

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

The One Body

“There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” (1 Tim. 2:5-6).

Christ is the only mediator between God and men, and we cannot be saved except through him. Those who reject Christ will be left out.

Not only is there one God and one mediator between God and men, but there is one body (Eph. 4:4). **“But now are they many members, yet but one body.” (1 Cor. 12:20).** That one body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Christ is the head of the church, as the man is the head of his wife. **“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” (Eph. 5:23).** That church is the one body, which is made up of Christians.

There are not two bodies — a kingdom and a church — for the church is the kingdom of Christ. This harmonizes with the statement that there is one body. Then there is "but one body", whether it be called "church" or "kingdom." Christ is the head of the church, or He is the King of the kingdom.

- E. M. Borden, Gospel preacher

The Same Way Now

Since the church of Christ is still in existence, should I be considered out of order when I contend that people enter the church now just as the people in the first century? **“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).**

Peter preached the word, the people heard, believed, and repented, and the preachers baptized those who demanded it, but Christ accepted their obedience and received them into the church. **“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47).** Are people added to the same church in the same way now? The answer is, **“Yes,”** for the Bible has not changed, and neither has Jesus Christ. Will you obey the Lord as they did on Pentecost and be added to His church by Him?

- E. M. Borden, Gospel preacher

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011!

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

PM: Ed Kelleher

SACRIFICE

**“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:
for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” - Romans 1:16**

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

**COME JOIN US THIS
NEW YEAR!**

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

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Betty Mathis, Margaret Herring, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.**
- Janet Boyd had some tests run and we're thankful to report she's fine, but will have some followup tests next month to make sure. Remember her in your prayers.
- Also, remember **Betty Mathis** in your prayers, and with a card or visit also.
- **Judy Walker** has been having leg problems and **Jan Kelleher** jaw problems and the doctors don't seem to having much luck in helping them. Pray for them.
- Remember **Frank Allen** in your prayers as he is home in Missouri visiting his mother and we've had no word if he has been affected by the recent tornados there.

**"And so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words"
- 1 Thessalonians 4:18**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- The **youth** will be visiting the West Columbia Riverwalk and handing out cards inviting people to come visit. Take some cards yourself, from the table in the foyer and invite people to our Sat Bible Study at 3pm—come yourself also! ☺
- It was good to have **Andrew** and **Jessica Moore** (nee Herring) visit Wed. night.
- **First Sunday luncheon**, all are encouraged to stay. Congregational meeting after lunch to discuss work of the church here at West Columbia, and men's business meeting at 1pm.
- **Updated directories are in the foyer.**
- Please choose a week to help **clean the building**, and more if you can!
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It's a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.

"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" - Colossians 1:10

THE GOSPEL—1 Corinthians 15:1-4

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

**“And take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: “ - Ephesians 6:17**

"In conversion and sanctification, the Holy Spirit operates on the hearts of men only through the word of God." A burr under the Calvinistic saddle, that truth can be unwittingly diluted by a misapplication of Ephesians 6:17. The argument is sometimes made that Holy Spirit wields the sword of the Spirit in conversion and sanctification, thus proving the Spirit's work through the medium of the word. That argument not only fails to prove the proposition, but actually concedes the Calvinist's position. In his 1938 debate with N. B. Hardeman, Ben M. Bogard made that very argument in his affirmation that the Spirit exerts a direct influence upon man.

"The Spirit works as if there were no word and the word is used as if there were no Spirit. Not separate and apart from each other but together, side by side on the same thing. The gospel is the sword of the Spirit and as the sword is distinct from the soldier and the soldier distinct from the sword, yet both soldier and sword work together to slay the enemy, even so the Spirit and the word work together to save the soul." (Ben M. Bogard, 2nd Affirmative, "The Work of The Holy Spirit, Hardeman-Bogard Debate, Gospel Advocate Co., Nashville, 1938, p. 31).

Those today who say the Holy Spirit wields the sword make the same fundamentally flawed argument. In the context of Ephesians 6:17, Paul delineates the defensive and offensive items of spiritual warfare to be utilized by the Christian soldier. The truth is girt about his loins, he wears the breastplate of righteousness, is shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, holds the shield of faith, wears the helmet of salvation and wields the sword of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit wears none of the armor, nor does He wield the sword.

"It is said that the Word is the sword that the Holy Spirit uses. Rather, the Word of God is the sword that the Holy Spirit forged for us to use. The Spirit does not wield the sword — we ourselves wield it, and if we do not wield it, then it will not be wielded. If the Holy Spirit performs some direct operation in wielding the sword, the action and method should be subject to definition and description, and demonstration...

As the smith forges instruments and weapons, the Holy Spirit by inspiration in the apostles of Christ forged the sword of the Word for us to wield." (Foy E. Wallace, Jr., The Mission and Medium of The Holy Spirit, Foy E. Wallace, Jr. Publications, 1967, p. 85).

If the Spirit wields the sword, advocates of the direct operation of the Holy Spirit are correct in their assertions and Bogard was right in his debate with Hardeman. But they argue from a faulty premise. The Holy Spirit does not wield the sword any more than God wears the "whole armor of God." (Ephesians 6:11). The "armor of God" is the armor God provides and the "sword of the Spirit" is the sword the Holy Spirit forged. If the "sword of the Spirit" means the Spirit wields and uses the sword, then the "armor of God" means God wears the armor as a defensive measure. If not, why not?

- Jerry C. Brewer, Gospel preacher, publisher