

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## Requisites Of Acceptable Worship

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth." - John 4:24

Three requisites of acceptable worship are set forth in this verse:

1. We must worship God.
2. We must worship God in spirit.
3. We must worship God in truth.

The first commandment forbade the worship of any other being. It said, “**Thou shalt have no other gods before me**” (Deut. 5:7 ASV). Verse 9 of Deuteronomy 5 reads, “**Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I, Jehovah, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me.**” Hence, however sincere might be the idol worshiper, his worship is highly displeasing to God, because it fails in the first of the requisites above given. It is not directed to God.

Secondly, the worship must be in spirit (i.e. proceeding from a sincere heart and rendered with attention and understanding). This forbids worship that is merely formal — worship that consists of rites and ceremonies in which the worshiper may engage without attention. Catholicism is a system of such worship where the worshiper may not know, and indeed is not expected to know, the significance of much in which he engages.

There is some danger that this type of worship should come to obtain in Christ's church. The unvarying routine of services, the formal and mechanical participation in song, prayer, and the Lord's Supper, the failure to give attention and enter heartily into the worship leads to that which is not in spirit. This is that which Jesus rebuked in the Pharisees in Matthew 15:9 — vain worship.

Such people as this worship him with their lips and give utterance to phrases of worshipful nature, but the heart is not in it, and God is not pleased. We should ever be on our guard that we do not fall into a mechanical, formal, heartless type of devotion to God. — **(Continued on page 3)**

**IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012**

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org) South Carolina 6/17/2012

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**SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:**

AM: HARVEY ALLEN

PM: HARVEY ALLEN

JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

“But in every nation, he that feareth him, and  
worketh righteousness is accepted with him.” - Acts 10:35

**IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012**

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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**

To be announced

**EVANGELIST**

### BULLETIN EDITOR

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**“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Faye Parks** requests prayers for her friend **Judy Baker** who is in Providence hospital. Gwen Pittman requests prayers also.
- 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.
- **Anna Porter** is getting around as best she can and 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.

**"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.**

**Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification." -Romans 15:1-2**

**“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **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.

**“Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:” - 1 Timothy 1:5**

**IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012**

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

- **Jan Kelleher’s** aunt **Ruth** passed away. The funeral will be Saturday in Ridgeland.

**Books of the Old Testament—Good to memorize them!**

Genesis	1 Kings	Ecclesiastes	Obadiah
Exodus	2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Jonah
Leviticus	1 Chronicles	Isaiah	Micah
Numbers	2 Chronicles	Jeremiah	Nahum
Deuteronomy	Ezra	Lamentations	Habakkuk
Joshua	Nehemiah	Ezekiel	Zephaniah
Judges	Esther	Daniel	Haggai
Ruth	Job	Hosea	Zechariah
1 Samuel	Psalms	Joel	Malachi
2 Samuel	Proverbs	Amos	

**Requisites Of Acceptable Worship — (cont. from page 1)**

Finally, worship, to be acceptable, must be "in truth." To be "in truth" is to be according to God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Any act of worship — however sincere might be the worshiper — is not acceptable to God if it is not in harmony with the scriptures. This teaches us that God will accept only that which he has specifically set forth in the scriptures for us to do in worship.

We walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7), and since faith comes by hearing God's word (Rom. 10:17), we can offer in faith only that which is set forth in his word.

This will exclude from our worship everything not specifically mentioned within Scripture. By this rule, we can never use instrumental music in worship, because it is nowhere commanded or even mentioned in New Testament worship. Therefore, we cannot engage in it "by faith."

True, David used instrumental music, but he also offered animal sacrifices and burned incense in worship. We do not take our orders from David today. Christ is our lawgiver and guide (Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Heb. 1:1-2). He has nowhere authorized instrumental music, the Holy Spirit-inspired apostles did not sanction it, no New Testament writer mentioned it in New Testament worship, and no apostolic church practiced it. To engage in it is to fail to worship "in truth." But God is pleased when one only worships "in truth." Therefore, instrumental music is not pleasing to him.

The items of worship are set forth in Acts 2:42 and Ephesians 5:19. These are:

1. Teaching
2. Singing
3. Prayer
4. The contribution, and
5. The Lord's Supper

These items were observed on every first day of the week by the church in apostolic times (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

The disciples were directed by men who were empowered with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:42; 2:1). We can do no less than this and be assured of pleasing God today. What pleased him then, will surely please him today. All else must be rigidly excluded from worship and service to God.

**“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” - 1 Samuel 15:22).**

**- Henry Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Bible teacher, Nashville, Tennessee**