” (Num. 20:12 ASV).

What is it to "believe in" God? It is to **do** trustingly and lovingly just what He says. This "faith alone" system is the popular doctrine in pulpits and on rostrums of the modern pastor and money-loving evangelist. There is nothing that they put over with a show that is more deceiving and soul-blighting.

- **A. G. (Arvy Glenn) Freed**, 1863-1931, Gospel Preacher, educator

“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” - James 2:20

## **CHRISTIANS—THE SAVED—ARE IN THE CHURCH—(continued from page 1)**

The blessings of salvation are found only in the church of Christ. Paul said "**all spiritual blessings**" are in Christ (**Eph. 1:3**) and then enumerated those blessings. Those in Christ are the "**chosen**" of God (**Eph. 1:4**), God's adopted children (**Eph. 1:5**), made acceptable to God (**Eph. 1:6**), redeemed by Christ's blood and forgiven of sins (**Eph. 1:7**) and heirs of heaven (**Eph. 1:11**). To be in Christ is to be in His body, the church (**Eph. 1:22-23**). One cannot be in Christ without being in His church, for the church is His fulness (**Eph. 1:23**) and no one is in Christ who has not repented and been baptized into Him (**Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**).

When the gospel was first preached on Pentecost (**Acts 2**), 3,000 souls obeyed the gospel by repenting and being baptized and the Scripture says they were added to the church (**Acts 2:41, 47**). Now, this question arises: "To which denomination were they added?" The answer? None! Were the apostles and others members of a denomination? Absolutely not! No such thing as a denomination among professing Christians then existed. Those 3,000 souls were added to the church of which you should be a member — the church which Christ, its Founder, will save (**Eph. 5:23**). Not a single one of them was added to any denomination. The church is the saved body of Christ and rejects denominationalism.

### **God Has Only One Family**

Paul told Timothy, "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: but if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God" (1 Tim. 3:14-15). This passage identifies God's "**house**" as the church. As used in this context, the word "house" means "family." The church is God's family and that is its designation in **Ephesians 3:15**. God has only one family and to insist that God has children in all denominations is to accuse God of being an adulterer. There are no children of God outside of His family. Denominations do not comprise the family of God and are no part of it. The church of which you should be a member — the one you read about in the New Testament — rejects denominationalism because it blasphemes the name of God in its insistence that there are children of God in all denominational "families."

- **Jerry Brewer**, Gospel preacher, Elk City, Oklahoma

“... who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:” - Eph 1:3

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” - Ephesians 1:22,23

“... even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” - Eph 5:23

“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