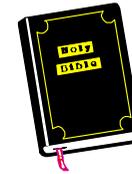


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## THE RIGHT KIND OF CONVERSION

The word "convert" simply means to change, to turn. The word is so translated in the American Standard Version. When persons are converted they are changed. They must be changed, and the Bible leaves no doubt as to where this change takes place. The Holy Spirit says, “**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new**” (2 Cor. 5:17).

We may be converted from one sect to another sect. We may turn from our drunkenness to a sober life, and we may quit our swearing. But this is not enough if our change does not bring us into Christ. You will find that in the first century the change was always the same. Those men and women, whether Jew or Gentile, were translated into the kingdom or church.

In all of those conversions much of modern procedure was lacking. Note this: None was given the choice as to which church he should join. That choice belongs to the Lord and He adds to His church (**Acts 2:47**). So your conversion or change was not right somewhere if you were left with the choice that belongs to the Lord.

Those converts were not told to "pray the sinners' prayer." Prayer has its place and purpose, but its place and purpose is not in the salvation of the alien sinner. Cornelius was a prayerful man and a good man, but he was told to send for Peter and he would tell him words that would save his soul (**Acts 11:14**).

Paul was praying for three days and nights, but he, too, had to hear words to save his soul (**Acts 22:16**). These people were not converted by signing a card, praying, or raising their hands. Instead, they obeyed from the heart the form of teaching that was delivered to them (**Rom. 6:17-18**).

You may have been converted — made a change — but was it the right change? Did you do the will of the Father in heaven? Jesus said, “**Except ye be converted and become as a little child**” (**Matt. 18:3**). I have met people who were converted. I do not doubt that. But they were not converted the right way. When I was a little child, my father knew everything. I wondered how anyone could be so foolish as to belong to a different church than my father's. I never thought of questioning what he taught on any subject. That's the way one who becomes as a little child in his conversion views God's commands. — (**Continued on page 3**)

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VOLUME 34, NUMBER 25 June 29, 2008

RECORDS 6/22/2008

SERMONS 6/29/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 54  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 109  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 55  
Wed 7 PM Bible Study: 54  
CONTRIBUTION: \$2511

AM: Jerry Manning  
WELCOME HOME  
PM: Jerry Manning

THE SIN OF UNGRATEFULNESS

“And if the righteous scarcely be saved,  
where shall the ungodly and sinner appear” - 1 Peter 4:18

Note, there was no bulletin last week, June 22, 2008

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

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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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## **“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.
- Margie DeYoung's sister Daisy is in the hospital in Florida, very ill.
- Sis. Carolyn Lee continues to have back problems.
- Gerald Boyd is recovering from cataract surgery.
- Paula Kennedy's brother-in-law had complications from surgery.
- Stephanie Rinehart's brother Glenn is recovering from surgery in Md.
- Brian Parks is back home after 2 weeks in New Mexico for Scout camp.
- Jerry Manning is thankful his family is back from 2 weeks visiting in Memphis.
- The Kelleher's are back from 2 weeks visiting family.
- Megan Stoyk should be returning home soon also from training in Virginia.
- Jean Glott is having a tough time health wise and would appreciate your prayers and some cards, address: 4028 Centurion Pass, West Columbia, SC 29170.
- Don Klieves is working in Greenville during the week for the next 3 months or so. He's able to return home on the weekends. His cell phone is 381-5489.
- 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.

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another”  
- John 13:35

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

- **New Convert Class** Saturdays 11 am at the building, for all who are interested.
- The youth are now meeting on a regular basis at the building, **Fridays** at 7 pm to work on murals for our upcoming VBS.
- **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.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” - 1 Peter 5:6,7

**WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 6/29—A 7/6—B 7/13—C 7/20—D**  
**Choose the Straight Gate in 2008!**

Participating in the work of the church is one way to ...

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## **THE RIGHT KIND OF CONVERSION - (cont. from page 1)**

But many "converted" people today do not accept what God says about baptism, repentance, the Lord's Supper, nor do they think He was right to leave instrumental music out of New Testament worship. Now, if you are one of those, can't you see that you have never been properly converted? Remember, it was Jesus who said we must become as little children.

I sometimes disagree with my father now. I'm not exactly a little child any more. As much as I love and respect him, I do not think my father is infallible any more. But with God, the passing of years only confirms my belief that God is always right and man is always wrong, sinfully wrong, when he disagrees with God.

Let me be fair with you, my friend. If your conversion does not measure up to the divine standard, if it is not like those recorded in the book of Acts, I believe, and sincerely so, that it was wrong. I do not like for you to quarrel with my Father about anything. I do not like to hear you say that God's way is wrong about anything. You will not be able to contradict Him when we all stand before His judgment bar, so why not submit to Him now?

There are those who teach that once a man is converted, he cannot be lost. Conversion does not destroy man's power of choice. There are many scriptures showing this teaching to be sinfully wrong. But here is a verse that, with those who believe the word of God, settles it forever: “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20).

- J.C. (John Carlos) Bailey, 1904-2001 Gospel Preacher, missionary to India

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## **Faith Alone Is Not Belief In God**

“He that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life” (John 3:36 ASV). This truth is seen when “Jehovah said unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed not in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel” (Num. 20:12 ASV). They had not the "conviction" to do just what God said do. God said unto them, “...speak ye unto the rock before their eyes” (Num. 20:8 ASV). But they “smote the rock” (Num. 20:11). Hence God says, “Ye believed not in me” (Num. 20:12 ASV).

What is it to "believe in" God? It is to do trustingly and lovingly just what He says. This "faith alone" system is the popular doctrine in pulpits and on rostrums of the modern pastor and money-loving evangelist. There is nothing that they put over with a show that is more deceiving and soul-blighting.

- A. G. (Arvy Glenn) Freed, 1863-1931, Gospel Preacher, educator