



# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## The Importance of Acts in Conversion

The gospel message of Jesus can be taught from practically anywhere in the New Testament. But the book of Acts holds a unique place in communicating the gospel. Acts is the book which displays the work of the Apostles after the departure of Jesus. Acts shows what the Apostles preached, how they helped guide those who did not believe in and follow Jesus into becoming His disciples. The books after Acts in the New Testament were written to people who had already become Christians, who needed reminders, warnings, corrections, etc.. of what a Christian and Jesus' church should be. The gospels record the life and teachings of Jesus. Acts records those who followed Jesus while He was on earth, who came to obey Him, and in the case of Paul one who was personally called by the resurrected Christ to carry His teachings to the world. The rest of the New Testament is divine guidance for the church from those men and others approved by Jesus to do so.

What is it they carried to the world that Acts records for us? They spoke of Jesus' death, the salvation it provides, and the power of His name (4:10-12). They spoke of the power of His resurrection (2:22-28; 13:26-39). They taught of His kingdom (19:8; 28:23-31). They spoke of the blessings which come only in Christ (2:39).

As people heard and accepted the teachings of Christ they wanted to follow Him, making Jesus Lord. Essential to the gospel message were the specifics of how to obey the gospel – that is how to become a Christian. The example given each instance when one obeys Christ is baptism, full immersion in water for in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of sins. Look for yourself throughout the entire book. EVERY instance in Acts where people follow Jesus, they are baptized. This is what is so unique about Acts. It is the book in the New Testament which routinely shows how people became Christians.

Can one be taught how to become a Christian from Romans? Sure they can. But it doesn't come from a misapplication of Romans 10:9-10 where it's erroneously stated to say a sinners prayer (which is found nowhere in the Bible) in order to be saved. In Romans 6:1-7 there is scripture which serves as a reminder to the Christians at Rome what they did in order to become free from sin. Was it saying a prayer or was it immersion – the very thing seen over and over in Acts?

**T.J. Bolen** Gospel preacher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

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### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen— What's Wrong With Preaching?

PM: T.J. Bolen— Test Yourselves, 2 Corinthians 13

JOIN US IN  
PRACTICING  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
COME SEE!

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,  
that he may exalt you in due time;  
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." - 1 Peter 5:6,7

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

*Informal Bible Study*  
*Everyone Welcome!*  
Bring your Bible questions  
Saturdays 3 pm

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

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Stephanie Rigney** has been diagnosed with another severe ailment on top of all the others. She is to have a PET scan 3/14 to see if her cancer is still in remission.
- **Debbie and Jamie Sheppard** have both been under the weather.
- **Cindy Grimley**, Jen’s mother, broke her right leg while snow skinning.
- **Tommy White** requests prayers for his nephew, **Greg Summers**.
- Remember these and: **Margaret Herring, Anna Porter; Gwen Pittman; Tommy and Michelle Johnson; the Brisbons in NY, ; Grant Parks** and family; **Debbie Sheppard; Nikki Willis; Eileen Lester; Floyd Richbourg** with knee problems.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

**"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." - Colossians 4:19**

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

- **How We Got the Bible** class continues each Tuesday at 7pm. Attend and bring a visitor with you.
- **Carolina Men’s Fellowship** in Rock Hill, next Saturday March 14. Ed and Tommy White will be leaving the building at 7am if you’d like to go.
- **Work Day** to clean up the building, Saturday 3/21 10 pm.
- **House to House, Heart to Heart** pamphlets from the church were mailed to homes in the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

**"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." - Acts 14:22**

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

## **Sun AM Sermon— *What’s Wrong With Preaching?***

1. Those who need to hear it the most are listening the least.
2. It has been allowed to become too routine.
3. It’s foundation is not cared for and therefore deteriorates.

## **IF THE ANSWER IS YES**

**“... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” - Matthew 16:18**

In determining whether or not any given denomination is the one true church revealed in the New Testament, a simple question can be posed to its sectarian adherents. The question is as follows: "Can an individual be saved outside your denomination?" If the answer is yes, then that religious group is most assuredly not the church. Here is why.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised that He would build His church. Notice that Christ said HE would build the church and that only one would be built. That church is identified by the apostle Paul as the body (Eph. 1:22-23) and is said to be the only body (Eph. 4:4), hence the only church. This church is also identified as the bride and Christ as its bridegroom (Eph. 5:22-23; cf. Matt. 9:15; 25:1). Christ is not a polygamist. He has but one bride for which He nourishes and cares.

The beautiful bride of Christ, the church, consists of a blood-bought people who, by faith, have been baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38,47). Collectively, these baptized believers are known as the saved, the church, the body, the temple, and the kingdom (Acts 2:47; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:27; 1 Cor. 3:16; Col. 1:13, respectively). They belong to Christ, and wear His name (Rom. 16:16; 1 Pet. 4:16). It is this entity of people whom Christ will take to glory at the Judgment. Christ is clearly and unmistakably the Savior of this body - His body, the church (Eph. 5:23). Undeniably, salvation is to be found in the church and only in the church. Since the church is the body of Christ, and salvation is only in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10; Acts 4:12), it follows that one cannot be saved outside the church. When Christ comes again, He will save only those who are in His church.

Therefore, if an individual tells me that I do not have to be a member of their church to be saved, then I can know with certainty that their church is not the church of our Lord. Nearly all denominations assert that you can be saved even though you are not a member of their church. However, no one can be saved apart from the Lord’s church. Thus, any religious group espousing the doctrine that salvation can be procured outside the church is not a church which belongs to Christ. Salvation is in the church. If you want to be saved, then you must be in the church.

**“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” - Acts 2:47**

**John Moore**, minister, Dripping Springs church of Christ, Texas

**“And hath put all *things* under his feet, 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.” - Eph 1:22,23**

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**