

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Harvey Allen

PM: Harvey Allen

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

“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 2:3-6

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

**JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
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

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays 3 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time position open

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

“For the husband is the head of the wife,
even as Christ is the head of the church.” - Ephesians 5:23

There is a common sentiment that it makes no difference what church one belongs to, if any at all, and that church membership is not essential to salvation. So the indifferentism of “*join the church of your choice*,” as though God had none, is age-old in religious nomenclature. Such expressions can only be viewed as a sort of “pious profanity” by those who know and believe what the Bible says about the church.

Jesus built the church; he died for it and purchased it with his blood; ransomed and redeemed it; washed and cleansed it. He is the Saviour of it and he will come again to own and claim it. Yet we are told that it is a very “non-essential” thing.

There are only two senses in which the church can be scripturally viewed. First, the comprehensive, or universal, sense, to include all the saved of the earth—all who have obeyed the gospel. Second, the limited, or local, sense, to include all Christians, or saved people in a particular place described and limited by geographical terms. The denominational idea does not fit either case. A denomination is smaller than the whole church, but larger than a local church in that it is composed of many local churches of the same faith and order; therefore, a denomination is both too large and too small to be scriptural.

It is admitted that one can be saved without belonging to any denomination. The Lord adds saved people to the church (Acts 2:47). Therefore a man can be added to the church and never belong to a denomination. Hence, it is the denomination and not the church that is non-essential.

The Church Is The Body: Paul's theme in the book of Ephesians is the church in its relation to Christ—Christ and the church. In the first chapter he compares the church to a body, with Christ as head (vv. 21-22) and in chapter four he declares that “there is one body” (v. 4) ...in chapter five he compares Christ to the husband and the church to the wife (v. 21-23). Hence, Paul's view is: one head and one body—one husband and one wife.

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Richard Ramkinson, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Jason Parks** has hurt his shoulder and he asks you do not pat him on the back. But you can still thank him for his work by a kind word if you'd like..
- **Jamie Sheppard** continues to have back pain. **Pat Joyner** is doing better fighting off bronchitis. The **Strickland** girls are alternating being sick, with mom **Amy** tending to them, with an assist from **Spencer**.
- We're thankful **Connie** and **Floyd Richbourg** were back with us Wed PM after some illness and that the **Parks** clan have safely completed their travels, though **Brian and Jen** are now in California for awhile.
- **Laura Nichols** reports her friend and worker **Tammy** has liver cancer and is not eligible for a transplant. Remember also: **Jan Kelleher** continuing treatment for metastatic disease; **Laura Nichols** with trials at her work and those close to her; **Dorothy Gray** and family,
- **Pray for all these** and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." - Acts 14:22

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- Invite people to come to the informal Q&A **Bible study**, Saturdays 3pm.

"and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor."
- 1 Corinthians 3:8

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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

- **Floyd Richbourg** is retiring from the barber business after many years owning Richbourg's Stylon. Keep him in your prayers.

GOOD TO MEMORIZE AND KEEP WITH YOU

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” - Psalm 100

CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

—(Continued from Page 1)

Continuing his comparison, Paul uses the family analogy—God the Father, the church the family (Ephesians 3:15). Hence, one Father and one family. And reverting to the second chapter, he points out the unifying power of the cross of Christ in making the "twain"—Jew and Gentile— "one new man" —the church—thus reconciling them "in one body."

If Christ would not accept Jew and Gentile in separate bodies, but united them that they should be "one fold and one shepherd," what must be his attitude toward the spectacle of (more than) 200 denominational bodies today that dishonor his name and ignore his prayer? (John 17:20-21).

Salvation Is In The Church: The idea that one is first saved by some mystical or mystified, unintelligible or intangible process, and afterwards "joins some church" is a common religious delusion. Yet there is no truth more plainly emphasized in the Bible than the fact that the process of being saved is the process of entering the church (Acts 2:47).

First, it is affirmed in Acts 4:12 that salvation is in Christ. Then, to have salvation, one must get into Christ. But Paul, by analogy, in Ephesians 5:30, teaches that as husband and wife are one, so Christ and the church are one. "I speak concerning Christ and the church," he said. Christ and the church being one, how can one be in Christ and out of the church?

Second, Paul makes the fact that Christ is "the Saviour of the body" (Ephesians 5:23) the ground of his exhortation to the Ephesians concerning the church as the bride of Christ (v. 25). He washed it and sanctified it; cleansed and saved it; purchased it with his blood and redeemed it; reconciles us to God in it, and adds all the saved to it. Therefore, out of the church there is no cleansing, no blood, no redemption, no reconciliation to God, no salvation.

Third, the relation between Christ and the church is the same as that which exists between God and Christ. Christ is the "fullness" of God (Colossians 1:19), and the church is the "fullness" of Christ (Ephesians 1:22). Therefore, no man can come to Christ and ignore the church for the same reason that no man can come to God and ignore Christ.

We exhort the unsaved to come to Christ, "gladly receive the word," be "baptized into Christ," and the Lord will add you to his church.

- Foy E. Wallace, Jr 1896-1979, Gospel preacher

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” - John 17:20,21