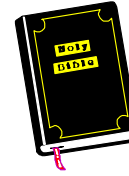


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## THE CROSS AND THE LOVE OF GOD

During the closing days of His life, as the specter of the cross loomed ever larger, Jesus seemed almost preoccupied with His coming death. This was not only because the disciples needed to be prepared for this cataclysmic event, but because, as a man, He dreaded the ordeal through which He must pass. Three days before "His hour," this apprehension was expressed when He exclaimed, "Now is my soul troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name" (Jn. 12:27ff). Then, in the darkness of Gethsemane, with His face in the dirt and His bloody sweat falling onto the ground, out of the deep, indescribable anguish of His soul, He prayed, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39). A little later He prayed, "O my Father, if this cup man not pass away, except I drink it, thy will be done" (Matt. 26:42)

We all know that Jesus loved His Heavenly Father (and mankind) with a perfect love. Jesus had taught that one expresses His love of God by obeying His Word (will) (Jn. 14:15), and the apostle John repeated this same Truth in 1 John 5:3 and 2 John 6. In keeping with this principle, Jesus had repeatedly said that His great aim or purpose in life was to do His Father's will (Jn. 4:34). Yet, no one can read the gospel account of Gethsemane without realizing here was a part of God's Will (His going to the cross) that Jesus most decidedly did not want to do. In fact, this was the primary purpose for which He came into the world: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk. 19:10; cf. Mk. 10:45).

Surely, this teaches us that, regardless of how the world may define "love," the primary response in a Biblically acceptable love for God is to do His will even when, for one reason or another, we would rather do the very opposite. Can any say he is following in Jesus' footsteps unless he has the same attitude toward God's will and the same determination to do that will that characterized Jesus.

One of the excuses people give today for refusing to obey the Lord is that the thing God commands is too hard, or that it lays too heavy a burden on one if he obeys. Hence, they imply that God is unjust even to ask for such a sacrifice, and man is justified in refusing to obey such an unreasonable demand. - **Continued on page 3**

**Choose the Strait Gate in 2008**

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 38 September 28, 2008

RECORDS 9/21/2008

SERMONS 9/28/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 58  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 102  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 77  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 61  
CONTRIBUTION: \$2133

AM: Jerry Manning  
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF  
PM: Jerry Manning  
THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST

**“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” - Colossians 3:12-13**

### 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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*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
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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.
- Our faithful brother, **Craig Robinson**, a long distance truck driver, was attacked and robbed in Atlanta last week and stabbed 5 times. He came very close to death, but our Lord had mercy. One of the elders, our evangelist and several other members went to see him and care for him. Craig is out of the hospital now, in good spirits and staying with his aunt, a faithful member of the church, in Atlanta as he recovers. His address and phone are on the bulletin board.
- **Jason Parks** is to have eye surgery, which is very serious for him. Remember him in your prayers and send a card if you can.
- **Beryl Parks** is to have tests to see why he can't eat. This is very serious also.
- **Carolyn Lee** is fighting bronchitis but is on the mend.
- Prayers are requested for **Trey Forbes**, **Phyllis Johnson's** grandson.
- **Jan Kelleher** is recovering at home from foot and knee surgery last Tuesday.
- **Marilyn Brooks** has been ill and was not able to make it out to our meeting.
- **Betty Mathis** has been fighting some ills also, but is able to get out some.
- **Megan Stoyk's** Grandmother is to have serious heart surgery 9/29.
- **Michael Stoyk's** father had a stroke in Virginia.
- **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.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” - Philippians 4:6

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

- **PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED!** Small cans or packages with pop-top lids are good.
- 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. They're studying about the Bible using Keith Mosher's book, ***The Book God Breathed***.
- Next week is the first Sunday of October. The ladies will meet then at 1:30 pm while the men are meeting. These are **important meetings!** All members should plan on attending.

“Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.” - Psalm 95:2,3

**WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 9/28—B 10/5—C 10/12—D 10/19—A**

**Are you choosing the Strait Gate in 2008? How?**

## **THE CROSS AND THE LOVE OF GOD, (Continued from page 1)**

Homosexuals argue that, no matter what the Bible says, God could not possibly require that they stop this sinful practice since it would involve their making a sacrifice beyond all reason.

People who are divorced on unscriptural grounds and have remarried rationalize that God would not condemn such action since a loving God would not be that demanding. The sacrifice would just be too great. However, when the Israelites had entered marriages which were not approved by God, they were commanded to break up those unscriptural unions (Ezra 19:3 & 11). Obviously, God didn't think it was too much to ask of them.

Surely, everyone knows that God loved His only begotten Son with an infinite, perfect love, yet He required the ultimate sacrifice from Him — His life — and in the most humiliating, degrading way one could die. If He did not excuse His own Son from having to make whatever sacrifice was necessary in order to comply with His Divine will — even the forfeiting of His life — how can any of us think for a moment that He requires any less of us?

- **Al Brown**, Gospel preacher (deceased)

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

- **Donald and Marcella Klieves** are to be grandparents—again. Their youngest daughter, Angela, is expecting a baby boy in the spring.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT BY DONALD KLIEVES AND ED KELLEHER**

We are stepping down as elders. We have come to see that with our work schedules and health we are not able to function together effectively as an eldership should. An eldership is not a one man work, and to have it so, or appear to be so, is contrary to God's word. And if we go against God's word, we cease to be His church.

This was a difficult decision in many ways; in other ways it was simple. God's plan for his church is that it have elders and we want above all else for the church here at West Columbia to grow in love, faith and zeal. However, God wants obedience above sacrifice. Our stepping doing, even in difficult times, with great work before us, should be an example to all, that above all other considerations, we must follow God's word.

We will have a Men's Business Meeting to reorganize the work of the church the first Sunday in October, October 5 at 1:30 PM. We will elect a chairman and assign duties as necessary. Above all, we want to maintain the spiritual growth, love, peace and unity we have achieved here at West Columbia, by obeying God. Pray that this be so and that we will fulfill all of God's will for the church here at West Columbia.