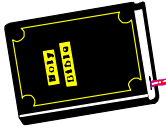


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



## HOW COULD THEY LOSE THE BOOK?

If you have ever lost anything, you know how frustrating it can be. If it was valuable, you were concerned, even frightened. It is not too unusual for us to lose an item and not even know we have lost it until we need it. This is just what happened to Israel about 2,500 years ago. It is hard to imagine that you could lose the “**book of the law of the Lord,**” and especially “**in the house of the Lord,**” 2 **Chronicles 34:15.** But it happened during the reign of Amon, grandson of Hezekiah and father of Josiah, during whose reign it was found. Josiah became king at the age of 8 years, but it was still another 18 years before the lost book was found. Perhaps the strangest thing about this situation is that the book was lost and found in the “house of the Lord.” How could that happen?

Josiah, though not perfect, was a righteous man. He is said to have done “**that which is right in the sight of the Lord....and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.**” That was not because of his father’s or grandfather’s examples, for both Amon and Manasseh were evil. His grandfather Hezekiah is regarded by many as the greatest of the post-division kings, and he may have influenced Josiah. Also, Jeremiah, Zephaniah and Nahum did their work in the same general period of Josiah’s reign.

During the 18th year of his reign, Josiah authorized certain repairs to the Temple, and as this was being done, Shaphan the scribe came to the king and said, “Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes,” 2 **Kings 22:10-11.** A restoration of God’s worship and teaching was immediately begun, and many needed changes were made. As a gospel preacher, I cannot read these words without the thought that God’s book can be and has been lost to many people in our generation. It seems incredible to me that it could happen, but one can hardly deny that it has happened.

**LOST BOOKS TODAY:** Just look at the world around you, and at the religious world. The Bible, while not lost in the sense that we do not have a Bible, is, for all practical purposes, lost to many. They may have a Bible but never read or study it. It might as well be lost to them. Some read their Bible, but have little respect for it, substituting their own preferences in doctrine, worship and life-style. Others have translated the Bible in such a way as to have, by their “translation,” lost the thought of the original words inspired by the Holy Spirit. For all the value of some of these “translations,” the Book of God may as well be lost.

**HOW DID IT HAPPEN?** I can’t tell you how the book was lost, but I can tell you what they did to solve the problem. And it just may be that this “process” needs to be reinitiated in this day of lack of respect for the authority of scripture. Perhaps if we will do what they did, we can bring back a measure of reverence to a book that is “lost” to many today. The following was their course of action:

1. Josiah removed all remnants of Baal worship. He “**commanded Hilkiah the priest...to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal.... and he burned them,**” 2 **Kings 23:4.** You cannot be true to God and not rid yourself of every vestige of rebellion.

- Continued on page 3

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### RECORDS 10/1/2006

Sun 10 AM Bible Study:    55  
Sun 11 AM Assembly:      118  
Sun 6 PM Assembly:      78  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study:   73  
CONTRIBUTION:          \$2356

### SERMONS 10/8/2006

AM: Jerry Manning  
PM: Jerry Manning

"It is a faithful saying: for if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:  
If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:  
If we deny him, he also will deny us:" - 2 Timothy 2:11,12

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

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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Bulletin Editor—Ed Kelleher

## “PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Hagood Godley, Margaret Herring, and our shut-ins Jessica Herring, Zudora Clegg, and Phyllis Johnson. Also, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack Edwards (Melissa Parks' father) and Jack and Elma Berrier.
- **Robbie Sheppard**, son of **Eddie and Doris** fell off a ladder and shattered his heel. He's recovering, but for the next few months will need help with his auto transmission repair business.
- **Marilyn Brooks** will be in Greenville with her uncle **Earl** who is visiting a specialist regarding a possible cancer in his leg.
- **Steve Sightler**, son-in-law to **Helen and Vince Reusser** is not recovering well after gall bladder surgery. He and his wife **Debbie's** address are on the bulletin board in the foyer.
- **Evalina Lowe's** aunt, **Adrena Phillips** is not well and is in hospice care.
- **Cathy Parks Nimmons'** husband **Steve** will be having **surgery** Thursday 10/12 at Baptist Hospital for a brain tumor on his pituitary gland.
- **Donald Klieves** requests prayer for his sister **Sharon Jackson** and himself.
- **Lila Evans**, a friend of Doris Sheppard is not well, with a poor prognosis, but Doris is happy to report her friend **Pat Masticola** is doing much better.
- Prayers are requested for **David Burkett** who has 2 malignant brain tumors. He is the husband of **Barbara Burkett**, a postal worker who distributes our bulletins.
- **Gerald and Janet Boyd** will be going to Missouri for a week.
- **Beth Macon** had a serious eye scratch from her pet kitten, but is recovering well with no permanent damage, just a lot of pain and discomfort.
- **Lynn Manning** and **Evaline Lowe** came forward Sunday morning requesting the prayers of the church. Sister Manning wants to grow in Bible knowledge that she can teach and be a better example. Sister Lowe is wanting more patience and faith to help others. By this, both exemplify what our Lord said:

“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” - Acts 20:35

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

- **Tiffany Dillard**, upon her confession that Jesus is the Christ, was **baptized** into Christ Sunday evening. All were very happy for her and Paul and Dianne. Let's remember her, and the family, in our prayers and encourage them as we can.
- **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:4**
- Twenty souls 'fessed up and attended the **over 50** get together Friday 9/22.
- It was a wonderful time of encouragement and fellowship after last Sunday's morning assembly as many stayed to meet and eat with one another. The elders met with the men that afternoon and the ladies that evening to discuss the work and share their plans for the church here in West Columbia.

## HOW COULD THEY LOSE THE BOOK? (continued from page 1)

2. All of the priests who participated in or encouraged the worship of idols were removed, **2 Kings 23:5**. There are some preachers who will have to be replaced if we ever restore pure New Testament Christianity in our century.
  3. Houses of the sodomites, male prostitutes in the land, were burned and destroyed, along with remnants of their idol worship, **:7**. You cannot leave intact the symbols of rebellion without encouraging the practice of rebellion.
  4. They removed all of the altars made to worship Ashtoreth, Milcom and Chemosh, the gods of their pagan neighbors. Not only did they remove them, but they “brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men,” **2 Kings 23:13-14**. Physical violence will not be needed, but error and sin must be removed or the disease will return.
  5. They reinstated the worship God had originally ordained, along with all the associated activities. **:21** In other words, they restored the worship and commandments that had originally been given to them.
- What does this have to do with us in the twentieth century? Are we in danger of losing the Bible? Is there a danger that the church Jesus built will die? There is a danger; but not that Christ's church will die. Only that the message of redemption will be kept from a lost generation. There is also the danger that the family of God today can become as Israel of Josiah's day; rebellious, apathetic, lost in religious error. His church will survive, **Daniel 2:44**. But will we?
- Josiah's solution was very simple. Remove all worship not authorized by God and replace it with the “pure religion” authorized by God, in both theory and practice. The same thing will work today. It is not likely that we will lose the Book as they did. We may lose our love for truth; our determination to live by it; our love for the God who gave it; our willingness to teach it. That is what happened to Israel then, and it could happen to us today. By the way, do you know where your Bible is?

- **CARL B. GARNER, Elder, Dripping Springs church of Christ, Texas**  
“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” Hosea 4:6

## “PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:24

- The **Ladies Class** has resumed meeting 10AM Tuesdays (except the 1st).
- **Volunteers** needed to help **clean the building** in November and December!
- The **Windsor Lake church** is planning to have a **homecoming and Gospel Meeting** Friday-Sunday **October 27-29th, 2006**. They meet Sunday at 3PM.
- **Ladie's Day**, Crawford Road church in **Rock Hill**, Sat **10/21**. Pre-reg. req'd.
- **Ladie's Day**, **St. Andrews Road**, Sat **11/11**, with Cindi Burleson
- **Santee Ladie's Retreat** in Myrtle Beach Fri 11/17 – Sat 11/19. **Jan Kelleher** will be one of the speakers. Registrations sheets are in the foyer.

“Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:” Rom 2:6,7