

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

A STRONG CHURCH

How do you measure a strong church? Some judge strength based on numbers but *“the way that leads to life”* (Matt. 7:13,14), is not likely to attract the masses. Some judge the strength of a church by its building but a large, elaborate building has no bearing on the strength of a church. Some judge the strength of a church by the size of its budget but some of the strongest churches struggle financially, while many congregations with large budgets are weak spiritually. What makes a strong church?

A STRONG CHURCH RESPECTS THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES.

It is made up of people who *“do all in the name of the Lord”* (Col. 3:17). These members seek God’s approval in their everyday lives as well as in work and worship. When these members speak of spiritual things, they *“speak as the oracles of God”* (1 Pet. 4:11). When questioned about why they believe what they believe and why they practice what they practice, they are always ready to give an answer (1 Pet. 3:15).

A STRONG CHURCH IS NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL. Whether it be concerning moral issues (such as fornication, homosexuality, divorce, immodesty) or doctrinal issues (such as the Deity of Christ, the unity of believers, the grace of God, the necessity of baptism), we must never be *“ashamed of the gospel of Christ”* (Rom. 1:16). We do no one a favor by “soft-soaping” or avoiding any Bible truth. We must never apologize for strict adherence to Bible truth.

A STRONG CHURCH PRACTICES WHAT IT PREACHES. Every member of the church should be *“an example...in conversation, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity”* (1 Tim. 4:12). It should be evident to all who see us that we are preaching Christ because we practice “Christ-like-ness.” In order to do this we must be committed; we must be dedicated. Paul’s words should be our sentiment: *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me; and gave himself for me”* (Gal. 2:20).

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IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 12/30/2012

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 49 December 30, 2012

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: ED KELLEHER

PM: ED KELLEHER

JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

**“BE NOT OVERCOME OF EVIL,
BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD” -ROMANS12:21**

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
To be announced
EVANGELIST

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“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.*
- **Jan Kelleher's** aunt **Anna**, 92, to whom Jan is very close, is in the hospital and very ill in Savannah. The family is gathering there. Keep Jan in your prayers as she deals with this and the death of her brother a year ago, 1/5/2012.
- **Connie Richbourg** is to have knee replacement surgery January 9, then the other knee 2 months after that. Pray that all goes well and she has relief from her pain.
- **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.

**"I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised:
so shall I be saved from mine enemies." - Psalm 18:3**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEON**—Next Week, and men's business meeting.
- **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?** Last chance to get your suggestions in, so far we have:

**“Keep your heart clean in 2013”
“Keep your soul 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”**

"WE LOVE HIM, BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US" - 1 JOHN 4:19

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

A STRONG CHURCH

—(continued from page 1)

A STRONG CHURCH IS FILLED WITH ZEAL AND KNOWLEDGE. For the church to be strong there must be a blend of zeal with knowledge. It will do little good to have one without the other. To have zeal without knowledge will lead to error. Paul wrote to some who had *“a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge”* (Rom. 10:2). Their zeal was not good because, lacking the knowledge they needed, they sought to *“establish their own righteousness”* (Rom. 10:3) instead of submitting to God. But on the other hand, to have knowledge without zeal is like a car without gasoline – you'll go nowhere. Let us be *“...filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness”* (Col. 1:9-11).

Individual Christians who are faithful, devoted and dedicated to the cause of Christ in every aspect of life make up a strong church.

Jimmy Ferguson, Minister Nettleton church of Christ Jonesboro, Arkansas

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

- Ephesians 6:10-11

HOW TO DETECT AN EVIL REPORT

Four questions to ask before listening to a carrier:

- **“What is your reason for telling me?”** Widening the circle of gossip only compounds the problem.
- **“Where did you get your information?”** Refusal to identify the source of information is a sure sign of an evil report.
- **“Have you gone to those directly involved?”** Spirituality is not measured by how well we expose an offender, but by how effectively we restore an offender (Gal. 6:1).
- **“Have you personally checked out all of the facts?”** Even “facts” can become distorted when not balanced with other facts or when given with negative motives.

- Jimmy Ferguson, Minister Nettleton church of Christ Jonesboro, Arkansas

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

- Colossians 3:12-14