

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland

PM: Spencer Strickland

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

**“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ
have put on Christ.” - Galatians 3:23**

Have you?

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

Ed Kelleher
Office Phone (803) 796-8858
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (PART 2)

No one should be interested in any church except the one that is revealed in the New Testament. Everyone should be interested in the church that Jesus built. Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18 ASV).

This church is revealed as the great scheme of redemption for sinful man. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:10-11 ASV). The church is the greatest institution in the world, and membership in it is the greatest privilege accorded to man.

How To Enter The Church: The New Testament answers this question. The New Testament teaches how to get into "the church of God.", but it does not teach how to get into a denomination. If one joins a denomination, he does something which the New Testament does not teach. The one who goes into a denomination must go without any divine instruction, without any word of God. Since faith, or belief, "**cometh of hearing and hearing by the word of Christ**" (Rom. 10:17 ASV), where the word of God does not give instruction, there can be no faith. So, those who go into a denomination do so without faith in the word of God on that point. Many of them claim to be saved "by faith only," but they do not have Scriptural faith.

The New Testament clearly teaches how to enter the New Testament church. Surely, Christ would not establish a church on earth and not tell people how to enter it! Since the church is a divine institution, we must have divine instructions on how to enter it. Human instruction may guide one into a denomination, but it takes divine instruction to guide one into the divine institution, the church.

People are added to the church by the Lord. "**And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved**" (Acts 2:47 ASV). Here at the close of the day of Pentecost, the day on which the church was established, about 3,000 people were added to the church by the Lord.

"**And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women**" (Acts 5:14 ASV). Here we learn that only believers are added to the Lord. Babies, or infants, are not believers and cannot be added to the church. Again, we have this statement: "And much people was added unto the Lord" (Acts 11:24).

- (Continued on page 3, then page 2)

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Richard Ramkinson, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Janet Boyd** was ill last week, **Laura Nichols** is recovering from pneumonia, **Samantha Mancuso** has some illness that is puzzling the doctors. **Dorothy Grays** friends are doing better.
- **Also remember:** **Laruen Simons** and **Jordan Beard** taking exams; **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.

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." - 1 Timothy 6:7,8

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **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.

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." - Titus 3:8

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (PART 2) (cont. from page 3)

Again, if one can be saved out of the church, one can be saved without being redeemed. All spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph. 1:3). Redemption and forgiveness of sin are in Christ (Eph. 1:6-7). Therefore, if one can be saved out of the church, he can be saved without redemption and forgiveness.

Moreover, the blood of Christ is in the church, which is His body. If people can be saved out of the church, then they can be saved without coming into contact with the blood of Christ. All Christians are in the church. We know this because the same process that makes one a Christian is the same process by which the Lord adds him to the church. We are saved from our sins, not in our sins. If salvation is out of the church there was no use for Christ to establish His church. Christ paid too much for the church when He purchased it with His blood, if people can be saved out of it.

- H. Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel Preacher

“... who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:” - Ephesians 1:3

THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (PART 2) (cont. from page 1)

So the evidence is clear that the Lord adds people to His church. He does not add anyone to any other church.

But how does the Lord add to His church? Who does He add to it? These are important questions. Jesus said to Nicodemus, **"Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God"** (John 3:5). What is it to "be born of water and the Spirit?" That which puts one into the kingdom of God puts one into the body of Christ, the church of God. One must have faith in Christ. Those who hear the gospel and believe it have one qualification of a citizen of the kingdom of God. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6). Those who had heard the gospel preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost and who were convinced that Jesus is the Son of God asked what they must do to be saved. Speaking by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter answered them by saying, **"Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"** (Acts 2:39). They did what Peter commanded them to do, and they were, by this process, added to the church. Hence, the Lord adds to His church those who believe on Him, who are penitent of their sins, and who are baptized into Christ.

The only way people enter Christ is by baptism. **"Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life"** (Rom. 6:3-4).

Again, **"For ye are all the sons of God, through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ"** (Gal. 3:26-27 ASV). When one has been baptized into Christ, he is a new creature. **"Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new"** (2 Cor. 5:17 ASV). Hence, one has been born of water and the Spirit who has been baptized into Christ, for he is "a new creature." This is the way one enters the church. One cannot be in Christ and not be in His church. Neither can one be in His church without being in Christ. The church is His body.

Can One Be Saved Out Of The Church?: The question is not, "Can one be saved out of a denomination?" The question is, "Can one be saved outside of the church of the Lord?" Many attempt to evade a direct answer to this question by saying, "The church does not save one." It is true that the church does not save. God saves men through Christ. But where does God save one? In the church or out of the church? God is in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself (2 Cor. 5:19). God saves people in Christ -- in the church. If people can be saved out of the church, then they can be saved out of Christ, out of the kingdom of God, out of the house of God, out of the family of God, out of the body of Christ, out of the building of God, and without becoming living stones in the spiritual temple of God. The New Testament declares the church to be all of these things. Therefore, if one can be saved out of the church he can be saved out of that which the church is called. **- (Continued on page 2)**

(Part 1 was in last week's bulletin—12/4/2016, available on website)