

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM:
PM:

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

**“And if the righteous scarcely be saved,
where shall the ungodly and sinner appear” - 1 Peter 4:18**

**“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;
prove your own selves.” - 2 Corinthians 13:5**

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

**JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
COME SEE!**

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM , 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays 3 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

THE RIGHT KIND OF CONVERSION

The word "convert" simply means to change, to turn. The word is so translated in the American Standard Version. When persons are converted they are changed. They must be changed, and the Bible leaves no doubt as to where this change takes place. The Holy Spirit says, “**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new**” (2 Cor. 5:17).

We may be converted from one sect to another sect. We may turn from our drunkenness to a sober life, and we may quit our swearing. But this is not enough if our change does not bring us into Christ. You will find that in the first century the change was always the same. Those men and women, whether Jew or Gentile, were translated into the kingdom or church.

In all of those conversions much of modern procedure was lacking. Note this: None was given the choice as to which church he should join. That choice belongs to the Lord and He adds to His church (**Acts 2:47**). So your conversion or change was not right somewhere if you were left with the choice that belongs to the Lord.

Those converts were not told to "pray the sinners' prayer." Prayer has its place and purpose, but its place and purpose is not in the salvation of the alien sinner. Cornelius was a prayerful man and a good man, but he was told to send for Peter and he would tell him words that would save his soul (**Acts 11:14**).

Paul was praying for three days and nights, but he, too, had to hear words to save his soul (**Acts 22:16**). These people were not converted by signing a card, praying, or raising their hands. Instead, they obeyed from the heart the form of teaching that was delivered to them (**Rom. 6:17-18**).

You may have been converted — made a change — but was it the right change? Did you do the will of the Father in heaven? Jesus said, “**Except ye be converted and become as a little child**” (Matt. 18:3). I have met people who were converted. I do not doubt that. But they were not converted the right way. When I was a little child, my father knew everything. I wondered how anyone could be so foolish as to belong to a different church than my father's. I never thought of questioning what he taught on any subject. That's the way one who becomes as a little child in his conversion views God's commands. — (*Continued on page 3*)

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Betty Mathis, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **TJ Bolen's** father **T Bolen** is recovering from open heart surgery and may possibly be home Monday. TJ and the family were in Nashville for this.
- **Pat Joyner** has circulation problem in her foot. **Anna Porter** is at National Health Care room 317 but is not doing well at all, she has no phone. **Steve Hutchinson**, her grand-son, was here with his family recently to visit her.
- **Margaret Herring** continues to fight pneumonia.
- Prayers are requested for **Paula Parks** (**Trevia's** daughter-in-law) who is to have thyroid surgery July 1
- **Remember also:** **Tommy White's** sister **Gloria** with shingles; **Betty** and **Bill Voss**, **Stephanie Rigney's** aunt and uncle; **Debbie Sightler**, daughter of **Vince** and **Helen Reusser**.
- **Pray for all these**, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

**“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another”
- John 13:35**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Church Family Pictures—Marshall Mancuso** will have his camera with him every Sunday. Be prepared and please see him to get your picture made.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them. *Why are there cards left?*
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- **Scrap Booking class**, at the building 4th Saturdays 12-3, see **Paula or Faye.**
- The Saturday **Bible studies** will be suspended while Ed is traveling, though the preacher is always available!
- **Men!** Check bulletin board for worship assignments—if you can't make it, find someone to fill in. We're counting on you.

“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

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS

“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” - Revelation 3:4-6

THE RIGHT KIND OF CONVERSION - (cont. from page 1)

But many "converted" people today do not accept what God says about baptism, repentance, the Lord's Supper, nor do they think He was right to leave instrumental music out of New Testament worship. Now, if you are one of those, can't you see that you have never been properly converted? Remember, it was Jesus who said we must become as little children.

I sometimes disagree with my father now. I'm not exactly a little child any more. As much as I love and respect him, I do not think my father is infallible any more. But with God, the passing of years only confirms my belief that God is always right and man is always wrong, sinfully wrong, when he disagrees with God.

Let me be fair with you, my friend. If your conversion does not measure up to the divine standard, if it is not like those recorded in the book of Acts, I believe, and sincerely so, that it was wrong. I do not like for you to quarrel with my Father about anything. I do not like to hear you say that God's way is wrong about anything. You will not be able to contradict Him when we all stand before His judgment bar, so why not submit to Him now?

There are those who teach that once a man is converted, he cannot be lost. Conversion does not destroy man's power of choice. There are many scriptures showing this teaching to be sinfully wrong. But here is a verse that, with those who believe the word of God, settles it forever: **“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20).**

- J.C. (John Carlos) Bailey, 1904-2001 Gospel Preacher, missionary to India

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

Faith Alone Is Not Belief In God

“He that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life” (John 3:36 ASV). This truth is seen when **“Jehovah said unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed not in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel” (Num. 20:12 ASV).** They had not the "conviction" to do just what God said do. God said unto them, **“...speak ye unto the rock before their eyes” (Num. 20:8 ASV).** But they **“smote the rock” (Num. 20:11).** Hence God says, **“Ye believed not in me” (Num. 20:12 ASV).**

What is it to "believe in" God? It is to do trustingly and lovingly just what He says. This "faith alone" system is the popular doctrine in pulpits and on rostrums of the modern pastor and money-loving evangelist. There is nothing that they put over with a show that is more deceiving and soul-blighting.

- A. G. (Arvy Glenn) Freed, 1863-1931, Gospel Preacher, educator