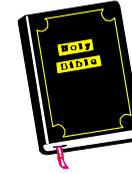


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## The "Sinner's Prayer"

Millions of tracts have been distributed in hospitals, restaurants, etc., with some version of "the sinner's prayer." There are many differing versions, since this "prayer" is man-made and is not to be found in the Bible. The Bible makes it very clear that prayer is the privilege of Christians, not alien sinners (**Matt. 6:9, 1 Pet. 3:12**).

God has no children outside of His family, who can call him Father. One must be "in Christ" to be called a son or daughter of God. To be in Christ means to be in His church or body (**2 Cor. 6:17-18, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18**). All must enter into Christ in the same way, by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, but not prayer (**John 8:24, Luke 13:3, Matt. 10:32-33, Mark 15:15-16**). The first thing a sinner needs to do is obey — not pray (**Heb. 5:8-9**). Yet, there are some religious folks who do not teach God's desires for all men to be saved in His appointed way (**1 Tim. 2:4**). It gives the lost a false security to think they are saved by merely saying, "Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God and that you died on the cross for my sins to save me from eternal death. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Savior and Lord. I give you my life. Help me to be what you want me to be. Amen."

Peter, by the Holy Spirit's guidance, told lost souls on Pentecost to obey, rather than pray (**Acts 2:38**). What Peter said then and what men say today does not match. Peter is right, men are wrong. Upon the command to "**repent and be baptized**" for their salvation, the Bible says they that "**gladly received the word were baptized**" and the Lord added them to the church (**Acts 2:41, Acts 2:47**). They then continued steadfastly in prayer (**Acts 2:42**).

The Bible says: God hears not sinners (**John 9:31**), He is far from the wicked (**Prov. 15:9**), "the sinner's prayer" is an abomination (**Prov. 28:9**), and that the face of the Lord is against evil doers (**Psa. 34:16, 1 Pet. 3:12**). We hope that these thoughts will encourage men to come into Christ, His church, where they may have the blessing of prayer as children of God. The "sinner's prayer" cannot be found in the pages of the New Testament.

- **Gary Colley**, Gospel preacher, Getwell church of Christ, Memphis, Tennessee

**Choose the Strait Gate in 2008**

**VOLUME 34, NUMBER 30 August 3, 2008**

**RECORDS 7/27/2008**

**SERMONS 8/3/2008**

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 59  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 106  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 53  
Wed 7 PM Bible Study: 55  
CONTRIBUTION: \$2295

AM: Jerry Manning  
PM: Jerry Manning  
**RUNNING THE CHRISTIAN RACE**  
**WHY SOME FALL AWAY**

**"THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, EVEN AS YOU ARE CALLED IN ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING" - EPHESIANS 4:4**

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

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

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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

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### **“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.
- Stefanie Rinehart requests prayers for a friend's mother, Jennifer McBride.
- Don Klieves is working in Greenville during the week for the next 3 months or so. He's able to return home on the weekends. His cell phone is 381-5489.
- Remember Dianne and Tiffany Dillard in your prayers.
- Jeanette Reeves continues to struggle with sin. Pray for her repentance.
- Remember all these, our new brothers and sisters in Christ, and brother Manning and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

"There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God." - 1 Samuel 2:2

### **“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15**

- Margaret Herring is expecting her first great-grandchild from her grandson and his wife, Joey and Christina Sineth.

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

- Evalina and Gene Lowe's granddaughter, Mindy Nix and her husband Josh lost their first child, a girl. She was to have been the Lowe's first great-grandchild. And Evalina also attended the funeral in the upstate of David Craft who passed away suddenly. Remember them and their families in your prayers.

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."  
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

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

- **Volunteers needed to clean the building! Sign up in the foyer.**
- **INTRODUCING!** The Young Ladies Class, Thursdays, 7 pm at Jamie and Debbie Sheppard's home. Lynn Manning will be teaching. Just for the girls, teens to young adults.
- **New Convert Class** Saturdays 11 am at the building, for all who are interested.
- **ALL NIGHT CONGREGATIONAL SINGING**—10th Annual at St. Andrews Rd. Friday Aug 1, 7:30 pm until ...
- **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.

**WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 8/3—B 8/10—C 8/17—D 8/20—A**

"IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS" - JOHN 14:15

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## **Justification By Faith Includes Baptism**

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were swallowed up" (Heb. 11:29 ASV). The Israelites crossed the Red Sea "by faith," but they were not on the other side the moment they believed. They spent a night of anxious toil and great fear before they could sing the song of deliverance on the other side. Here the phrase "by faith" spans the Red Sea, and includes every step they took in crossing.

By some it is thought that because Paul says we are "justified by faith" (Rom. 5:1) that baptism is excluded. But the phrase "by faith," instead of excluding the acts of faith, which, in reality, make faith perfect, actually includes obedience. And it can be plainly shown that "by faith" in this case includes baptism. Paul says, "For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea" (1 Cor. 10:1-2 ASV).

They crossed the Red Sea "by faith," and in crossing they were baptized. "By faith" includes what was done in crossing. But in crossing they were baptized. Therefore, "by faith," in this example includes baptism.

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

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## **A Matter Of Bible Authority**

My objection to mechanical instruments in worship is not out of bitterness toward them; not because I think there is harm in the instrument, per se, but the objection is simply this: I have adopted the principle and pledged myself to the platform of not going beyond that which the Bible authorizes.

My digressive brother asks me, "Where does the Bible prohibit it?" I answer, "Where does the Bible authorize it?" Christians walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). No man can use mechanical instruments and walk by faith.

By searching the scriptures you will find that God does not authorize it, does not command it, does not demand it, and that there is no example in all apostolic history for such a practice. The man who is faithful and loyal to God's word will not go beyond it. "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God" (2 John 9 ASV).

- Nicholas Brodie (N.B.) Hardeman, 1874-1965, Gospel Preacher

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