

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



FAITH IN CHRISTIANS, OR FAITH IN CHRIST?

Have you ever been disappointed by someone you admired? Have you ever had high expectations of someone, only to discover they had done something you would not have expected them to do? When this happens it can be very discouraging but we should be careful that we do not put our faith in people instead of God. When a Christian is the source of this disappointment, some would go so far as to turn their backs on God! Should our faith be in Christians, or in Christ? What if Peter and the rest of Jesus' disciples had decided to stop following the Lord because of the actions of Judas? What sense would that make? When one thinks rationally, it is difficult to imagine trying to justify the rejection of God (who is perfect) because of something done by a man (who is fallible); however, this is something that seems to take place often.

God has instructed us not to trust in men: "**Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.**" (Jeremiah 17:5). People are fallible, and everyone will make mistakes. All have sinned and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23), and even Christians striving their best to serve God will not live a life absolutely devoid of mistakes. In regards to Christians, John wrote, "**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**" (1 John 1:8-10).

Sometimes it may be easier for us to remember occasions when others have let us down than it is to remember the fact that we have probably let other people down as well. We should always strive to be the best we can be, but let us remember that we all make mistakes, and we should have forgiving hearts. Christ said, "**For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**" (Matthew 6:14, 15; cf. Ephesians 4:32). **(Continued on Page 3)**

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." - Ephesians 4:32

GOD'S WORD WITHIN WILL ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

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RECORDS 5/23/2010

SERMONS 5/30/2010

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 63 AM: Jerry Manning
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 85 **MAKING IT TO HEAVEN**
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 56

Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 41 PM: Jerry Manning
CONTRIBUTION: \$1562

ILLEGAL ALIENS

"Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." - Proverbs 16:19

The Bulletin

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West Columbia Church of Christ

1701 Augusta Road

West Columbia SC 29169

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
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

EVANGELIST

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"PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER" - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Jean Boyd** is in ICU at LMC after surgery.
- **Deborah Stoyk** is out of ICU, in room 439 at LMC after surgery.
- **Carolyn Stidham** isn't well and needs to have back surgery.
- **Carolyn Lee** is visiting family in North Carolina.
- **Jimmy Gist's** cancer has spread to his brain and is starting radiation treatment.
- **James Eiland, Sue Eilands'** brother, had a colonoscopy and 28 polyps were found.
- **Vince Reusser** is home in Ohio and doing well after bypass surgery.
- Brother **Lamar Reeves** and Sister **Amy Wintermute** are both going through very difficult, trying times. Pray for them. We are all encouraged by their faithfulness to God.
- **Margaret Herring** isn't doing well either. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Courtney Gamble** her aunt will be travelling in Spain and France for two weeks.
- **We have many that are ill:** Jean Boyd, Marilyn Brooks, Ron Banks, Margie DeYoung, Margaret Herring, Anna Porter and Carolyn Lee.
- Remember all these in your prayers. Write them a card, give them a call, let them know you're praying for them and see if they'd like a visit:
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember them.

"I will therefore that men pray every where,
lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." - 1 Timothy 2:8

"AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY" - Acts 2:42

- **Youth Devo SATURDAYS 7 pm, College age Bible study TUESDAYS 7 pm.**
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

5/30 Campbells Chunky Beef & Dumplings

DELIGHT IN THE LAW OF THE LORD ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly , nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." - Psalm 1

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**, Gospel 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

FAITH IN CHRISTIANS, OR FAITH IN CHRIST? (Continued from Page 1)

We should be so thankful that we have someone eternally dependable who will never disappoint us – God! God does not make mistakes! We should be thankful that we have a perfect Savior who, even though He was tempted in all points like we are, committed no sin (Hebrews 4:15). We should be thankful that God, who is all-powerful and perfect, wants us to lean on Him, and depend on Him! Because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can now obey the Gospel, which is the power of God unto our salvation (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 1:8). Once we are in Christ, we can confidently approach the throne of God and bring our burdens to Him (Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 11:28-30). God is holy and faithful – therefore, may our trust be in Him!

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man." - Psalm 118:8

- **Jason Hilburn**, Gospel preacher, Luverne Church of Christ, Alabama