

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

A STRONG CHURCH

How do you measure a strong church? Some judge strength based on numbers but *“the way that leads to life”* (Matt. 7:13,14), is not likely to attract the masses. Some judge the strength of a church by its building but a large, elaborate building has no bearing on the strength of a church. Some judge the strength of a church by the size of its budget but some of the strongest churches struggle financially, while many congregations with large budgets are weak spiritually. What makes a strong church?

A STRONG CHURCH RESPECTS THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES.

It is made up of people who *“do all in the name of the Lord”* (Col. 3:17). These members seek God’s approval in their everyday lives as well as in work and worship. When these members speak of spiritual things, they *“speak as the oracles of God”* (I Pet. 4:11). When questioned about why they believe what they believe and why they practice what they practice, they are always ready to give an answer (I Pet. 3:15).

A STRONG CHURCH IS NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL. Whether it be concerning moral issues (such as fornication, homosexuality, divorce, immodesty) or doctrinal issues (such as the Deity of Christ, the unity of believers, the grace of God, the necessity of baptism), we must never be *“ashamed of the gospel of Christ”* (Rom. 1:16). We do no one a favor by “soft-soaping” or avoiding any Bible truth. We must never apologize for strict adherence to Bible truth.

A STRONG CHURCH PRACTICES WHAT IT PREACHES. Every member of the church should be *“an example...in conversation, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity”* (I Tim. 4:12). It should be evident to all who see us that we are preaching Christ because we practice “Christ-like-ness.” In order to do this we must be committed; we must be dedicated. Paul’s words should be our sentiment: *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me; and gave himself for me”* (Gal. 2:20).

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Choose the Strait Gate in 2008!

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RECORDS 12/7/2008

SERMONS 12/14/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 58
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 116
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 66
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 65
CONTRIBUTION: \$2703

AM: Jerry Manning
THE SEVEN DESCRIPTIONS OF CHRIST
PM: Jerry Manning
ON THE WINGS OF EAGLES

**“BE NOT OVERCOME OF EVIL,
BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD” -ROMANS12:21**

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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
2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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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, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Betty Mathis** is expected to be in rehab at National Healthcare (NHC) Parklane, Room 104A, phone 741-9090 till New Years. She's in good spirits and would love a visit.
- **Marcella** and **Don Klieves** thank all for their prayers. **Elgene Sanders** is doing better and can get out. **Eddie Sheppard** isn't well but has been able to get out.
- **Ron Banks** was due to have spinal surgery 12/31/08
- **Carolyn Stidham** is to have her knee replacement surgery redone 12/17. She's in considerable pain at the moment.
- **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.

**"I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised:
so shall I be saved from mine enemies." - Psalm 18:3**

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

- **Debbie Dorsey**, a member at the North Columbia church, passed away from cancer last Thursday. She would have been 45 this month. She leaves a husband and children. The West Columbia youth are helping them. Remember the family in your prayers.

**"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;"
- Psalms 103:2-4**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Martha and Billy Geiger** invite all to a Holiday drop-in at their home, Friday, December 19th from 6:30 pm. See Martha for details about finger foods.
- **Ladies Bible** class is now meeting Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.
- **SINGING! SAVE THE DATE!** At the Twin City church in Batesburg Leesville, last Sunday in January (25th) 2-4 pm
- **Work Team B meeting** Monday 12/22 7 pm at the **Palmgren's** home.

"WE LOVE HIM, BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US" - 1 JOHN 4:19

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 12/14—A 12/21—B 12/28—C 1/4—D

A STRONG CHURCH

—(continued from page 1)

A STRONG CHURCH IS FILLED WITH ZEAL AND KNOWLEDGE. For the church to be strong there must be a blend of zeal with knowledge. It will do little good to have one without the other. To have zeal without knowledge will lead to error. Paul wrote to some who had *"a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge"* (Rom. 10:2). Their zeal was not good because, lacking the knowledge they needed, they sought to *"establish their own righteousness"* (Rom. 10:3) instead of submitting to God. But on the other hand, to have knowledge without zeal is like a car without gasoline – you'll go nowhere. Let us be *"...filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness"* (Col. 1:9-11).

Individual Christians who are faithful, devoted and dedicated to the cause of Christ in every aspect of life make up a strong church

- Jimmy Ferguson, Minister Nettleton church of Christ Jonesboro, Arkansas

HOW TO DETECT AN EVIL REPORT

Four questions to ask before listening to a carrier:

- **“What is your reason for telling me?”** Widening the circle of gossip only compounds the problem.
- **“Where did you get your information?”** Refusal to identify the source of information is a sure sign of an evil report.
- **“Have you gone to those directly involved?”** Spirituality is not measured by how well we expose an offender, but by how effectively we restore an offender (Gal. 6:1).
- **“Have you personally checked out all of the facts?”** Even “facts” can become distorted when not balanced with other facts or when given with negative motives.

- Jimmy Ferguson, Minister Nettleton church of Christ Jonesboro, Arkansas

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

- Colossians 3:12-14