

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

Church Attendance and Daily Living

I once heard a man say he went to church once a month to keep out of hell. He may not have been altogether serious, yet his saying implied the idea that many people have — that going to church gives them favor with God, apart from any benefit they may receive from the services. It is about like the notion that making the sign of the cross, or keeping a Bible on the parlor table, will protect from evil and harm.

Under a similar misconception, many believe they will get to heaven because they have held, as a mere conception of the mind, the belief that Jesus is the Christ. And still others, who ought to know better, cherish the illusion that they will be admitted into heaven on the ground that they have gone two steps further and added repentance and baptism to their faith — and there stopped.

Years ago I was troubled with the idea that millions of people would be sent to heaven, and other millions be sent to hell, just because the former had been baptized and the latter had not. I could not see the justice of making such a tremendous difference in their future destinies on such a slight basis. But I remember also that my mind was greatly relieved by some teaching of David Lipscomb on that subject. This teaching — now mixed with some of my own — was to the effect that God does not arbitrarily send anyone to either place, but each responsible person "sends" himself to his final destination by the kind of life he chooses to live.

We believe certain things to be true because the Bible teaches them. We can turn that statement around and say with truth that the Bible teaches certain things because they are true. For example, it is true in human experience that a certain way of living leads to (comparative) contentment and happiness, while a different way of living leads to discontent and unhappiness. These results are sure to follow in each case: No one can escape the consequences of an ill-spent life, nor can anyone obtain the rewards of a well-spent life without living such a life.

One thing, however, that we learn from the Bible and accept by faith is that God, knowing the great evil that men bring upon themselves and others by their ways of living, has pointed out to men the wrong way and the right way, and the consequences sure to follow in each case.

- continued on page 3

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 1/9/2011

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 37, NUMBER 1 January 9, 2011

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: K.C. Dumbaker

RESPONDING TO TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

PM: K.C. Dumbaker

ARE MY TRIALS TOO MUCH TO BEAR?

"Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." - Luke 19:17,18

GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US!

**COME JOIN US FOR
THE NEW YEAR!**

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

The Bulletin
USPS-994-500
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

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

EVANGELIST

BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Margaret Herring, Jean Godley, Amy Wintermute, Lamar Reeves, and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Jean Baker and Sherlene Baker-Thornton** will be moving to California and Arizona on the 15th. They are from Arizona originally, and Jean will be staying with a daughter in California for awhile.. Keep them in your prayers.
- **Brother Eddie Sheppard** is home from the hospital, undergoing breathing therapy at home to see if he get off the oxygen.
- **Jones Gamble’s** dad is home from the hospital and doing fairly well.
- **Rick Porter, Anna’s step son**, is recovering from surgery where he had a kidney removed.
- **Katrina Freeman and Marshall Mancuso** were under the weather last Sunday, but are doing some better now.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" - Philippians 4:7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Our relatively new brother in Christ, **K. C. Dunbaker** will be bringing sermons from God’s word at our regular assembly this Sunday AM and PM. **Ed Kelleher** will offer an exhortation and invitation at the end of each sermon. The Lord said **“it is more blessed to give than receive”** (Acts 20:35) and that’s true in the giving of sermon’s from God’s word also—it’s a great help to those doing the preaching. Please listen, take notes. The men of the congregation will discuss the sermons given to above all see that the truth is taught, and also to see how we all might improve and grow in Christ. We’ll also be publishing the preacher’s notes about their sermons on the church website when possible.

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
1 Timothy 3:15

“... and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” - Ephesians 1:22,23

- **Ken Parks** is doing our assembly assignment roster. He’ll also be lining up men to preach at the Sunday assemblies. If you’d like to speak, or have some topics you’d like preached on, please see **Ken**.
- **John Pierce** will be teaching the Sunday AM adult Bible class. **Ken Parks** will be teaching the Wed PM adult Bible class. Both classes will be studying the book of Matthew, since that is the Bible Bowl subject for this year.
- **BIBLE BOWL 2011—BOOK OF MATTHEW**—Sign up sheets in the foyer for youth and adult teams. The Bible Bowl Machine has been setup for practice.
- **Building Cleanup** volunteers needed for January.

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

Church Attendance and Daily Living—(continued from page 1)

Furthermore, in His mercy and love He has given man every incentive, encouragement, and help to induce him to turn away from the wrong way and walk in the right one. He does not propose to save man from the consequences of the wrong life. The only way He can save man is to get him to find the right way and walk therein; for, **“whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”** (Gal. 6:7).

Under these circumstances, if anyone refuses God's proffered mercy and walks in his own way, then he cannot blame God for the plight in which he finds himself.

The right way of living, of course, is the life which Jesus Himself lived and taught — a life of self-denial and service in behalf of others. **“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me”** (Matt. 16:24). The only entrance into this life is through faith, repentance, and baptism; and the only way to continue this life is through the means which God has appointed in the church. Anyone who neglects these means is not even trying to live a life of self-denial and service. The blessings offered men in the gospel are not so much things that God will do for men as that they are the certain results or consequences of their way of living. These blessings are gifts of God, but men can obtain them only through the means which God has appointed. A loaf of bread is a gift of God, but men can obtain this gift only through the orderly processes of sowing, reaping, milling, and cooking.

God does not — I may even say cannot — hand out His gifts directly to men apart from a life of self-denial and service — a life of **“faith which worketh by love.”** When He would give men the gift of fruit, such as apples or peaches, He does not bring the fully ripened fruit and hang it upon the barren branches of the trees.

The "good news" of Christ brings its gracious influence to bear upon the hearts of men. Their minds become filled with new objects of thought, new ideas and ideals, new attitudes toward life. The whole current of their thoughts, feelings, imaginations, desires, and purposes is changed. They have been "born again" and are made "new creatures." The tree has been made good, and henceforth the fruit will be good. And this bearing of fruit not only brings happiness to others, but brings the greatest possible happiness to the one bearing the fruit.

In one respect, living a life of self-denial and service may be compared to playing some game — tennis, for instance. In such a game, the players do not look upon the playing as a disagreeable task to be done for the sake of some external reward, but they expect their enjoyment from the playing itself. While the exercise lasts, the enjoyment lasts. When the game ends, the enjoyment ends.

Just so does happiness come from living a life of self-denial and service. And it is reasonable to suppose that if anyone finds his happiness in such a life here on earth, he will continue such a life with such a result in the world to come. But if he does not live such a life now, he will never do so later, and there is no hope of happiness for him either here or hereafter. **“Not everyone 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”** (Matt. 7:21).

- **EG (Elisha Granville) Sewell**, 1830-1924, Gospel Preacher,

“To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: “ - Romans 2:7