



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Churches of Christ

The church of Christ is a non-denominational body of Christians. We have no earthly headquarters. Our leader is in Heaven at the right hand of God. We are not affiliated with any organization such as the National Council of Churches. Rather, each local congregation of the churches of Christ looks to God and His word for guidance. We believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God and that it furnishes us completely for every spiritual need. We stand for a return to New Testament faith and practice. And we are confident that by believing and doing what New Testament Christians did, we can be the same kind of Christians they were. We know this is right before God. We see no need, therefore, for denominational names, creeds and organizations.

Jesus said that worship must be in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24). Worship among churches of Christ follows the Scriptural pattern.

When the Lord established the church, He organized it into local autonomous congregations, with each taking care of its own affairs. He made no provisions for a national or international headquarters. In matters of faith all are to be guided by the New Testament. In other decisions, each congregation was to govern itself.

The work of the church Jesus built was to preach the gospel, as well as edify its members and care for the needy. Churches of Christ do not exist as political tools, nor do they exist as recreation clubs. Their work is spiritual, doing what God intended the church to do.

Remember, Jesus built His church. It is found in the New Testament. We can be a part of it by letting the Bible be our only guide.

– **David Pharr**, minister, Rock Hill church of Christ, South Carolina

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” - 1 Corinthians 1:10

NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 40, NUMBER 49 December 7, 2014

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen—Pursue truth or pursue defeat—John chapter 9

PM: T.J. Bolen—By faith, not by sight—2 Corinthians 4:18-5:8

**“The wicked borroweth and payeth not again:
but the righteous showeth mercy, and giveth.” - Psalm 37:21**

(Are you doing the math? Weekly budget of \$1600 and Attendance of 40 = ??)

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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JOIN US IN

**PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
COME SEE!**

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*

*Informal Bible Study
Everyone Welcome!*

Bring your Bible questions
Saturdays 3 pm

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.

- **Tommy White** is at Agape assisted living, Rm 106A for rehab.
- We're glad the **Bolens** made it back safely. We're thankful for those who were able to fill in, and the wonderful fellowship last Sunday as we shared a meal.
- Remember the **Joyners** on the loss of their son Steve, also **Margie DeYoung, Anna Porter, Gwen Pittman, Keith Carter** and sister, **Margaret Gamble (Jones' sister), Floyd Richbourg** and **Frank Allen** who has been laid off work.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, let them know you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." - John 15:12

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Encouragement** get together, Saturday Dec 13, engage each other in good works.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

"My flesh and my heart faileth:

but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever." - Psalm 73:26

Sun AM Sermon— Pursue truth or pursue defeat—John chapter 9

A follower of Christ must pursue and adhere to truth regardless of any consequence(s).

1. How was truth regarded or disregarded in John 9?
2. Truth will establish...
3. Truth has requirements.
4. Are you in pursuit of truth? ... **(NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!)**

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” - Philippians 4:8,9

Note that the apostle says **“DO”**. We **all** must be **doing** the things told us by the apostles in the Bible. Read your Bibles, learn what God wants of us and then **do it!**

Volunteers are needed to **clean the building** in January and upcoming months. This is a good way **you** can **participate** in and support the **good work** going on here at West Columbia. If you're willing to team up with others, sign up and we'll put teams together. Many are working very hard. This is a good way **you** can join in and encourage them! Please sign up—now! It will be encouraging to others.

It you can't, that's fine. If you can, and you don't ...

“For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. “ - 2 Corinthians 8:12

IF THE ANSWER IS YES

“... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” - Matthew 16:18

In determining whether or not any given denomination is the one true church revealed in the New Testament, a simple question can be posed to its sectarian adherents. The question is as follows: "Can an individual be saved outside your denomination?" If the answer is yes, then that religious group is most assuredly not the church. Here is why.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised that He would build His church. Notice that Christ said HE would build the church and that only one would be built. That church is identified by the apostle Paul as the body (Eph. 1:22-23) and is said to be the only body (Eph. 4:4), hence the only church. This church is also identified as the bride and Christ as its bridegroom (Eph. 5:22-23; cf. Matt. 9:15; 25:1). Christ is not a polygamist. He has but one bride for which He nourishes and cares.

The beautiful bride of Christ, the church, consists of a blood-bought people who, by faith, have been baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38,47). Collectively, these baptized believers are known as the saved, the church, the body, the temple, and the kingdom (Acts 2:47; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:27; 1 Cor. 3:16; Col. 1:13, respectively). They belong to Christ, and wear His name (Rom. 16:16; 1 Pet. 4:16). It is this entity of people whom Christ will take to glory at the Judgment. Christ is clearly and unmistakably the Savior of this body - His body, the church (Eph. 5:23). Undeniably, salvation is to be found in the church and only in the church. Since the church is the body of Christ, and salvation is only in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10; Acts 4:12), it follows that one cannot be saved outside the church. When Christ comes again, He will save only those who are in His church.

Therefore, if an individual tells me that I do not have to be a member of their church to be saved, then I can know with certainty that their church is not the church of our Lord. Nearly all denominations assert that you can be saved even though you are not a member of their church. However, no one can be saved apart from the Lord's church. Thus, any religious group espousing the doctrine that salvation can be procured outside the church is not a church which belongs to Christ. Salvation is in the church. If you want to be saved, then you must be in the church.

“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” - Acts 2:47

John Moore, minister, Dripping Springs church of Christ, Texas

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” - Eph 1:22,23

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