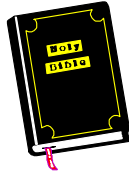


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

JESUS THE PHYSICIAN

Having created man, Jehovah pronounced him good — yea, very good. He was as good as Jehovah would have him as a created being. Man was not created a machine, inert, lifeless; he was created with the power of volition. Adam, the first man, sinned when there was no irresistible power forcing him to disobey Jehovah. His sin did not result in the loss of any of the faculties which he possessed by creation, nor did sin bring to him any new faculties. Sin is an element foreign to the nature of man; it is a disease which undermines and brings death. Because of sin, Adam was separated from Jehovah and the environments congenial to his continued existence, and he died.

THE SINNER SICK: Viewing man in his lawless life, Jesus said, "They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick... I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matt. 9:10-13 ASV). In this, Jesus represents Himself as the Physician, man the patient, and sin the disease. "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Lk. 5:32 ASV).

Physical disease saps the vitality, mars the body, and incapacitates man for the proper exercise in the work to which he has set his hand, and often results in death to the physical body. The physician seeks to assist nature in throwing off the disease.

In his work, the physician expects, and must have, the cooperation of the sick man. Jesus came to "call" the sick man — the sinner. He can hear the "call" and has the power within himself to heed or to refuse. To what extent the physical body and the mind of man are reciprocal, none of us knows. We do know that when man is suffering from some organic lesion it is not enough for him to simply have faith in the physician; he will not be cured simply by "faith only" in the physician. If "faith only" in the physician does not cure one of physical sickness, neither will "faith only" cure one of spiritual sickness — sin.

The man in sin can, and must, obey the commandments of the Physician — Christ. "Repent ye therefore and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19 ASV). "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins" (Acts 2:38 ASV).

DEAD IN SINS: Paul said to the Ephesians, "And you did he make alive, when ye were dead through your trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1 ASV). How is it that Jesus speaks of the man in sin being "sick" and in need of the physician, and Paul says he is "dead"? The "dead" man is not a subject for the physician, but for the undertaker. The "sick" man is not dead. Wherein is the harmony in the figure that the sinner is "sick" and that he is "dead"? If disease is not eradicated from the system, the result is certainly death. Paul viewed the certain result of sin — so certain are its results that he speaks of it as though it had wrought its end (death) and says they were "dead"; — **(Continued on page 3)**

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RECORDS 6/1/2008

SERMONS 6/8/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 54
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 103
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 66
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 81
CONTRIBUTION: \$2512

AM: Jerry Manning
UNDERSTANDING SANCTIFICATION
PM: Jerry Manning
OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

“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

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, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- Jan Kelleher requests prayers for Lib Hudson, a member of the church in Walterboro who has had serious surgery.
- Helen and Vince Reusser request prayers for their daughter Debbie Sightler, as they all visited us the last two Sundays.
- Remember Courtney Gamble as she visits in NY City.
- Megan Stoyk will be in Virginia, with Michael's family for the month of June working on her Pharmacy degree. Michael will be with her the first week, but then will return home. Remember them as they are apart.
- Julia and Chris Kelleher went back to Nashville Saturday.
- Jeanette Reeves continues to struggle with sin. Pray for her repentance.
- Remember all these, our new brothers and sisters in Christ, and brother Manning and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- Sister Bunny Baroody passed away last Sunday morning. The funeral was Wednesday at the North Columbia church of Christ with Dennis Johnson speaking. Remember the children, George, David and Linda Floyd in your prayers.

"THEY THAT SOW IN TEARS SHALL REAP IN JOY" - PSALM 126:5

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- We need people to sign up to clean the building.
- Lady's Tea Party (and devotional) at Lynn Manning's, 10 am Tuesday 6/10.
- Work Team B is to meet 4:30 pm Sunday at Gerald and Janet Boyd's home.
- Work Team C is to meet after the Sunday PM assembly, 6/15 at the Gamble's.
- The youth are now meeting on a regular basis at the building, Fridays at 7 pm to work on murals for our upcoming VBS.
- Ladies work on the visual aids every Tuesday 7:00 pm, at the building.
- VBS! Invite People! Mon-Friday 7/21—7/25, People of the New Testament: Paul, Peter, Timothy, Steven and Cornelius. If you would like to work on material for VBS and have some time, an hour or a day, get in touch with Jerry who has a list of things that can be done to help.
- SAVE THE DATE! Our Fall Gospel Meeting is scheduled Sun-Wed, Sep 14-17, 2008 with Billy Bland, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.

"BEHOLD, HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY" - PSALM 133:1

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 6/8—B 6/15—C 6/22—D 6/29—A

JESUS THE PHYSICIAN - (cont. from page 1)

for while in sin they were under the sentence of death, and the execution of the sentence he contemplated, as is made plain by his statement that, "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

FREED FROM THE SENTENCE: Jesus came to pardon man — to free him from the sentence of death; and to that end, He reveals in the gospel what men must do. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:15-16 ASV). Every sin is a "past" sin, for man is not a sinner till he has practiced sin. We have not lived in the future; hence, man has no "future" sins. At some time in the future, you may sin and then become guilty. Man was not "sick" till he transgressed the law of God.

Though the physician may attend you through a continued spell of sickness, when you have recovered — when you are well — that is no guarantee that you will never be sick again. So when you have been pardoned of sins committed, that is no assurance that you cannot, or will not, commit sins again — that is no guarantee you will never be sick again, and again be sick — condemned.

Again, when one has suffered from a sickness, and is cured, the body is weakened and an easy prey to disease. The wise physician attempts to assist nature by giving you a "tonic." When the Lord pardons your transgressions, He seeks to have you fortified against the recurrence of sin; He would keep you well, and with that in view you are exhorted, "In your faith supply virtue; and in your virtue knowledge; and in your knowledge self-control; and in your self-control patience; and in your patience godliness; and in your godliness brotherly kindness; and in your brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he that lacketh these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. Wherefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never stumble" (2 Pet. 1:5-10 ASV).

If you develop the traits of character enjoined, you will never fall. The statement is rhetorical: If you do not do the things commanded, you will certainly fall. "He that lacketh these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins." See the picture of the man who "lacketh these things": Not only is he described as being a coward, ignorant, given to self-indulgence, unstable, profane, cruel, and filled with hate; but it is said that he sees only the things that are "near" — he cannot, by faith, see the gate of gold wing ajar for his entrance into the home of the soul; but he has "forgotten the cleansing from his old sins" — he "relapses" and is again sick. He becomes like the swine that was washed, returning to wallowing in the mire.

Do not persuade yourself that because you have been made well — saved from your sins — you are as safe as though you were in heaven, the door locked and the key thrown away. "If" you do as the Lord directs, you will never "fall"; but so certain as you fail to follow as He directs, then certain is it that you will "fall."

- Charles Ready (C. R.) Nichol, 1876-1961, Gospel Preacher

“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” - Matthew 7:14

Choose the Straight Gate in 2008