



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

WHY'D YOU DO THAT?

What we do is important, but **why** we do what we do is even **more** important. That's because the **why** has to do with our HEARTS and MINDS—the spiritual, eternal part of us. In fact, if **why** we do something isn't right, the Lord says there's no benefit to us in doing it, no matter how good it might be:

"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profits me nothing." - 1 Corinthians 13:3

Our **reason** for doing something can make all the difference in the world. Consider the difference between jumping into a swimming pool or lake, and being baptized. In both cases you're immersed, you get completely wet. Are we baptized every time we jump into a pool—no! What's the difference? It's our mind—**why** we do it. We have to have the right reason in our mind **before** we're immersed to make that immersion a baptism. If we don't, we've just gotten wet:

"... even baptism doth also now save us, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good CONSCIENCE towards God," - 1 Peter 3:21

This scripture points out the right “**why**” for our actions—conscience towards God. In Acts chapter 10, the Lord tells us of Cornelius, a righteous man who God thought so much of, that he expressly sent the apostle Peter to him. Why?

"But in every nation, he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." - Acts 10:35

Good works, done with conscience towards God, made Cornelius **acceptable** in God's sight. Good works without thought of God are no good. Look at the Pharisees. The Lord told us how they did everything to be seen of **men** (Matt. 23:5); how they compassed land and sea to make a proselyte (Matt 23:15) but in **vain** because they weren't thinking of God—they were doing it for MAN'S praise.

In doing God's work, let's ignore the opinions of men: their praise or reproach. Instead, let's think of our God and how He thinks of us. Let's work for Him only:

"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." - Hebrews 13:6

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

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 49 December 4, 2005

RECORDS 11/27/05

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 43
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 93
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 49
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 41
CONTRIBUTION: \$1620

SERMONS 12/04/05

AM Donald Klieves
PM Jason Parks

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

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services!

Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

ELDERS

Donald Klieves
Home Phone (803) 996-3793
E-Mail: dklieves@yahoo.com

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858
Home Phone (803) 791-0950
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

WEB SITE

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org
Bulletin Editor—Ed Kelleher

The Bulletin
USPS-994-500
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY”

- Our thanks to **Ray and Holly Wilson** who've signed up to clean the building for December. I'm sure they'd appreciate some extra hands. If you can help a little, give them a call at: 794-2684.

“To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:” - Romans 2:7

“IS ANY SICK AMONG YOU?”

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: RON BANKS, BERYL PARKS, MARY HONEYCUTT, HAGOOD GODLEY** and our shut-ins **JESSICA HERRING, ZUDORA CLEGG, PHYLLIS JOHNSON** and **VIOLET BRUNSON**. Prayers are also requested for **NINA RUTH MEADOWS** (Marcella Klieves' mother), **JAMES MATHIAS** (Tommy White's brother-in-law), **KATHYRN HALL** (Melissa Parks' sister), and **FRANCES GRIFFIN** (Melissa Parks' aunt).
- **TED STIDHAM** had discouraging results from a CAT scan.
- **CAROLYN LEE** returned safely but is suffering from the flu now.
- **ELMA BERRIER**, next door neighbor to Anna Porter, is not at all well. Her husband Jack isn't doing too good either. They were members here at West Columbia many years ago. Remember them in your prayers.

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

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS”

- **Scrap Bookers**, meet at the church building this Saturday from 2-5 PM.
- The **Geigers** invite everyone to a Christmas get together at their house Friday December 9 starting at 7PM.
- Lord willing, **Scott and Tricia Parker** will start the New Year here with us January 1, 2006! Scott and Tricia both are **very** excited about coming to work with us here. They **beg that we remember them in our prayers** as this is difficult time for them—leaving all they've known, friends and the church in Denver to come here to South Carolina. They plan to spend the holiday at Tricia's parent's home in Kansas City, Mo. and get here a few days after Christmas. They'll need **help unloading their rental truck** Thursday December 29th and moving into the church residence. **Many hands make light work!** Brethren from the **North Columbia** church plan on coming over to help also. There'll be plenty for everyone to do and of course, we'll need **food** for the Parkers and the workers — and the supervisors too. ☺ Make plans to come help if you can, it will be a good time of fellowship.
- **Bobby Giles** is dealing with some tough times, let's remember him in prayer.

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

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