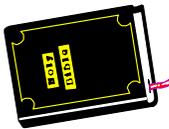


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

WELCOME THE WORD

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls..” - James 1:21

It is one thing to hear the Word of God, it is something else to **welcome** it. There are two words in the New Testament translated **receive**. One is a word that means to reach out and take. But that is not the word James uses in James 1:21. The word that James uses is one that means to welcome as you would **welcome a friend**. You open your heart to the word as you would open your home to receive a friend. In this text James identifies three ways to receive the word.

First, you welcome the word with **repentance**: “Lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness.” The word filthiness is a word, a medical term that means “wax in the ear.” The Christian life is one of ongoing repentance. Remove the wax that keeps you from receiving the word — that’s repentance. The “superfluity of naughtiness” means that which remains, the things that are left, the hangovers of the past. Remove the leftovers of the old ways, the old habits — the old sinful practices. The point James is making is you’ll never be able to welcome the word until you remove the hangovers of the old life.

Second, you welcome the word with **readiness**: “Receive with meekness,” i.e. a compliant, ready spirit. It means to be teachable, trainable. Meekness is power under control. When you hear the word of God do you try to figure out whether it is true or not? Whenever you think that the word of God cannot be true until you approve it, you will never receive it. Samuel welcomed the Word when he said, “Speak Lord for your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3:9, 10). The people on Pentecost “gladly received the word and were baptized” (Acts 2:41). The Bereans were called noble because “they received the Word with all readiness” (Acts 17:11).

James says that if we welcome the Word, we must receive it with repentance — be clean; and welcome it with readiness — be meek.

- Continued on page 3

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VOLUME 32, NUMBER 20 May 14, 2006

RECORDS 5/7/2006

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 59
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 90
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 75
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 73
CONTRIBUTION: \$2351

SERMONS 5/14/2006

AM Scott Parker:
Am I Any Better than the Devil?
PM Scott Parker
Easy To Mislead

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." - 2 Timothy 3:16,17

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

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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Bulletin Editor—Ed Kelleher

“THE PRAYER OF FAITH SHALL SAVE THE SICK” - James 5:15

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Ted Stidham, Beryl Parks, Ron Banks, Hagood Godley, and our shut-ins Jessica Herring, Zudora Clegg, and Phyllis Johnson. Also, **Nina Ruth Meadows** (Marcella Klieves' mother), **James Mathias** (Tommy White's brother-in-law), and **Jack and Elma Berrier**.
- **Remember also Margaret Herring, Ashley Williams and Bobby Giles.**
- **Kaitlyn Sheppard** has mono and isn't feeling at all well. It's not contagious, but she will be out of school for several more weeks to recover.
- **Tricia Parker** requests prayers for her dad, **John McCullum** in Missouri.
- Lets remember **Talitia and Jerome Zimmerman** who were both recently baptized as they struggle against Satan.
- We've heard that **Ron and Margie Banks**, who've been away in Ohio since last year will be returning. It will be good to have them back.
- **PRAY FOR ALL THESE AND THE CHURCH!**

"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

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

- **Melissa Parks** is back home after spending several weeks in Virginia, helping with her father **Jack Edwards**.

“ELDERS... FEED THE FLOCK OF GOD” - 1 Peter 5:12

We're always encouraged by the attitude of the church here in West Columbia and how it translates into positive action. Members here honestly desire and want to know the Lord's will and strive to do it, putting God ahead of themselves.

The evangelist preached on giving, usually a sure fire way to **decrease** the contribution, yet ours increased significantly, despite having 14 members out traveling this last Lord's day. We rejoice in the fruit this produced; not in the collection trays, but in the **hearts** of those who of a ready mind gave liberally and cheerfully out of respect to God and His word. This cheerfulness was **evidenced** by the good attendance Sunday and Wednesday evenings. We thank our God for His great blessings, not the least of which is to associate with brothers and sisters of like mind and faith—where we all **want** and strive to:

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” - Psalm 100

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:21

- **Spiritual Growth Seminar at West Columbia**, Friday and Saturday **June 16,17** on “The Deadly **TULIP**—Calvinism, exposed and refuted from the Bible”
- **Our VBS July 24-28**, Mon-Fri 7:00-8:30 PM—**The Bible is YOUR Book**.
- Sister **Marilyn Brooks** needs a ride to our assemblies. The **Sheppards** have been bringing her faithfully for quite awhile but with Eddie's illness we need someone else to pitch in and help. Marilyn lives on 109 Super Dr, West Columbia 29172. That's off Old Wire Road, off Charleston Highway #176 close to I-26 Carolina Eastman exit #119. Marilyn's phone number is 926-9899. She's in a

GIFTS: OF GOD, OF CHRIST, OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God,**” John 4:10
The gift of God is His grace that will save us—not God Himself.

“**But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**” - Eph 4:7 The gift of Christ is access to God's grace—not Christ himself.

“**and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**” - Acts 2:38 And in **exactly** the same way the gift of the Holy Spirit is the revelation of the Gospel, the Word of God, that will save us in the end—**not** the Holy Spirit himself. The original Greek language in all three cases is **identical**, and so is the meaning: the gift is **not** the giver.

- adapted from Foy E. Wallace, Jr. *The Work, Mission and Medium of the Holy Spirit*

WELCOME THE WORD (continued from front page)

Third, you welcome the Word with **responsiveness**. James speaks of one “Beholding his natural face in a mirror, then turns and goes his way and forgets what he saw.” (James 1:23,24) This is just a casual glance that brings no response, no change. The other man looks, keeps looking and responds. This man is blessed in his doing. His is a careful gaze, a steadfast, continual, intentional look. He responds! He searches! He applies it! When we respond to what we know, we will know more.

When you receive the Word with **repentance, readiness and responsiveness**, you have **welcomed** the Word as you would welcome a friend.

— Clarence DeLoach, minister Pond Church of Christ, Dickson, Tennessee

“If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture ... ye do well:” - James 2:8

“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God;” - Colossians 1:25