

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

GIVE ME A CHANCE

Have you ever asked the Lord to open a door for you? To give you a chance to serve him? It's a good thing to pray for. In Matthew 7:7 the Lord promised us "**Knock, and it shall be opened unto you**".

How many of us, though, **believe** that promise? How many of us **keep** asking, and asking, and asking, but we never seem to get the chance we're **looking** for? Maybe that's the problem—we're not **seeing** the chances or opportunities to do good the Lord is giving us. Maybe we're being too picky or choosy: "Not that one Lord, I want a **really** good work to do!"

Let's remember that it is the **Lord's work** we're about, not ours. It's He who gives us the opportunities we have. It's He that gives the increase (1 Cor 3:6, 2 Tim 2:25). Let's trust Him, that He'll give us what we need, because He **has**—His Word, the gospel! Let's take advantage then of the opportunities we have, no matter how small they might seem to us. Let's open our eyes and hearts to them:

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." - Luke 16:10

Maybe when we want to do some great thing, what we're **really** wanting is to say: "Look what I did." **We** want the recognition for the deed; from people instead of from God. But the real power and strength we have can only come from God:

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"—Philp 4:13

He wants us to know this and **act** like we know it. He'll be pleased with us if we do—if we trust in **His** power and strength, just as He was pleased with the church in Philadelphia. Look at what the Lord praised about them:

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." - Revelation 3:8

They didn't **deny** the name of Christ by seeking to please themselves and trusting in their **own** power or wisdom. They humbly **did** what the Lord put in front of them, trusting in Him and His word - looking to please God and not themselves. Let's do the same, so our Lord will say the same—of **us**.

- **Ed Kelleher**, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

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RECORDS 11/15/2009

SERMONS 11/22/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 46
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 77
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 46
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: —
CONTRIBUTION: \$1863

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: Jerry Manning
THE PENITENT MIND
TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” - 1 Corinthians 15:58

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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
2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Vernicia Matthews** is recovering in Charleston after surgery to remove tumors. Her pain appears to have been relieved, but she has lost control of some facial muscles. Pray that this is temporary and that no further surgery will be required. Much family was with her as she is beloved of all.
- **Ron Banks** is up after surgery to deaden a nerve in his back that was giving him constant pain. But it does not appear to be very effective. Pray for his relief.
- Remember **Margie DeYoung** as she recovers from a fall and hurt ankle.
- **Also, Chris Kelleher** has started chemo and radiation treatment for brain cancer.
- **Betty Mathis** is doing well and would greatly appreciate your cards, and visits.
- **Sue Island** is home recovering from pneumonia.
- **Kenneth** and **Eddie Sheppard** are recovering at home from lung problems.
- **Marilyn Brooks** was able to make the assembly Sunday morning with her mother and brother who are visiting, but she is still in much pain.
- Remember **Jean Baker** as she mourns the passing of her husband.
- And remember the **Stoyk** family as they cope with much adversity.
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember these, those that are recovering from loss, in your prayers.

“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.” - 1 Timothy 2:8

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- We are all encouraged by the faithful attendance of our brother **Lamar Reeves**, sister **Jean Boyd** and brother **Tommy White**. Our thanks to those who are able to give them rides to the assembly.
- **College age Bible study Thursday at 8 pm.**
- **Transportation** needed for sisters **Betty Mathis, Jean Boyd** and **Marilyn Brooks.**
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

11/22 Campbels' Chunky Chicken Noodle Soup **11/15** Chef Boyardee Lasange

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” - Philippians 1:6

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

THANK GOD

How do you thank someone for doing something for you? Hopefully you do; no one likes those who are ungrateful. But how do we sincerely thank someone? You might shake their hand, or give them a kiss as you tell them so, or you might write them a note. But the best way is to show them you're thankful for what you've received, by using what they've given you. “Thanks for those slippers, I wear them all the time!” Thank a cook by eating their food with gusto. Thank someone who's given you a break by taking advantage of it. Actions speak louder than words.

God hasn't left us hanging in regards to this either. In **1 Peter 1:3** God said He would give us **“all things that pertain unto life and godliness”**. He has done so. And He has given us a way we can show Him we are thankful for the precious gift of hope, peace and life He has given us through His Son:

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” - 1 Peter 4:8-10

The gifts (manifold grace) we have received God wants us to use by giving them to others. As good stewards He doesn't want us to lock up and guard what we've received, instead He wants us to minister (give) the same to others. He tells us this is what He wants: **“freely ye have received, freely give” - Matthew 10:8**

God gave us His word, to keep us from sin, so we might live and be with Him. Are we thankful for that? Well then show Him—study it, use it! Tell others. This little snippet of scripture tells us **what** we should do (walk, even as He walked) and a good reason **why** (he is the propitiation).

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” - 1 John 2:1-6

God has called out to us through the Gospel whereby we can be the children of God. Are we thankful for this? If so, we'll be showing him by using and growing in those spiritual qualities he wants of us: Charity, meekness, obedience, mercy, zeal, justice, long-suffering, purity, etc.

This is what He has provided the church for, and he's given us the yardstick against which we'll all be measured. Thank God by using what He has given to grow to that complete man God wants us to be. The rest will follow.

“unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:” - Ephesians 4:13

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina