

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

THE CHURCH — THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Perhaps the most commonly misunderstood aspect of the church is its identity as the kingdom of God. Many today are familiar with the word "church" as used in denominationalism, but have a poor conception of the church of the Lord, the church of the New Testament order.

For others, the church concerns premillennialism. They teach that the church is a temporary body, brought into existence only until such a time as God will establish the "kingdom" when He comes again. Our lesson now is to see the church as the eternal kingdom spoken of in the Old Testament, the message of the kingdom proclaimed in the Lord's ministry, and the church, the kingdom, in existence in the time of the apostles.

The Church In Prophecy, Daniel 2:44: In interpreting the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, God's servant, Daniel, referred to Nebuchadnezzar's own kingdom (vv. 37-38), a third kingdom having world-wide rule (v. 40), and a fourth kingdom strong as iron, breaking and crushing all in its path (v. 40).

In our text, Daniel made these points: (a) the God of heaven would set up a kingdom, (b) it would be in the days of these last-mentioned kings, and (c) it would be a permanent kingdom.

The Babylonian empire of Nebuchadnezzar was followed by the empires of Medo-Persia, Greece, and then Rome, the final one. All the events of the king's dream, including the establishment of the church, came to pass during the Roman rule. The church, the kingdom of God, was scattered throughout the world doing God's work, and has continued till this day.

The Gospel Of The Kingdom In Jesus' Ministry, Matthew 9:35-38: Here is the kingdom in the days of preparation. Both John and Jesus began their ministries with the preaching of, "...the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2; 4:17). The Lord spoke continually of the coming kingdom, and prefaced many parables with the statement, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto..." Concerning the kingdom, in Mark 9:1, He stated that it would come with power, and in the lifetime of some of those hearers. Jesus was moved with compassion as He saw the scattered multitudes, noting that they were as sheep without a shepherd, that the laborers were too few in comparison with the harvest, and asking His disciples to pray for more workers.

— *(Continued on page 3)*

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 6/10/2012

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 21 June 10, 2012

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: ADAM CARLSON

PM: ADAM CARLSON

**JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!**

**“... cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter,
that the outside of them may be clean also” - Matthews 23:26**

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

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

To be announced

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, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.*
- Brother **Richard Ramkinson**, minister at the Windsor Lake church, is in very ill health. He's on dialysis and has some heart problems as well as diabetes. He's a diligent servant of God, please remember him in your prayers.
- **Jan Kelleher** requests prayers for her **aunt Ruth** in Ridgeland who is not doing well after heart valve replacement.
- **Anna Porter** is continuing to slowly recover from her surgery.
- Give thanks to God for His mercy, and pray for all these, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia.

**"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart,
and my portion forever." - Psalm 73:26**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Adam Carlson**, (not Jim as was incorrectly listed in last weeks bulletin) will be visiting and preaching for us this Sunday.
- If you can, bring food to share with others as we all enjoy a meal together after the morning assembly with the visiting preacher, **Adam Carlson**.
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It's a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.
- **THANK YOU!** Many do things for the church here that others don't see. They have their reward from God, but their good example should be made known to encourage others to do well also. This by no means is a complete list, but our thanks to **Keith Carter** who keeps the grounds looking nice, and **Jamie Sheppard** for installing a new sink in the Men's room. Our thanks to **Judy Walker, Jan Kelleher** and others for giving rides to members who need them. To **Janet Boyd** for getting the bulletin mailed each week. And to our teachers and others who work openly leading in the assembly. We can, and should, thank them with a kind word, but the best way to show those who work for the Lord you appreciate their efforts is to pitch in yourself and help the church.

**“That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself
shall reward thee openly.” - Matthew 6:4**

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

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

- **Brittany and Jeremy Sailors** who have just moved into the area from Georgia, wish to be identified and work with the congregation of the church here at West Columbia. Welcome them and have them over to visit sometime.

THE CHURCH — THE KINGDOM OF GOD! —(cont. from page 1)

Entering into the villages and cities, the Lord was able to render them aid in healing their diseases and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. He was teaching the "good news" which would come to full realization in the establishment of the church, the kingdom (Matt. 16:18-19; Acts 2:47).

The Church, The Kingdom And The Colossians, Colossians 1:9-17: To these saints, members of the church, the body of Christ (Col. 1:18), Paul mentions his prayers for them, and his desire for their spiritual growth and development, and makes mention of their translation from the power of darkness, into the kingdom of Christ. Let us note our text in three parts:

1. Paul's prayer and desire for them (vv. 9-11). Being continually in prayer for them, he desired for their good that: (a) they would be filled with the knowledge of God's will, (b) they would have that knowledge with spiritual wisdom and understanding, (c) their daily lives would be pleasing unto the Lord, (d) they would be faithful in all good work, (e) they would continually increase in the knowledge of God, (f) they would be strengthened with all power, and (g) their lives would be characterized by patience, longsuffering and joy.

2. The Colossians were in the kingdom (vv. 12-13). Mentioning the thanksgiving due the Father, the apostle then refers to the work the Father has performed in them. The Father had provided that they, with all who will obey His will, should with all saints be partakers of His goodness, here called "...the inheritance...in light."

But men in sin are said, always, to be in darkness; void of light. They can only share in that goodness in light by leaving the darkness. This is what God has provided, and Paul mentions it in these words: "...the Father, who...hath delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love." ASV.

3. Tribute to the Christ (vv. 14-17). We have redemption in Christ, the forgiveness of sins. Christ who is the image of God and the firstborn of all creation; Christ, the Creator of all things; Christ, the pre-existent One and the Sustainer of all things. We know, then, that Paul and the Colossians were in the kingdom, and that, nearly 2,000 years ago.

Conclusion: Daniel had prophesied that God's kingdom would be set up in the days of the Roman rulers, and also that this kingdom would be a permanent one, outlasting all earthly empires. Jesus, in His personal ministry, preached concerning the kingdom. He used the words "church" and "kingdom" interchangeably (Matt. 16:18-19). Those in the church were said to be in the kingdom (Col. 1:13). How privileged are we to be in the church, the kingdom of God!

**“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the
kingdom of his dear Son:” - Colossians 1:13**

- **W. N. Jackson**, Gospel preacher, Editor Christian Courier, Stockton, CA