

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

For What Am I Responsible?

One of the greatest problems afflicting mankind is the refusal to accept responsibility for one's actions. Most people are determined to blame someone else for their own unacceptable conduct. Some blame their bad behaviour on their ancestors, others blame a society that existed 150 years ago, and many say the devil makes them act as they now act.

The word of God says, "**So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God**" (Rom. 4:12). The Bible doesn't teach that we shall be able to successfully blame our failures on others. God holds each of us accountable for his choices and actions. This is why each person should possess the attitude of the Bereans who, "**received the word with all readiness of mind, and examined the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so**" (Acts 17:11).

A person is responsible for his attitude toward, and knowledge of the Word of God. Many people believe that the Bible is God's Word, but they never study the Holy Scriptures. To ignore the teachings of the Bible is to act as if it does not exist. Some give "lip service" to the Bible, but have no real understanding of the Scriptures. It requires diligent study to know right from wrong and truth from error. (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15).

Some are convinced that if they remain ignorant of God's Word they will not be accountable for their ignorance. But the Bible doesn't so teach. Each person is responsible for finding the truth on any given matter, accepting the truth as it is, and making such truth a guide for his actions.

One may know that instrumental music was used in the Old Testament (cf. Psa. 150) and thus feel that it is an acceptable means of worshipping God today. But the Old Testament is not the covenant that we are under today. That covenant — and all it contained — was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14) to make way for the "better covenant" (Heb. 7:22; 8:6). The first covenant was taken away "**that he may establish the second**" (Heb. 10:9).

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IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 47 December 16, 2012

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **HARVEY ALLEN**

PM: **HARVEY ALLEN**

**“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?” - Matthew 16:26**

**JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!**

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

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- **Judy Walker** is home now with her son. Address to be posted on bulletin board.
- **Anna Porter** is at home but weak, and also greatly desires to be with us, but is not able.
- **Juanita Oliver**, a former member at West Columbia, passed away last week.
- Keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here. To those faithful in visiting and attendance, encouraging others by talking with them. To those quietly doing the many jobs necessary to keep the congregation functioning.

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness”

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Drop-in at the **Gamble’s** home, Sunday December 23 after the evening assembly.
- **Chris Parks** completed his Eagle Scout project, to build up the natural separation between the church building and the adjoining property and to install a rain diverter to keep water from puddling at the bottom of the handicap entrance to the building.
- **EVANGELIST WANTED:** The men are actively seeking a man to help us full time with reaching the lost here in West Columbia. We’ll be having them visit to get to know them better. If you have suggestions, or comments, please get them to brother Gamble.
- Our thanks to **Brian McCutcheon** from Aiken who preached for us last Sunday.
- **BULLETINS BY EMAIL** sent each Friday. To subscribe, send email address to Ed.
- **Tommy White** needs a ride to the assembly Wed. nights. Give him a call at 794-6249 and help this brother who looks forward to our meetings.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors.** **Marshall Mancuso** had had a bunch of nice cards printed, and **Jones Gamble** faithfully gets visitor cards posted with addresses. So help out yourself! Send a card, invite people to visit, then send more cards! Postage for a post card is \$.32, Send 3 for a dollar and keep the change!
- **Theme for 2013?** Please help us think of one that will encourage us all to grow closer to God in the upcoming year. Some suggestions:

**“Keep your heart clean in 2013”
From God’s Word let us glean in 2013”
As a Christian be seen in 2013”**

“For thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”

- Revelation 3:8

IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012

For What Am I Responsible?

—(Continued from Page 1)

Under the New Covenant God has authorized singing, not playing. Search your New Testament and you will find examples and commands regarding the music that God desires in worship today (Matt. 26:30; Acts 16:25; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Jas. 5:13; Rev. 5:9; 14:3; 15:3). There is Bible authority for singing, but no such authority for playing on an instrument.

One is responsible for understanding that there is only one church that Jesus built (Matt. 16:18), the church of Christ (Rom. 16:16). The church and the body of which Christ is the head are one and the same (Eph. 1:22-23). The apostle Paul made it clear to the Ephesians that there is only one body (Eph. 4:4). "One" never means more than "one" until folks begin to discuss religion. It's only then that "one" means "two," "three," "four," or "one hundred and four." The one Head (Christ) then becomes the Saviour of multiple bodies that He never promised to build and did not purchase with His blood (Acts 20:28). There is no Bible authority for man-made churches (Matt. 15:13; 1 Cor. 10:10-13).

One is responsible for obeying the gospel. There is only one gospel (Gal. 1:6-9), and it alone has the power to save a soul from sin (Rom. 1:16). Those who obey not the gospel will be eternally lost (2 Thess. 1:8). Baptism is a part of the plan of salvation, and one must be baptized to be saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21). Baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16) and one cannot be saved while still in his sins.

Yes, man is responsible for many things. But the thing that matters most is your attitude toward the Word of God. Will you accept it and obey it as the Truth it is (John 17:17; 8:32), or will you ignore it and cling to the opinions, creeds, and traditions of men? Remember, you are responsible before God for your choices and actions.

- Marvin L. Weir, Minister, Bonham St. Church of Christ, Paris, Texas

There's Nothing Plainer

The plainest statement on what to do to be saved is Mark 16:15-16: **“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.”**

Now that verse cannot be simplified and it cannot be misunderstood, without help. He shall be saved that believeth and is baptized. It does not read, he shall be saved that believeth. It does not read, he shall be saved who is baptized. It reads, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.

The principal sentence is, “he shall be saved”. The dependent clause is, “that believeth and is baptized”. The word that points out the fellow — that shows who shall be saved, is “he”.

This is the simplest statement in all the Bible on what to do to be saved.

- Foy E. Wallace, Jr., 1896-1979, Gospel preacher