

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

THE LOVE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

"Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved"

- Acts 2:43-47

Luke records that the apostles performed many miracles (by the Spirit's power). The result of these signs and wonders upon the people was fear (i.e., a healthy respect and reverence). There was no doubt in their minds regarding the genuineness of the miracles being performed. The people knew that God was with these men and enabled them to perform such mighty acts and preach a divine message.

Luke also paints a beautiful image of the fellowship that existed in the early church. Note the following seven descriptive phrases:

1. "All who believed were together" - They were united in thought and action (cf. Rom. 15:6). It is likely that many of them lived together in temporary quarters or in the homes of natives of Jerusalem.
2. "Had all things in common" - They did not consider their earthly possessions as just their own but were willing to share with their brethren (cf. Acts 4:32).
3. "Sold their possessions and goods" - They were willing to sell what they had that they might distribute the proceeds to needy fellow believers (e.g., Acts 4:34-37).

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RECORDS 10/24/2010

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 31
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 78
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 43
Wed 7 PM Bible Study: 37
CONTRIBUTION: \$1713

SERMONS 10/31/2010

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: Jerry Manning

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” - 2 Corinthians 9:8

How do you say, “Thank you!” ?

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: Margaret Herring, Jean Godley, Amy Wintermute, Lamar Reeves, Nina Ruth Meadows** (Marcella Klieves' mother), **Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago** (Jerry's sister) and **Phyllis Johnson**.
- **Jones Gamble** requests prayers for his father, in Manning who fell recently and also for **Larry Trammel**.
- The **Lowes** continue to request prayers for their brother-in-law and cousin who are having serious health problems.
- **Margaret Herring** is home recovering from surgery and requests our prayers.
- **Lynn Manning** is home recovering from surgery also and desires our prayers.
- **Eddie Sheppard** is getting around, but slowly with considerable pain.
- **Marilyn Brooks** still hopes to home soon from Palmetto Richland Hospital.
- Also remember **Margie DeYoung** who is recovering from a stent placement.
- 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 in your prayers, thank God for the power of His Word and pray he would bless our efforts.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." - Psalms 27:14

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **CLOCKS BACK—NEXT Sunday, November 7, as DST ends.**
- **Building Cleanup** volunteers **STILL** needed for: November, and December!
- **Youth Devo SATURDAYS 7 pm.**

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

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

- **Anna Kennedy's** tests came back negative!
- **Don and Marcella's** daughter, **Patricia Widner** had negative results for cancer also.
- Sister **Amy Wintermute** expresses her thanks for all the prayers and help from the congregation as her son **Zach** was able to join us Wednesday night.

THANK GOD ALWAYS AND ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

“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

Editors note: In this bulletin's article, *The Love of the Early Church*, item 7, “simplicity of heart” does not mean a simple meal. It means “smoothness” of heart, without contention or difference—things to bump against one another ... they got along.

THE LOVE OF THE EARLY CHURCH (continued from page 1)

4. **"Divided them among all as anyone had need"** - Those Christians in Jerusalem who had a genuine need were provided for by their brethren who had means (cf. I John 3:17). One might rightly ask: "Why was the need for benevolence among these Christians so great that it compelled some to sell possessions and property?" Although no specific answer is revealed, it seems reasonable to suggest that many of those who were converted to Christ on Pentecost had come from many nations and had planned to be in Jerusalem for a short time during Pentecost. However, after being converted to Christ, they remained in Jerusalem much longer than initially planned and consequently had needs arise for which they had not prepared. This situation presented a unique opportunity for Christians to voluntarily help other Christians. The **voluntary** nature of this sharing among all must be stressed (cf. Acts 5:4). They were not practicing communism, as some have alleged. Neither the church nor the government owned or demanded all the possessions of Christians in this situation. No one was forcing an **equal** distribution of economic goods to all. In fact, there is no indication that the distribution was equal at all. Rather, some generously volunteered to help others meet their basic **needs** which was a wonderful way to show their love and unselfishness (cf. James 2:15,16; John 13:34,35). In that era, benevolence of this kind among Jews was not common and was practically unheard of among Gentiles. Those who witnessed these acts of love would have been favorably impacted. No wonder the church grew so rapidly initially!
5. **"Continuing daily with one accord in the temple"** - They were together daily in the temple (presumably for prayer and to receive encouragement and further teaching from the apostles). Their unity is again reiterated by Luke.
6. **"Breaking bread from house to house"** - The wording here is different from 2:42. It appears that this refers to common meals which they shared together in their homes.
7. **"They ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart"** - How did they eat their meals together? With abundant joy and delight! Their meals would have been simple, no doubt, but they were content with what they had (cf. Heb. 13:5,6).

The love of these Christians toward each other is plain to see, is it not? These followers of Christ praised God, and, as a result of their conduct, were viewed with approval by the people of Jerusalem (cf. Matt. 5:16). Eventually, this "honeymoon period" would end and the Christians would be scattered abroad due to persecution (cf. Acts 8:1ff).

- **Stephen R. Bradd**, Gospel preacher, Clinton Illinois