

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## God Accepts No Substitutes

One of man's most common practices is substitution. Sometimes it is of necessity and sometimes the substituted product is better than the original. But substitution has its place. The wise may substitute for the ignorant, but the ignorant cannot substitute for the wise.

Instead of making every man suffer the consequences of every sin, God substituted his own Son as a sacrifice for our sins in order for us to escape the penalty of them. (Heb. 5:8-9). But man may not substitute for God. In spite of this truth, man has always tried to substitute his own ways for God's commands. That effort has always failed and always will.

Man attempts to substitute sincerity for truth. The doctrine that "It makes no difference what you believe, just as long as you are sincere" is a vastly popular one. Saul of Tarsus was a sincere, religious man worshipping God according to his conscience, but was "chief of sinners" at the same time. (1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Cor. 15:9). Sincerity does not save. Only the truth makes one free. (John 8:32).

Men substitute prayer or sacrifice for obedience to the truth. It was that very substitution that cost Saul the throne of Israel. "**Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.**" (1 Sam. 15:22).

Paul wrote, "**But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin ye became the servants of righteousness.**" (Rom. 6:17-18). Only obedience to the doctrine of Christ will save us. No amount of sacrifice or good moral living will take the place of it.

Christ is the Saviour to all who obey him. (Heb. 5:8-9). The Bible teaches that faith in Christ, repentance from sin, confession of Christ as God's Son, and baptism are necessary for the remission of sins are necessary before the promise of salvation is ours. (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:10). Prayer is of no avail is we neglect to obey these commands.

—Continued on page 3

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

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 48 December 23, 2012

### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: WALLACE BEASLEY

PM: WALLACE BEASLEY

JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

**“By this we know that we love the children of God,  
when we love God, and keep his commandments.  
For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:” - 1 John 5:2,3**

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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](mailto:Ed@macro-inc.com)

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

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- **Judy Walker** is home now with her son. Address to be posted on bulletin board.
- **Anna Porter** is at home but weak, and also greatly desires to be with us, but is not able.
- Keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here. To those faithful in visiting and attendance, encouraging others by talking with them. To those quietly doing the many jobs necessary to keep the congregation functioning.

**"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."**

**- 1 Corinthians 15:57**

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

- Drop-in at the **Gamble's** home, Sunday December 23 after the evening assembly.
- **EVANGELIST WANTED:** The men are actively seeking a man to help us full time with reaching the lost here in West Columbia. We'll be having them visit to get to know them better. If you have suggestions, or comments, please get them to brother Gamble.
- **BULLETINS BY EMAIL** sent each Friday. To subscribe, send email address to Ed.
- **Tommy White** needs a ride to the assembly Wed. nights. Give him a call at 794-6249 and help this brother who looks forward to our meetings.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors.** **Marshall Mancuso** had had a bunch of nice cards printed, and **Jones Gamble** faithfully gets visitor cards posted with addresses. So help out yourself! Send a card, invite people to visit, then send more cards! Postage for a post card is \$.32, Send 3 for a dollar and keep the change!
- **Theme for 2013?** Please help us think of one that will encourage us all to grow closer to God in the upcoming year. Some suggestions:

**“Keep your heart clean in 2013”**

**“From God's Word let us glean in 2013”**

**“As a Christian be seen in 2013”**

**“Keep your thoughts clean in 2013”**

**“But to do good and to communicate forget not:  
for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” 1 Hebrews 13:16**

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

**“Not every one 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.” - Matthew 7:21**

## **God Accepts No Substitutes—continued from Page 1**

Paul was a penitent believer, had confessed Christ, and was praying. Yet he was told to **"Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins."** (Acts 22:16). If these commands are neglected, even our prayers are abominations. (Prov. 28:9). If we neglect to obey the plain commands of God while we have opportunity in this present world, we are destined for certain eternal punishment. (2 Thess. 1:8).

Many substitute the precepts of men for the plain doctrine of Christ. We cannot hope for a happy resurrection unless we remain true to Christ's doctrine. (1 Tim. 4:16). Those who teach any other gospel or doctrine rest under the curse of God. (Gal. 1:9). Those who are deceived by these false doctrines are likewise condemned, (Matt. 15:9, 14), and a curse instead of a blessing will be a surprising disappointment to them in the day of judgment. (Matt. 7:22-23). The only sure preventive measure against false doctrine is to **"search the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."** (Acts 17:11).

Modern religion substitutes entertainment for true worship of God. The items of divinely appointed worship are eating the Lord's Supper, prayer, singing, teaching the word of God and giving of our means to support the Lord's work. All of these are to be done on the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Eph. 5:19-20). This is a simple system in which all men can participate and glorify God as he has directed.

But some have substituted an elaborate system of entertainment by which they glorify themselves. They offer music concerts, puppet skits, dramas, and human testimonials in place of God-ordained worship. One of the very first lessons man was ever taught was that God will not accept a substitute for an item of worship. Abel offered a blood sacrifice as God directed. (Heb. 11:4). But Cain offered a substitute sacrifice and God rejected his. (Gen. 4:5).

God commands that **"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him."** (1 Cor. 16:2). That financial arrangement for support of the Lord's work is divinely appointed, but man substitutes his own devices such as car washes, garage sales and carnivals in order to please himself. God will accept no such substitutes.

Jesus defined how God is glorified. **"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."** (John 17:4). God is glorified only by doing his will as he has directed. Jesus did not substitute his own work for that of God's. God has never accepted a substitute for what he commanded. We dare not substitute our own ways for God's today. He simply won't accept them and we will be lost for so doing.

**- Alan E. Stout, edler Southwest church of Christ, Oklahoma**

**“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” - John 14:15**