

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 (see Galatians 3:26,27 at end of article).

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)

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. BOLEN

PM: T.J. BOLEN

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." - 2 Corinthians 9:6

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

**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.*
- Remember to **send notes and cards** to those who aren't able to make it out often, (like Anna Porter and Judy Walker).
- Remember **Stephanie Rigney** who is looking forward to completing her course of chemotherapy. And **Connie Richbourg** also who will be having her other knee replaced June 12. Pray she finds relief.
- 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.

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him." - Psalm 27:1

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Church Website has been updated, with all bulletins posted.
- First Sunday, sermons by visiting gospel preacher, TJ Bolen who is here with his family. All are invited to stay for fellowship luncheon after morning assembly.
- Our thanks to member **Steve Rigney** for preaching for us last Sunday and to all who have pitched in making repairs and cleaning up the building, grounds, and residence.
- **BULLETINS BY EMAIL** sent each Friday. To subscribe, send email address to Ed.
- Correction from last week, there IS a bulletin this week!
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors!** Brother Gamble posts a list each week of visitors and those of our number who need encouragement.

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which you have showed toward his name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." - Hebrews 6:10

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 7:21

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**