

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Spencer Strickland

PM: Spencer Strickland

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

**WATCH OUT!**

**“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil,  
as a roaring lion, walketh about,  
seeking whom he may devour:” - 1 Peter 5:8**

**ALREADY BEEN DEVOURED? NOT SURE?  
IF YOU DO NOTHING IN THE CHURCH,  
WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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

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WEST COLUMBIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## I NEVER INTENDED TO QUIT!

A man who had not attended one service of the church in four years told me he had never thought of “quitting” the church. I reminded him that he had:

1. Withdrawn his presence from the worship services. He had failed to sing, to pray with fellow-Christians, to partake of the Lord’s memorial supper and the fellowship of the saints.
2. He had refused to give his moral support to the activities of the congregation.
3. He had withdrawn his financial support, for he had not given one dime to help carry on the Lord’s work.

Then I asked, “What else would you have to do in order to ‘quit’ the church? In case you ever decide that you no longer desire to be a member, what other steps will be necessary to ‘quit’ the church?”

As the true status dawned upon him, his expression reflected his sober thoughts. He replied, “Why, Brother Nichols, I have quit already, haven’t I? Well, I surely didn’t mean to! And I don’t know when I did it...but I’ve quit the Lord and His church! I’ll tell you right now...I’m coming back.” He did, too. At the next service, he was restored and three years later, he was still faithful.

Dear reader, how about you? Have you quit the Lord and His church without resolving to do so? Perhaps no one deliberately decides to quit, but many carelessly drift into backsliding.

If you quit attending services, quit boosting the program of activities planned by the elders and quit giving as God has prospered you to enable the congregation to meet its budget, you need to be restored.

**- Gus Nichols (1892-1975), Gospel Preacher**

**“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ... As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” - Revelation 3:15-19**

**Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)**

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

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

- **Amy Strickland** and **Laura Nichols** have both been fighting illness that has kept them out the last sever weeks. **Gail Allen** is suffering abdominal pain.
- **Trevia Parks** was wondering where her children were off to: **Sharon Mancuso** to New Orleans, **Hugh Parks** to Nova Scotia, **Ken Parks** to NC and **Jason Parks** to Myrtle beach, all work related.
- **Vince** and **Helen Reusser** made it by from Ohio after a long absence. They appear to be recovered from serious ailments they both suffered in 2016. They were visiting daughter **Debbie** who had a heart cath here. Thankfully, they had good news, no blockages!
- **Pray for all these**, and our search for an **evangelist** to help us with the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

**"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." - Romans 8:18**

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

- **Steve Gober** from World Bible School presented info on their evangelistic programs. Copies are in the foyer. Their web site is: <https://www.worldbibleschool.net>. Go there to become a student, or help someone to study, by pressing the corresponding buttons at the bottom of the page. For more info, see Ed.
- **Sign up** to provide food for the **College Age Class** each Wednesday.
- **Fall Festival** 10/14 @ 5 PM, Chili and dessert contest, bring board games.
- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jason**, or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **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.

**"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." - Matthew 25:40**

## **“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15**

- Pray for those hurt in the shooting Las Vegas and those hurt by the recent **hurricanes**, that they be comforted in the Lord.

**“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.” - Psalms 147:3**

**Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)**

## **ARE YOU READY?**

**“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:  
and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you  
a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” - 1 Peter 3:15**

**Saturday 3pm Bible studies will help you get ready!**

## **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**