

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

God’s Plan For Spiritual Learning

God’s prophet Jeremiah wrote the following inspired words over two thousand years ago:

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.” - Jeremiah 6:16

There many great spiritual lessons we can derive from this one verse, but in this short article, let’s consider the following thoughts regarding God’s plan for spiritual learning:

“Stand in the ways and see” — If we want to learn anything, we have to go where the information is — to “stand in the way” where that knowledge travels. For example, if we were interested in improving our math skills, we wouldn’t sign up for an English class. We would need to enroll in a math class, because that is the “way” in which math knowledge would be distributed.

Once in the right “way,” we need the ability to “see” — to open our eyes to the instruction being given. If we wanted to learn more about math, just being in a math class would give us very little math instruction unless we opened the textbook, studied the lessons, and did the homework exercises.

“Ask for the old paths” — Adequate learning is facilitated by our willingness to receive instruction from someone who has been studying the subject longer than we have. An individual might be able to teach themselves mathematics, but they would gain that knowledge more rapidly by studying with a knowledgeable math teacher. Fortunately, mathematicians have been kicking numbers around for thousands of years, so everything we would ever want to know about math is already out there in “the old paths” of math instruction — we just need to ask someone to point us in the right direction.

“Where the good way is” — Here’s where matters can get complicated. If we want to learn math, even enrolling in a math class, studying diligently, and making use of the available instruction isn’t enough. Unfortunately, there are good math teachers and poor math teachers. If we were tutored by a math teacher who didn’t know any more about math than their students, we would find ourselves no better off than when we started, or worse, hopelessly confused. We need to seek out a good math teacher, one who really knows his or her subject — one who understands the subject material backward and forward, and will teach us “the good way” as it pertains to mathematics. *(Continued on Page 3)*

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

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 24 July 1, 2007

RECORDS 6/24/2007

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 59
 Sun 11 AM Assembly: 95
 Sun 6 PM Assembly: 66
 Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 71
 CONTRIBUTION: \$2010

SERMONS 7/1/2007

AM: Jerry Manning
 “Building Godly Relationships”
 PM: Jerry Manning
 “Now That I’m A Christian”

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning that we, through patience and comfort of the scriptures, might have hope.” - Romans 15:4

(Editor’s note: There was no bulletin last week, June 24, 2007)

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

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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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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Margaret Herring, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson) and our shut-ins Zudora Clegg, and Phyllis Johnson
- Nancy Fields is waiting for some test results and will be going back to the Mayo Clinic in Florida around July 27.
- Jan Kelleher was down with a migraine Wednesday and Thursday.
- Pray for our new brothers and sister in Christ, Alton Elledge, Richard Smith, Stephanie Westfall, Lamar Reeves, Rosa Smith, Ivette Watkins, and Billy Carter.

“Brethren, pray for us” - 1 Thessalonians 5:25

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **VBS Planning Meeting** for all who would like to be involved, Sunday after the evening assembly. We'll be going over the lessons and teacher assignments.
- Remember our sister **Anne Louise Gordon** whose trial date set has been set for 7/9/2007 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**

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” - Ephesians 4:13

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

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that **two more** precious souls were added to the Lord's church this past week. **Ivette Watkins** was buried with Christ in baptism Friday morning after studying with our evangelist. She lives in West Columbia, near the post office. Sister **Elgene Sanders** has volunteered to give her transportation to the assemblies. Wednesday night, **Billy Carter**, Keith's dad, was baptized about 11 pm. Billy recently had bypass surgery and many had visited him in the hospital. Our evangelist, Jerry Manning, had studied with him on several occasions also and Billy was very receptive to the truth. Rejoice and thank God for His great love and mercy! Pray for our new brother and sister in Christ.

“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. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” - Galatians 3:26-29

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

- **First Sunday**, all are invited to bring food to share after the morning assembly.
- **Youth Devotional** at the Manning's home **Friday July 6** starting at 7PM. All are welcome. Please bring finger foods. Lynn suggests chocolate. ☺
- **Remember our VBS! Monday through Friday July 23-27, 7 pm each evening.**
- **Clean the building!** We need folks to help! Please see **Gerald Boyd** or **Billy Geiger**. It isn't hard, and it will be a good help to the church here.

“Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:” - Romans 2:6,7

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

Who haven't you seen lately? Our Lord gave us many examples of a good heart. One was in **praying** for others. Jesus prayed for the disciples many times. He also prayed for us—you and me! “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word” - John 17:20

Can we do any less, and still call him Lord? Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ, that all will come to that perfect man the Lord wants.

- Ed Kelleher, elder West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

God's Plan For Spiritual Learning—(Continued from Page 1)

“**And walk in it**” — Our long-term success in any study of math, depends upon our putting into action what we learn. Many of us have taken algebra or geometry in high school, but can we solve an algebra or geometry problem today? Most of us don't have the ability to do so, because we haven't used any higher math in our everyday vocation. We didn't “walk in it,” so all of our learning received years ago has little or no practical value for us at all.

What is true of mathematics, is even more true of spiritual truth. If we want to know more about God and His word, we have to “stand in the way” where the knowledge of God and His will exists, and “see” what is there to be discovered. We can't make it up as we go along (even though some very “religious” folks try). Rather, we must be willing to “ask for the old paths” and be instructed as to what God reveals to us in His word (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We must make certain we are taught in “the good way,” and the only way to do that is by comparing what we are taught by the holy Scriptures (Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1).

“**You will find rest for your souls**” — As we learn from God's written Word, we must be willing to implement the spiritual wisdom we learn, and diligently “walk in it” (cf. Luke 11:28; James 1:22). Only when we make daily personal application of God's plan for spiritual learning, will we truly find rest for our souls: “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” - (Matthew 11:29).

- Mike Riley, teacher, Montana St. Church of Christ, El Paso, Texas