

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## HEALTHY SOULS

The apostle Peter was a mature elder in the church when he wrote his first epistle, and with it he brought all of his experiences into his explanation of the Christian life as God would have it. Perhaps the most important principle he stresses throughout this entire writing is the need for maturity in the lives of individual Christians. This oft-mentioned term is usually left to die when any action is required, but Peter spoke of it as a reality which all can achieve if they will follow the procedure given in **1 Peter 2:2** where he writes:

**“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”**

The first important step in maturing is that of desire. In the same way that a newborn infant desires his mother’s milk, Christians should want to learn more concerning spiritual matters. “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” But, a Christian will starve to death spiritually if he or she lacks a desire for spiritual food. The desire to grow ever closer to God, our Savior, should not be forced but should come naturally from our love for Him and our gratitude for the salvation of our souls.

The second step in the maturing process involves our choice of food. No one would consider it right to feed a baby sugar and corn flakes steadily—even if the child desired such. Loving parents will see that their child is properly fed, receiving the nutrients that a growing body needs. In the process of spiritual growth, the same principle applies. While there are some who desire a sugary, watered-down version of the gospel (2 Tim. 4:3-4), they should not receive it because it will destroy their souls (Gal. 1:6-9). Only the inspired word of God has all of the spiritual nutrients that can properly provide for the souls of men (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Anything less than the unadulterated word of God is neglecting the spiritual health of the individual. The desire is to be for the word of God and not for man’s religions (Matt. 15:9).

The third step taken in the maturing process of a Christian is that of growth. After desiring the word and learning from the study of it (2 Tim. 2:15), one will grow closer to God (Jas. 4:8), closer to being Christ-like (Gal.2:20), closer to other Christians (Rom.12:10) and closer to heaven (Matt. 6:33; 2 Tim.4:8). The maturation process is manifested in a life filled with selfless actions that are a result of living for Christ.

This growth process that Peter speaks of is not something that is limited to novices or to those newly born in the faith. It is for all who wish to live a faithful life unto God (Rev. 2:10). When one ceases to grow, he begins to decay. In Christianity, one must apply himself to the truth of God’s word to grow closer to the Creator and Savior of mankind. To decay, simply do nothing.

- Kevin Rhodes, Preacher, Granbury Street Church of Christ, Cleburne, Texas

## VOLUME 33, NUMBER 19 May 13, 2007

RECORDS 5/6/2007

SERMONS 5/13/2007

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 62  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 106  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 82  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 73  
CONTRIBUTION: \$2322

AM: Jerry Manning  
**Qualities Of A Godly Woman, Part 1**  
PM: Jerry Manning  
**Qualities Of A Godly Woman, Part 2**

“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning ... But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” - 1 Peter 3:3,4

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

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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

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### “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).
- **Melissa Parks' father, Jack Edwards**, survived emergency surgery despite the odds, but his cancer has spread and he is now suffering from liver and kidney failure. He has left the hospital for hospice care. **Melissa** has returned to Virginia to be with him and the family. Remember them in your prayers.
- **Don Fields** daughter Jennifer is having extreme difficulty with her pregnancy in Maryland. Don and Nancy are up there now with her.
- **Keith Carter's** dad, **Billy Carter**, made it through bypass surgery Wednesday. Brother **Paul Dillard**, who's had this surgery twice, was able to reassure Billy.
- Sister **Beth Johnson** is to have surgery requiring an extensive hospital stay and recovery.
- **Julia Kelleher** came forward last Sunday requesting the prayers of the church.
- Also remember **Tom Rinehart**, who has some back problems, in your prayers.

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;” - 1 Timothy 2:1

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

- Remember our sister **Anne Louise Gordon** and the work at LCDC in your prayers. **Brother Manning** has been able to teach regularly and reach many who want to obey God and be baptized into Christ but are prevented from doing so. Also remember **William Horan**, an inmate in Pod G, who is teaching others the truth and wants to be baptized himself, but is hindered by the authorities. Send a card or letter to him at: **PO Box 2019, PG-5 Lexington, SC 29071**

“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” - Hebrews 5:14

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

- **Graduation Drop-In** for **Courtney Gamble** and **John Manning**, Saturday May 26, 2007, 7:30-10pm, at the Gamble's home, 129 Big Timber Dr, Lexington.
- **Gospel Meeting**, Greer church of Christ with **Mel Futrell**, Friday-Sunday June 8-10, 2007, 7:30 pm.
- Our **Fall Gospel meeting has moved up a week** to **September 9-12**, Sun-Wed, with **Keith Mosher**, Dean of Academics at Memphis School of Preaching.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” - Galatians 6:9

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

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

- We rejoice that **Evan Manning** had good news from the doctor.
- And we rejoice with the angels in heaven that **Alton Elledge** put our Lord on in **baptism** Wednesday evening. Alton had been studying his bible and came to recognize the necessity of being baptized for the remission of sins. After talking with the evangelist and one of the elders, he made the sweet confession of Jesus name and was baptized by brother Manning for the remission of his sins. Our new brother in Christ is: Alton Elledge, 2 Downing Street, Columbia, SC 29209 phone (803) 743-4524 God is so good to us! Praise His Holy name.

“ I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” - Luke 15:10

### **KEEP ASKING**

When the Lord told Abraham He was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham asked the Lord if He would spare Sodom if there were 50 righteous people living there. The Lord said "No!" Then Abraham asked the same question of 45, 40, 30, 20 and finally 10. So Abraham made the same basic request 6 times (Gen. 23:33).

Now consider Lot, Abraham's nephew living in Sodom. Two angels came to Sodom in the evening while Lot was sitting at the gate. Lot bowed and invited them to spend the night in his home. They refused, saying they would spend the night in the square. So Lot urged them strongly, and they entered his house, Gen. 19:1-3.

Jesus taught that we should ASK, SEEK and KNOCK (Matt. 7:7-11). This suggests that we need to be persistent. It implies that God does not mind, and in fact prefers to hear our insistent plea. Now this is not senseless repetition condemned by Jesus in Matthew 6:7-8, but rather the attitude of heart that tells the Lord we are serious about our request. Abraham humbly and methodically increased the ante. Lot was at first turned down by the angels, and then they went with him - subsequently saving him.

So if you are serious about something it is ok to keep putting that request before the throne of God. Keep asking!

- Rick Laing, Preacher Highland Village church of Christ, Austin Texas

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” - Matthew 7:7-11