

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

WOULD YOU DIE...FOR CHOCOLATE PIE?

I “love” chocolate cake (not “pie” as the title suggests, since “die” rhymes with “pie” and not “cake” -- but I digress). I always have. I also love God. I “love” them both. What’s the problem? Well, I know there’s a difference in loving food, and loving God, so the problem is not my *heart*. The problem is my *language*. The word “love” in our language has basically been diluted, to the point that it has almost totally lost its original meaning. What other conclusion can you come to when one word can, to most people, encompass both food, and deity?

Obviously when I say “I love God,” I *mean* something different than when I say “I love cake.” The word is the same, but the meaning is clearly different, when you look at the context.

In the Greek language (commonly recognized as the language of the first century) when Christ asked Peter if he loved Him (John 21), he wasn’t asking if he loved Him the same way he loved his favorite food. He wasn’t asking if he loved Him the same way he loved his favorite pair of sandals. He was asking if he loved (“agapa” = in the original language) Him so much that he would *die* for Him. Peter wouldn’t die for his favorite pair of sandals. I wouldn’t die for chocolate cake (or “pie” if you’re in a rhyming mood). And yet I say I “love” it?

It seems as though the word “love” has been used so flippantly, that its original meaning is hard to be discerned. A man may tell his significant other that he loves her, having just known her for a couple of weeks. Would he die for her? I think not. Eventually they may get married, and raise a family. Would he die for them then? Yes he would. Because now he truly “loves” them. The word has meaning to him now. Recall what Paul said about the sacrifice of Christ: “**For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**” (Romans 5:6-8).

Christ died because He “loved” us. Would Christ have died for His favorite food (He was human, I’m sure He had a favorite food)? No. Would He have even said He “loved” his favorite food. Probably not. Consider what Paul said concerning the Christian’s love for Christ: “**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long...**” (Romans 8:36). Would a Christian die for Christ? Yes. Why? Because he **loves** Christ. Would he die for...chocolate pie? No. Now tell me why... Let’s make sure, then, that we’re careful about the words we use.

- Matthew Martin, Assistant Minister, Forest Hill church of Christ, Memphis, Tenn.

Strive to get **CLOSER TO HEAVEN IN 2007!**

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org B914 South Carolina 4/1/2007

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 13 April 1, 2007

RECORDS 3/25/2007

SERMONS 4/1/2007

Sun 10 AM Bible Study:	48	AM:	Jerry Manning
Sun 11 AM Assembly:	87		
Sun 6 PM Assembly:	59		
Weds 7 PM Bible Study:	74	PM:	Jerry Manning
CONTRIBUTION:	\$2263		

“For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” - Matthew 7:8

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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

ELDERS

Donald Klieves

Home Phone (803) 996-3793
E-Mail: DKlieves@yahoo.com

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858
Home Phone (803) 791-0950
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

EVANGELIST

Jerry Manning

Home Phone (803) 936-1502
Cell Phone (803) 429-3738

E-Mail: Jerry1Manning@yahoo.com
Bulletin Editor—Ed Kelleher

The Bulletin
USPS-994-500
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

West Columbia Church of Christ

1701 Augusta Road

West Columbia SC 29169

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Margaret Herring, and our shut-ins Jessica Herring, Zudora Clegg, and Phyllis Johnson. Also, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack Edwards (Melissa Parks' father), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson).
- The Dillard family are all doing better and were with us last Sunday.
- Robert Ray, who preaches for the church in Muncie Indiana and is an MSOP classmate of Bro. Manning, was hospitalized again for a collapsed lung and is to have surgery.
- John Berrier was reported to have had a serious recurrence of cancer, but further tests showed the cancer is gone. Thank God for His mercy!

"For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard." - Psalms 22:24

EVANGELISTIC WORK PLANNED WITH MANY CONGREGATIONS:

- A door knocking evangelistic campaign is being planned to build up the church in Woodruff, Saturday April 28. We'll leave early Sat AM to get there by 9:30AM.
- A campaign to reestablish the church in Newberry is being planned for the fall. We're considering the possibility of having a week long Gospel Tent Meeting in October in Newberry to support this.

ENGRAVING HEAVENLY TRUTHS

Starting Wednesday April 4, 2007 new teachers will be assigned and begin their preparation for EHT in Teacher Preparation classes. Starting Sunday **July 1** all will start classes in the **new EHT** program. The elders believe this EHT program will build up the congregation in many ways by bringing teachers and families together in promoting knowledge of God's word in the hearts of all in the congregation. Pray that all will be diligent.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,

YEAR 1:

- Q-1 Survey of the Old Testament
- Q-2 Survey of the New Testament
- Q-3 The Devil, Sin, and Hell
- Q-4 Jesus the Christ

YEAR 2:

- Q-5 Old Testament Book by Book
- Q-6 New Testament Book by Book
- Q-7 The Church
- Q-8 The Book of Acts

YEAR 3:

- Q-9 Old Testament Geography
- Q-10 New Testament Geography
- Q-11 Miracles
- Q-12 God's Plan for the Home

YEAR 4

- Q-13 Men and Women of the Old Testament
- Q-14 Men and Women of the New Testament
- Q-15 The Parables of Jesus
- Q-16 Faith, Hope, and Charity

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **BUILDING CLEANUP** volunteers needed—sign up in foyer. If you'd like to help with someone else, or have questions, please see **Billy Geiger or Gerald Boyd**.
- Remember sister **Anne Louise Gordon** in Lexington County Detention Center in your prayers. Pray for the work at LCDC. Brother Manning has been able to teach regularly and many want to obey and be baptized into Christ but there are obstacles that hinder them that need to be overcome. Especially remember **William Haron**, an inmate in Pod G, who is teaching others the truth and wants to be baptized himself, but is hindered by the authorities.

"Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness." - Romans 4:3

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:24

- **MEN!** When leading in prayer, please use the microphone if at all possible.
- **Youth trip** to 6 Flags is being planned for Thursday April 5, Spring Break. See **Ken or Faye Parks** for details. Sign up sheet is in the foyer.
- We have an **activity fund** to help members in need participate in some of the group activities. All members are invited to contribute to this fund individually.
- **Gospel Meeting**, Union church of Christ with JC Watkins of Chattanooga, TN. Sun-Thurs 4/15-4/19. Curtis Gilbert preaches there. Car pooling is encouraged.
- **Gospel Meeting**, St. Andrews Road Sun-Thurs 4/15-4/18 with **W.T. Allison**.
- **Senior Rally**, St. Andrews Road, Saturday 4/28/2007 with Mickey Burleson on **“PAUL'S PATTERN FOR GROWING OLD”**

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.” - 2 Corinthians 8:9-11

“ELDERS ... FEED THE FLOCK OF GOD” - 1 Peter 5:1,2

We all can't preach like our evangelist or teach like our elders, but there's much that we **all** can do. We want all members to put together a short list (with phone numbers and addresses) of those they would especially like to be contacted for Bible studies. We always need people to help **clean the building**. And there's always a need for **pantry** items. We have many that come by needing food. Remember who we're helping:

"For I was an hungered and you gave me meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in: naked, and you clothed me:" - Matthew 25:35,36

Let's not be like **Naaman** and look for **big** things to do (2 Kings 5). Let's get **closer to heaven in 2007** by patient continuance in well doing (Romans 2:7). Remember:

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much:" - Luke 16:10