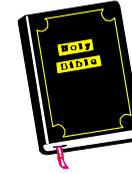


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

“PREACH THE PREACHING THAT I BID THEE”

God does not commission men to preach without telling them what to say. He does not leave them free to select anything which a passing whim might suggest. Men, in light of their own limited wisdom, are incapable of formulating a system of dependable teaching. **“Oh Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23 ASV).** Men, apart from the leadership of divine revelation, have ever gone farther and farther into the meshes of sin and paganism.

When the Lord sent Jonah, the son of Ammitai, to Nineveh, He commanded him to **“preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee” (Jonah 3:2).** The prophet was not left to his own will and resources to originate a message for the Ninevites. His instructions were specific. The Lord did not, in a general, indefinite way, tell him to “preach” to Nineveh. Rather, He said specifically, “preach... the preaching that I bid thee.”

Jonah was limited to what God said. He could not add; he could not subtract; he could not devitalize his message by “toning it down.” He must thunder into the ears of the Ninevites the severe and startling message, **“Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown” (Jonah 3:4).** This very thing he did on reaching “that great city.” His preaching produced results.

The messengers of God, whether human or divine, or both, have always been limited to the will of God. They have had, and have, freedom to speak only within the will of God. Of Jesus it was written, **“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me), to do thy will, O God” (Heb. 10:7).**

Jesus said, **“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me” (John 5:30).** Again, **“My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me” (John 7:16).** **“As my Father hath taught me, I speak these things” (John 8:28).** **“I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, He gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak” (John 12:49).**

These Scriptures show conclusively that Jesus spoke and did only those things which the Father commanded. His freedom of action to do and teach was limited by God's will. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Him, because the Lord had anointed Him to preach. But He, even though He was the only begotten Son of God, could preach only the good tidings the Father authorized Him to proclaim. God was the Author of His message.

— (Continued on page 3)

**Obeying God's commands is one way to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008**

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 14 April 6, 2008

RECORDS 3/30/2008

SERMONS 4/6/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 51
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 72
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 51
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 41
CONTRIBUTION: \$2137

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: Jerry Manning

**“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:12**

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

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

ELDERS

Donald Klieves

Home Phone (803) 996-3793
E-Mail: DKlieves@yahoo.com

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858
Home Phone (803) 791-0950
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

EVANGELIST

Jerry Manning

Home Phone (803) 936-1502
Cell Phone (803) 429-3738

E-Mail: Jerry1Manning@yahoo.com
Bulletin Editor—Ed Kelleher

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- Don and Marcella Klieves request prayers for Marcella's sister, Penny Brown, whose husband, John, has left her. The Klieves are greatly hurt by this.
- Lamar Reeves continues to be in severe pain and doctors say he likely needs a double hip replacement. Pray for his relief.
- Paula Kennedy was to have wrist surgery Thursday and Ruth Boggs knee surgery Friday.
- Jean Glott was in Baptist Hospital.
- Prayers are requested for Nell Hiott, long time neighbor to the Parks, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in several major organs.
- Remember all these and Dianne and Tiffany Dillard as they recover from the loss of Paul, and Ron Banks as they all continue to fight illness, and brother Manning and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye might be healed.

The effectual fervent prayer of righteous man availeth much." - James 5:16

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **“Going Away”** get together at the building after the Sunday evening assembly, April 13, for the **Fields** as they move to Arkansas where Don has taken a new job.
- The **youth** are meeting on a regular basis at the building, Mondays at 7 pm to work on murals for our upcoming VBS.
- **Ladies** work on the **visual aids** every **Tuesday** 7:00 pm, at the building.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** is scheduled Sun-Wed, **Sep 14-17, 2008** with **Billy Bland**, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** **Ladies Day at West Columbia**, Saturday **April 12, 2008**.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** **Youth Get Together!** **Jan and Ferah's Glott's** home, Friday evening and Saturday, **April 25,26**.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me” - Psalms51:10

**All the above (and below) are ways to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008**

NT BOOKS (27):

Matthew	1 Corinthians	2 Thessalonians	1 Peter
Mark	2 Corinthians	1 Timothy	2 Peter
Luke	Galatians	2 Timothy	1 John
John	Ephesians	Titus	2 John
Acts	Philippians	Philemon	3 John
Romans	Colossians	Hebrews	Jude
	1 Thessalonians	James	Revelation

“PREACH THE PREACHING THAT I BID THEE” - (Continued from Page 1)

The Holy Spirit is limited in His teaching to the will of the Father. In giving the promise of the coming of the Spirit, Jesus said of Him, "The Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you... He shall guide you into all the truth; for he shall not speak from himself; but what things so ever he shall hear, these shall he speak: and he shall declare unto you the things that are to come" (John 14:26; 16:13 ASV).

The Holy Spirit, as a teacher, is limited to the will of God, "what things so ever he shall hear," in His instruction. Apostles and angels, likewise, can proclaim only the message of God. "But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema" (Gal. 1:8 ASV). The curse of God rests upon the angel or man who dares to deviate from the teaching of the gospel.

If God will not permit apostle, or angel, or the Holy Spirit, or even His own Son, to depart from the message He has authorized, it certainly should not be difficult for us to understand that we are not allowed the freedom of setting aside or of perverting the gospel of Christ. God has commissioned us to preach the gospel, and we are not at liberty to preach anything else. We cannot mutilate the gospel, except at the peril of our own souls and of those who hear.

This gospel is the faith once for all delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). It is the sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). It is the only word that is able to build us up and give us an inheritance among all those who are sanctified (Acts 20:32) and it must be faithfully transmitted from one generation to another. "The things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2 ASV). It must be taught fearlessly and faithfully. "Speak thou the things which befit the sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1 ASV). "Hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me" (2 Tim. 1:13 ASV). And, finally, "If any man teacheth a different doctrine, and consenteth not to sound words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is puffed up, knowing nothing, but doting about questionings and disputes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, wranglings of men corrupted in mind and bereft of the truth, supposing that godliness is a way of gain" (1 Tim. 6:3-5 ASV).

All faithful and sound preachers proclaim the doctrine, or teaching, of Christ. They are, therefore, doctrinal preachers. Every preacher that God has authorized was a doctrinal preacher — he proclaimed the teaching of God. The time has come when many professed Christians do not relish "doctrinal preaching" — the very kind, and, in fact, the only kind that is divinely authorized. No one can be a faithful preacher who is not a doctrinal preacher. The kind of preaching that is needed first, last, and all the time is doctrinal preaching — preaching that condemns sin in every form, preaching that sets forth the whole truth, preaching that distinguishes the New Testament church from the various denominational bodies. This kind of preaching will not please worldly-minded church members, but it will please God and save lost men and women. Regardless of circumstances or consequences, we must "preach... the preaching that I bid thee."

A man's usefulness as a gospel preacher is determined much more by his knowledge of God's word and his willingness to proclaim it boldly and faithfully than by his academic attainments and his ability to please men.

- Benton Cordell (B.C.) Goodpasture, 1895-1977, Gospel Preacher