

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland

PM: Spencer Strickland

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

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." - 1 Thess 5:16-18

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

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time position open

BULLETIN EDITOR

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

DOES THE CHURCH SAVE? (Part 2)

In Christ "we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins..." (Eph. 1:7). Salvation is in Christ. "That they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ..." (2 Tim. 2:10). Obtain what? Salvation. Salvation is where? In Christ. To be in Christ is to be in the one body, the church "He is the head of the body, the church." (Col. 1:18).

From this, it follows that if one is not in "the body" he is not in Christ, and if not in Christ, he is not saved. But to be in "the body" is to be in the church. The church does not save you, but the church is the saved ones.

The Church Is Blood-Purchased

Christ "is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 Jn. 2:2). Though Christ died for the whole world, not all will be saved, because there are some who refuse to appropriate the blessings provided. Those who embrace the blessings are "loosed" from their sins by His blood (Rev. 1:5). Who are that number? "To feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28). Those composing the church are the ones who have been "loosed" from their sins "by his own blood." They are the purchased ones. It is not the church that saves you. The church is the saved number.

"But if I tarry long that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God..." (1 Tim. 3:15). "The house of God" is the "church of the living God." No one entertains the idea that the house of God is the meeting house in which His children meet for worship. God's house is not composed of brick and mortar, but of men and women who are his children. Crispus "believed on the Lord with all his house..." (Acts 18:8). His house was his family, not his residence.

Of those saved in Ephesus, Paul said, "Ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." (Eph. 2:19). Since the church is "the house of God" — "the household of God" — and one's household is composed of his family, it follows that if one is a child of God, he is in the household of God. To affirm that you are a child of God, but not in the church, is to declare that God has children not in His household, or family!. The church does not save you, but the church is the saved number. **(Part 1 is inside on page 3)**

- C. R. (Charles Ready) Nichol, 1876-1961, Gospel Preacher

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, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Also remember:** **Karen Harding** under hospice care; **Mike Kennedy** still undergoing tests; **Jan Kelleher** continuing treatment for metastatic disease; **Laura Nichols** with trials at her work and those close to her; **Dorothy Gray** and family,
- **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.

"This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me" - Psalms 119:50

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Please make **website** suggestions to **Ed**, to make it better!
- **Bible Bowl**—February 23, 2017—Book of LUKE.
- New **Visitor Welcome** sheets to give to visitors to our assembly are in the foyer.
- We're looking for a new evangelist, suggestions welcome!
- **Please sign up to provide Meals for College Students**— in conjunction with class taught by **Spencer Strickland**, every Wednesday. Sign up sheet in foyer.
- **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.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- Invite people to come to the informal Q&A **Bible study**, Saturdays 3pm.

“That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” - Matthew 6:4

The Claims Of The Bible

The Bible claims to be the word of God. And not that only; it claims to be the inerrant word of God, the infallibly and verbally inspired word of God. "All Scripture is given by inspiration" — Theopneustia, God-breathed words. "Unto us God revealed" these things "through the Spirit... Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words" (1 Cor. 2:10-13 ASV). Divine thoughts and divine words to convey them is Paul's statement, with emphasis, of the verbal inspiration of the Bible.

Who says it is not the inerrant word of God? The devil (Gen. 3:3-4) and worldly-wise men of today (Rom. 1:22); but we are warned against such and should shun them, for they cannot be converted (2 Thess. 2:10-11) and may destroy faith in you "through philosophy and vain deceit" (Col. 2:8).

- **Foy E. Wallace, Jr.**, 1896-1979, Gospel preacher

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” - 2 Timothy 3:16,17

DOES THE CHURCH SAVE? (Part 1)

"The Church Does Not Save"

Often you have heard, "The church does not save you." It is meant by those who make such remarks that it is not necessary to be a member of the church to be saved. All who read their Bibles understand that God saves. To pardon is the act of Jehovah. True, one must believe in the Lord before God pardons him (Acts 16:31), but it is not faith that pardons. God forgives. God pardons.

Though one must repent to be saved (Acts 2:38), it is not repentance that pardons or saves the man — God saves! Repentance is an act the man must perform before God will save him.

One must be baptized to be saved (Mk. 16:16), but it is not baptism that pardons. God pardons — God saves! The church does not save you, but consider this: "Are the saved in the church or in the world?"

Writing to the church at Corinth, Paul said they were "**sanctified in Christ Jesus,**" "**justified in the name of the Lord,**" and "**saved**" by the gospel (1 Cor. 1;2; 6:11; 15:1-2). So certain as one is enjoying these blessings, that sure is it that he is one of the number composing the church. The church does not save, but the saved ones are the church.

The Church — The One Body

"**There is one body**" — there is "**but one body**" (Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:20). What is the "one body?" "**He is the head of the body, the church...**" (Col. 1:18). Christ is the head of what? "**He is the head of the body, the church.**" If one is not of the number constituting the church; if he is not one of the number composing the body of which Christ is head, is he saved?

When one is prepared in heart and life; when he believes in the Lord with all his heart, repents of his sins, and is baptized as the Lord commands, he is baptized into the "**one body.**" (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 12:13). In one verse it is declared that one is baptized into the "one body," and in another verse it is affirmed that one is baptized "into Christ" (Gal. 3:27). Hence, to be baptized "into Christ" is to be baptized into the "body" which is the church. From this, it follows that if one is saved without being in the "body," he is saved without being in Christ, for to be "in Christ" is to be in the "one body."

In Christ "**we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins...**" (Eph. 1:7). Salvation is in Christ. "**That they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ...**" (2 Tim. 2:10). Obtain what? Salvation. Salvation is where? In Christ. To be in Christ is to be in the "one body," "which is the church" (Col. 1:24).

From this, it follows that if one is not in "the body" he is not in Christ, and if not in Christ, he is not saved. But to be in "the body" is to be in the church. "**He is the head of the body, the church.**" The church does not save you, but the church is the saved ones.

- **C. R. (Charles Ready) Nichol**, 1876-1961, Gospel Preacher